



## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention at the  
**Security Council Open Debate on Climate and Security**

New York, 23/2/2021

## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

---

Dear Mr. President, dear colleagues,

We thank the UK for the initiative of today's meeting and align ourselves with the intervention of the Group of Friends of Climate and Security.

Mr. President,

We share the view of almost all Security Council members that demand **a more active role from this Council** to address climate-related security risks. It is the only UN institution with a mandate to maintain international peace and security. It needs to deliver on that mandate.

**Climate change does not respect national borders**, and neither do the more frequent and extreme weather events that it causes. Droughts, food insecurity, population displacement, biodiversity loss, the melting of polar caps... all these are already increasing social and political tensions. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how global challenges need global responses, including from the Security Council.

Belgium sees **three priority actions** for the Security Council with regard to climate and security: (1) mainstreaming climate risk throughout its agenda; (2) strengthened institutionalization; and (3) requesting a regular SG report to improve our information basis.

First on **mainstreaming**, a key priority of Belgium during our recent mandate. The Security Council has increasingly recognized how climate change impacts international peace and security. As a result, it has

progressively mandated UN missions to take climate-related security risks into account and support partner governments in managing them. Currently, 13 Security Council resolutions can be regarded as climate-sensitive. We encourage the Council to continue in this regard and expect regular country-level reporting to be climate-sensitive. UN missions should have dedicated capacity, both in terms of personnel and training to deliver on these mandates.

Secondly, we welcome the further **institutionalization** of this topic within the Council through the launch of the Informal Expert Group. This will allow the members to more systematically assess the prominence of climate-related security risks by country and region. A **thematic resolution** on climate and security is urgently needed to provide a stronger legal basis for the Council's engagement. The UN also needs an 'institutional clearing house' that mobilizes the existing expertise and makes it available to the Security Council. We strongly support the Climate Security Mechanism in this regard and have contributed to its reinforcement.

Thirdly, we repeat our long-standing request for a **regular comprehensive report by the Secretary-General**. This should assess the peace and security implications of climate change across the globe, and allow us to focus on those countries and regions most affected. It should include a gender-sensitive assessment of early warning indicators and foresights of climate-related security risks, as well as concrete recommendations for action by UN organs to address these risks.

Mr. President,

Beyond the mandate of this Council, the global community needs to urgently step up with regard to **climate action**. National Adaptation Plans should integrate security risks. Nationally Determined Contributions need to reflect the level of ambition necessary to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement. And much more is needed in terms of climate finance.

Since 2013 **Belgium has spent more than 700 million EUR** to support climate action in the Global South. We have doubled our contribution to the Green Climate Fund and commit to scaling up our

climate finance significantly in the coming years, focusing on adaption and the Least Developed Countries. Our aim is to reach 100 million EUR a year.

Climate change is here now and no nation can face it alone. We need to **reinforce partnerships** between the UN and regional actors such as the African Union, the European Union and NATO.

Mr. President,

Current and future generations look to us for strong and concerted action. Let us not fail them.

I thank you.