

**United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting on  
Climate, Peace and Security: Opportunities for the UN Peace and Security Architecture**

**29 November 2022, 3-6 pm**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes Ambassador, Permanent Representative of  
Luxembourg on behalf of the Benelux countries (Belgium - the Netherlands - Luxembourg)**

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Madam / Mr. Chair,

The BENELUX countries Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg align themselves with the statements of the European Union and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

We thank the organizers for convening this meeting on Climate, Peace and Security and the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Although no country is currently safe from the devastating effects of climate change, its impact on security is multi-faceted and context dependent. Climate change is a risk multiplier that exacerbates existing social, political, economic, environmental and gender-specific drivers of conflict. We have known this for quite some time now. And now is the time to act.

Some **Member States are acting**: we can point out the examples of the Great Green Wall in the Sahel or the initiatives undertaken to protect the Forests of the Congo.

As the UN organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, **the Security Council also needs to deliver**. When presented with the opportunity – as in December 2021 with the draft resolution on climate and security presented by Niger and Ireland – this Council has, unfortunately, failed to do so. The BENELUX countries however are proud to have been part of the cross-regional group of 113 Member States, including 26 Member States from the African group, that co-sponsored the draft resolution. We have signed up to the Climate, Environment, Peace and Security Declaration and Initiative launched last October, and we will support any tangible step forward in that direction.

In that spirit, we want to focus on **three particular points** :

- 1. Information:** We need **better data** and **improved information management**. We call on the Council to build on the elements of last year's draft resolution, such as the incorporation of information on the security implications of climate change in its conflict analysis and management strategies. Developing analytical and forecasting tools for risk assessment will feed early warning systems and improve the Council's capacity for conflict prevention.
- 2. Reporting:** We stand by our long-standing request for a regular **comprehensive report by the Secretary-General** that should assess the peace and security implications of climate change across the globe and allow the Council to focus on those countries and regions most affected. Moreover, a specific point on climate and security should be made during **every Council briefing as applicable**.

- 3. Mainstreaming:** We fully support the Council in its attempts to **mainstream** the security-climate risks, notably by taking them systematically into account in its mandates, in order to lead to tangible action. We also welcome and support climate related initiatives taken by Special Political Missions, Peacekeeping operations and Envoys as well as by UN departments and agencies, such as the Climate Security Mechanism. Appointing a Special Envoy for climate and security would in our view enhance a UN-wide approach.

As an overarching principle, we underline that particular attention should be paid to the impact of climate change and conflicts on women and youth, as well as to the potential of **women** and **youth** as agents of change.

Madam / Mr. Chair,

We hope that the Council will be able to take **decisive steps** on climate, peace and security going forward. The agreement found on a loss and damage fund at COP27 shows that things can move. Current and future generations look to all of us, including the Security Council, for a strong, united and concerted action. Let us not fail them.

I thank you.