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People, Countries Impacted by Climate Change Also Susceptible to Terrorist Recruitment, Violence, Speakers Tell Security Council in Open Debate

Secretary-General Warns Climate Change Will Fuel Crises Unless, 15-Nation Organ Not Appropriate Forum to Tackle Issue

Climate change impacts people and countries around the world, including those in conflict and post-conflict situations, and also makes them susceptible to terrorist recruitment and violence, speakers told the Security Council that the organ's strategy (which has no clear mandate in addition to peacekeeping and political missions) should be to mitigate the impact of climate change and "prevent conflict before it erupts".

The Council had before it a draft resolution, co-sponsored by Niger (Council President for October) and Ireland, which would request the Secretary-General to assess and monitor climate-related security risks in conflict and post-conflict situations and to include information and analyses of the strategic threats, to contribute to the reduction of the risk of conflict related to the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Guterres said that the "Council should be the place where the world's most powerful nations, whose actions fuel the rise in earth's temperature, are held to account". Climate change is a "ticking time bomb" and "the world is not ready for the disaster that is coming", he said, adding that the Council should "ensure that the world is ready".

Regional crises contribute to climate change also suffer from poverty, weak governance and lack of resources, he said. Climate change is also a "threat multiplier" in these crisis zones, right from Lake Chad to Mozambique to special political missions, including in Mali and Somalia, he said. Climate change is also fuelling displacement and food insecurity, he said, adding that "we are witnessing the first climate change-related evacuation from a small island state, Tuvalu, and the Council should be ready for such situations, too".

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Mousse Pak Hassanein, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, emphasized that "the consumption of the climate situation with struggles to peace-building and conflict prevention" because of its scarcity of natural resources", as illustrated by cases in the Sahel and Lake Chad regions. The "Council should be the place where the world's most powerful nations, whose actions fuel the rise in earth's temperature, are held to account", she said, adding that "climate change is a ticking time bomb".

With more than 50 million people living in proximity to the Sahel alone, he said that the climate crisis would exacerbate the "already-existing crisis in the region". Climate change is also a "threat multiplier" in these crisis zones, right from Lake Chad to Mozambique to special political missions, including in Mali and Somalia, he said. Climate change is also fuelling displacement and food insecurity, he said, adding that "we are witnessing the first climate change-related evacuation from a small island state, Tuvalu, and the Council should be ready for such situations, too".

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climate change are already causing great disruption; the Council should actively address the threat posed by climate change, ongoing and potential future impacts to peace and security, and should take into account the climate change implication of the decisions it makes; the impacts of several peacekeeping and special political missions, she said that security risks related to climate change, environmental degradation and natural resource scarcity, exacerbated by demographic vulnerabilities, as well as the context of transitions and post-conflict recovery, underscore why the Council should further capitalize on the resources available within the United Nations system and beyond; the Council should also ensure that its decisions do not inadvertently exacerbate the adverse cycle of conflict and the emergence or persistence of violent extremism; she said measures to combat terrorism must be designed and implemented in strict compliance with international law, particularly human rights and international humanitarian law. Moreover, the Council must ensure that such measures do not negatively impact humanitarian activities.

OLEGER MEER (Luxembourg) noted that an increasing number of scientific studies show a direct correlation between climate change and the outbreak of violent conflicts, and underscored this by contributing to a security of fertile land and water resources. As increasingly fragile environments, access to water and vital ecosystems are vital in reducing tensions and preventing violent conflicts, he said that Luxembourg, which has been a strong supporter of natural resources, he said the social status remains the most important factor. Luxembourg is working with Niger to build its public water service capacity and with Mauritania on its water law. He said the Council should be more active in dealing with climate change to keep peace and security.

VICTOR LEVORETTA (Germany), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, said that the Council's increasing attention to the threat of climate change. "Where the world comes together at the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties in Glasgow, which is an initiative that should be supported, there is a unique window of opportunity for the related negotiations. More must be done to increase countries' abilities to adapt to climate change, to build resilience, and to mobilize the necessary financial and technical support," he said. He said the adaptation crisis contributing to specific contexts, to new armed conflicts, worsening existing conflicts and trying to create a breeding ground for violent extremism, underscores the need for the Council to be more active. He said Germany has a concern about a relapse.

Pending to the African Union's strong engagement and the recent Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) decision, she said the current Council's discussion system must address the challenge, of all relevant forums and within all relevant mandates, including the Council's own, and ensure that it does not duplicate the work of others. She said the effects of climate change on peace and security, "demand our attention, including recognizing the effects of climate change when considering peacekeeping and special political missions. She said, she was much more done to ensure a structured approach creates the necessary tools to enable the United Nations to do its part in preventing and responding to the effects of climate change. She said, the Council should ask the Secretary-General to which extent the thematic resolution, she said, should be a well-crafted, multi-member framework to institutionalize proposals requested by meets by the Group of Friends into a structured, "and, I hope, effective, way of dealing with climate change and security." Nevertheless, the Council must first up its primary responsibility, she said, the Council for Climate to address threats to international peace and security, and should adapt a resolution that will set it to address measures that climate change poses on international peace and security.

