



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

**Open debate of the Security Council
on
Climate and Security**

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-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Slovakia commends the initiative of Germany for organizing open debate on climate and security to underscore the nexus between human security and environmental security.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

We are living through an extraordinarily difficult period in global history. COVID-19 reminds us that life is precarious and interconnected. Our world was already fragile, violent conflict, humanitarian need and displacement increased over the past decade influenced and intensified by climate change.

Increasing impact of climate change became visible with frequent droughts, floods, warming temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Climate disasters lead to humanitarian disasters, food shortages, and economic, social and demographic shocks, and can exacerbate already overwhelming challenges, especially for under-resourced fragile state governments.

The UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in 2019 was a crucial advocacy moment to shape the climate agenda. Slovakia is a strong proponent of climate action, peace, human rights and rule of law. That commitment to values, to peace, to the furthest behind was reaffirmed by Slovak President, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová at the Climate Action Summit and let me emphasize her words, *"if we succeed to unite on our climate action, we can generate new sense of solidarity and common good. It can help restore international system, overcome divisions, and bring new opportunities in areas of peace and development"*.

The interaction between climate change, loss of biodiversity and international security must absolutely become a key item on the conflict prevention agenda. It is the only way to anticipate tomorrow's threats and to help the most vulnerable countries.

With climate already driving in security, we need United Nations and Security Council to play their part. We thank Germany for a great leadership in the field of climate and security at the Security Council.

International community needs to act fast. We encourage the Security Council and the United Nations to create a comprehensive information basis on climate-related security risks. We support to integrate short and long-term climate and environmental risk factors in the

assessment and management of threats to peace and security, at country, regional and international levels. In order to find operational responses to these risks, we encourage drawing on the expertise of the whole UN system and strengthening UN missions on the ground.

Thanks to the work of Climate Security Mechanism under the leadership of DPPA, UNDP and UNEP, we have managed to make some progress in this regard. We have to continue identifying ways of addressing the impacts of climate change on conflict, and seek necessary global policy responses. Alongside Germany and several other partners, Slovakia would like the Secretary General of the United Nations to present a report on this issue every two years, before the General Assembly and the Security Council. The report would provide not only a clear assessment and analysis of these specific risks, but also recommendations for action.

The UN response should work hand in hand with the Security Council, focusing on preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and resilience. Institutional and sectoral divides must be overcome to work in a more integrated fashion linking the humanitarian, development, climate mitigation, peace and security action.

The final issue I would like to mention is the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to the impacts of climate and security. The latest report *Gender, Climate & Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change* by UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and DPPA reveals the close links between gender, climate and security. The report shows that women on the frontlines of climate action are playing a vital role in conflict prevention and sustainable, inclusive peace. It remains vital to support local ownership, improving leadership and broadening inclusion in conflict and fragile settings, with special attention to gender and youth.

United Nations should to the best of its ability to lead in facilitating and coordinating global efforts on climate action, working with regional partners and other stakeholders, including non-state actors such as businesses and local authorities, which play an increasingly important role in this field. Multilateralism is a key tool that can and should deliver on global solutions including climate change. Slovakia, in this regard, is fully committed to be a part of this collective responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. President.