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**Statement**

By

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**High-Level Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and  
Security: Climate and Security**

United Nations Security Council

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Mr. President, Excellencies,

We are confronted by the continued deepening of the planetary crisis that is climate change. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), particularly affected by this existential threat, and facing ever-increasing loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change we value this timely meeting.

I thank the Secretary General and Ms. Elman for the excellent contributions to advancing understanding in this context.

We hope that today's meeting contributes to comprehensive multilateral approaches that systematically address the consequences of climate change for international peace and security.

Allow me to share our views on how we should approach this threat multiplier:

1) To tackle climate-related security risks in relevant situations on the Council's agenda, we must build capacity and enhance expertise, across the United Nations. This includes embedding climate-security advisers in relevant operations and considering the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General for climate-related security risks to strengthen coordination within the system on this issue. We commend the work of the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) which, has enhanced the UN system's capacity to address climate-related security risks in an efficient and logical manner.

2) The Security Council must not sidestep its responsibility to address the security implications of climate change. To be sure, the UNFCCC remains the primary body tasked with responsibility for addressing climate change. At the same time, utilizing the tools at its disposal, the Council can take tangible actions, including: request increased training and enhanced reporting on climate and security, strengthen coordination with relevant actors at the local, national and regional level, and adopt a focused resolution to better enable this Council to address climate and security risks. Further, the Informal Expert Group of Security Council members on Climate and Security is a useful forum to help the Council improve its awareness and understanding of the issues and should be supported.

3) As the foremost way to avert climate-driven security risks is still significant mitigation action, major and historical emitters must honour their commitments made under the Paris Agreement and act to keep temperature rise to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

4) It is also crucial that developed countries meet Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, and provide greater support for climate adaptation and mitigation as part of a strategy to avert climate-related security risks. Scaled-up support to conflict-affected countries through concessionary loans, debt relief, and quick impact projects should also be provided to alleviate some of the challenges encountered.

5) Integral to this “whole of system” approach, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding should be pursued concurrently as part of a peace and security, development, and humanitarian continuum. To be sustainable, plans and strategies must include climate change considerations at all policy stages: early warning and

assessment, planning and finance, implementation, and monitoring. Failing to account for the reality of the adverse effects of climate change in these contexts can have long-term impact, undermining agreements and settlement arrangements in peace negotiations due to the changed environmental conditions.

6) The Peacebuilding Commission plays a valuable role, alongside partner institutions, in assisting member states to advance peacebuilding, in line with national priorities. We encourage closer coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission and UN Security Council, including on issues related to climate, security and peacebuilding.

7) Finally, we will not effectively tackle this issue without inclusion of all stakeholders, especially those who have been consistently underrepresented yet most impacted by the security consequences of climate change. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership is critical as we seek solutions. Similarly, young people must be included and engaged in these discussions and in decision-making.

Climate change has multi-layered and compounding effects in fragile and conflict contexts. The Security Council has recognised this, even if framed as a possibility, in a number of resolutions but we need to act on it.

I thank you!