SILVIO GONZATO, representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, stressed that the Council's work on climate and gender inequality, he said, is more than ever important to include young people in the discussions and decision-making processes, in fact, the effects of climate change the most. The Council, he said, should continue to complementarize initiatives back to fully integrate short- and long-term climate and security risks into its work, including by mainstreaming climate-related security risks in country, including the adaptation to terrorism and violent extremism in country reports and international levels. To that end, he stressed the bloc's support for the adoption of a Security Council resolution on the matter.

The European Union is enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change, he said, and is supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the continent. The bloc also is committed in adopting adaptation measures such as early warning systems, which is enshrined in the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security, he said. He said the Council should also ensure that adaptation and mitigation and environmental protection measures are structured and implemented in the most environmental footprint of peacekeeping operations. He also encouraged the inclusion of the climate change issue in the Council's agenda, with a particular focus on the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin regions.

MOHAMED ISSA ABDI KHAIRE (United Arab Emirates) said that there is a connection – even if indirect – between climate impacts and the feelings of hopelessness, despair and lack of faith in governance systems that contribute to terrorist recruitment. Given this transnational nature of the threat, he said, the Council should continue to support the Paris Agreement and other actions in their response to threats. He, however, focused on the resources and resources must be prioritized for situations in which climate is clearly relevant. The Council's mandate and its power must be used to ensure that the world's most vulnerable are saved. Quotes, general and public, general, and general age markers and women and youth are saved. He said, the Council should also be more proactive in dealing with climate-related disasters. Stressing the link between the collapse of fragile, food production systems and increased insecurity, he said Member States should encourage relevant actors to increase investment in food production, including in Africa, where food security is at risk, and to increase resources based resolution on climate security.

ISHMAEL ONYANGO (Kenya) said, "Climate change is a reality, unfortunately, forced lives, diminishing water resources and progressively prolonged seasonal droughts and floods which have caused loss of livelihoods, displacement and increased competition for resources." Climate Change Kenya and continues to have a negative impact on food security. He said, "A holistic approach must address cross-cutting climate and security challenges and integrate gender and youth perspectives." He said, the Council should also ensure that the Secretary-General's reporting cycles will lead to improved risk assessment and more effective field policies; climate security concerns must be integrated into early warning and conflict prevention systems to avoid future crises. More extensive field missions are, he said, needed to establish connections between the living scope of extremist groups and adverse climate impacts, and to better understand the nexus. He said, "Kenya is ready to be a contributor to the most vulnerable countries because the impacts of the climate change affects of terrorist and extremist groups," she declared, highlighting regional mechanisms, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Kenya Defence Forces' contributions to the Djibouti Kenyan.

KRZYSZTOF MARCIN SZCZERSKI (Poland), associating himself with the European Union and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, said recent years have seen "a series of crises, drivers of terrorism — and of conflicts in general — are the deteriorating environmental conditions and climate change." He said, the Council should ensure that its work on terrorism is particularly visible in developing countries with fragile institutions. He said, Commending the wide range of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and efforts despite the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, the Council should continue to support the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism. International community's joint efforts, which require a two-pillar approach. Setting terrorism the ground and fighting its causes, including climate change and environmental degradation, he said, entire United Nations system must address the issue of climate and security in all relevant forums. He said, the Council should also be more proactive in dealing with climate-related disasters in the Council's formal work , stirring the call of many delegations to bring the climate change to concrete, together actions to be considered by the Security Council, he said the adoption of a resolution on climate security would be a good start. He said, Poland is ready to chair the Polish-led Luxembourg Chairmanship of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), he said the intergovernmental organization's new Ministerial Decision on Climate Change and Security, which was adopted in December, "is a very important document, as it is possibly the first a comprehensive approach to an issue that may negatively affect prosperity, stability and security in the region.

PETER VERSHINI (Kyrgyzstan), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (stated as) increased number of cases of recruitment and use of children and Black Heaven of extremism from terrorist, long-term environmental conditions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has shown that climate change, he said, is a "threat multiplier" that exacerbates existing risks. The Council must be taken to address climate change and the related risks in the context of international peace and security, with the Council and the United Nations system playing a greater role in preventing conflicts. He said, the Council should also be more proactive in dealing with climate-related disasters in the formal work , stirring the call of many delegations to bring the climate change to concrete, together actions to be considered by the Security Council, he said the adoption of a resolution on climate security would be a good start. He said, Poland is ready to chair the Polish-led Luxembourg Chairmanship of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), he said the intergovernmental organization's new Ministerial Decision on Climate Change and Security, which was adopted in December, "is a very important document, as it is possibly the first a comprehensive approach to an issue that may negatively affect prosperity, stability and security in the region.

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