Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany welcomes the initiative by Malaysia and Spain to have a debate in the Security Council on the subject of “Climate change as a threat multiplier for global security”.
It offers the opportunity to advance a discussion which we already had in 2007, 2011 and 2013. We consider the Presidential Statement under Germany’s chairmanship of the Council in 2011 an important step in this process. And, like others, we consider an update of the UN Secretary-General’s 2009 report on “Climate Change and its possible Security Implications” useful.

Climate change has an impact on global security by affecting political and economic stability in multiple ways - causing extreme weather catastrophes, as well as shortages of food, water and arable land.

The adverse effects of global warming can exacerbate international relations. They cause disputes over scarcer resources or cross-border migration – to mention but one example. Previous speakers have touched upon several of these issues today. Therefore I will limit myself to three additional points:

**First:** If we do not move forward on cutting greenhouse gas emissions more drastically, we risk moving backwards on sustainable development and poverty eradication. The poorest countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change. They will have more to do than others in order to mitigate its effects.
It is therefore paramount to reach an ambitious climate agreement in Paris. At the same time, this is a crucial investment in future peace and security.

Germany is prepared to support vulnerable countries, thereby making an ambitious climate agreement more attainable. To this end, Germany has recently pledged to double its climate financing by 2020.

Second: In order to prevent the negative effects of climate change on international security, we need to do more than only cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is there, it is happening now and will continue in the foreseeable future.

I refer to the question of adaptation to climate change. We need to ask ourselves: Are we properly prepared?

A recent study presented to G7 foreign ministers clearly states: No, we are not sufficiently prepared. The authors conclude that we do not yet use risk assessments and early warning systems effectively.

Therefore, our efforts need to be intensified if we are to reduce, ideally minimize, the security risks arising from climate change.
We are going to present this study, together with the UK Mission, right after this meeting at the German House. You are all very welcome to join us for this occasion.

Thirdly: Climate change and other environmental threats are cross-cutting issues which affect all spheres of human life: peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

Even if we identify potential risks in time and include them in our conflict prevention strategies, we need to make sure that aspects of climate change, development, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding are all integrated.

In this regard, we welcome the recommendations made by the “High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations” in its report of May 16.

In conclusion, let me assure you that Germany will continue its commitment to this issue, both nationally and internationally, and also in its current capacity as Presidency of the G7 Group.

Thank you.