



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

contribution of

Ambassador Philippe KRIDELKA, permanent representative

High-Level Open Debate of the UNSC on 'Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts'

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Mr. President,

Belgium thanks His Excellency Mr. Kais Saied, President of the Republic of Tunisia for the opportunity of discussing this topic. Indeed, Belgium believes that the Security Council cannot turn a blind eye to factors exacerbating the multiple dimensions of fragility which can lead to situations of instability, turmoil and even violent conflict.

1. One such factor is undeniably **climate change**. This phenomenon can reinforce existing social, political, economic and environmental drivers of conflict and worsen existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. Belgium supports an increased role for the Security Council to address climate-related security risks. Belgium's primary focus has been on mainstreaming these risks into relevant Council action, for instance by making Security Council mandates climate-sensitive. The UN needs to report on this issue, the Council needs to be better informed and act on it. The Council's informal expert group on climate and security, which has just been created, will play an instrumental role.

2. More broadly, Belgium believes that the Council should remain alert to all **early warning** signs. Belgium is in favor of the Council regularly receiving ad-hoc briefings by the Secretariat outlining certain countries' and regions' risks for triggering or exacerbating root causes of fragility, conflict or humanitarian crisis, while taking into account elements of conflict sensitivity. Again, a better informed Council will enable it to improve support to prevention or mitigation measures, be it mediation, transitional justice processes, inclusive sustainable development with special attention to SDG16, creating space for civil society and other non-governmental actors or addressing human rights issues. It does not necessarily mean that the Council or the UN themselves must take action : other actors such

as regional or sub-regional organizations may be more relevant. In the same spirit, Belgium is also in favor of inviting more civil society briefers, including from private companies and universities, in Council meetings to add a different perspective to the discussion. We also believe that the new generation of resident coordinators, with a broad horizontal vision of the situation in one given country, could contribute to the Security Council's discussions on how to address situations of fragility and how to better prevent violent conflict and contribute to building resilience within countries and communities towards sustained peace.

3. Early warning signs can be better detected and addressed when working in **partnership**. The Security Council can deepen its synergy with other UN partners. To the already mentioned resident coordinators, we should add the Peacebuilding Commission and its well-known advisory role to the Council, but also the other UN bodies. The Secretary General himself engages regularly with the Council. Outside the UN, regional organisations are important partners, especially in Africa where, unfortunately, many countries are in contexts affected by fragility and conflict. Belgium welcomes the continuous dialogue between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace & Security Council. We also recognize the role and engagement of the sub-regional organisations to discuss fragility and to act to defuse a conflict situation. Belgium, nationally, and as a part of the European Union, stands ready to help countries in fragile and conflict affected situations in strengthening their resilience. A deep commitment to promoting human rights and the triple nexus of humanitarian support, development and peace are part and parcel of that engagement. As are sustained efforts to fully realize the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

I thank you.