Statement

By

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Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

at the Open Arria-Formula meeting on the role of Climate Change as a threat multiplier for Global Security

United Nations

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

We welcome the initiative by Spain and Malaysia to hold this meeting within the Security Council to address the issue of climate change as a threat multiplier for global security and to better identify the inter-connected threats to international peace and security related to climate change.

Climate change will threaten global stability and security. The impacts of climate change such as sea-level rise, more frequent and extreme weather events, biodiversity losses, water—and food shortages and forced migration due to conflicts over scarce resources are in fact manifesting themselves as we speak. It will affect all of us, but those facing the most extreme risks are developing and fragile States with fewest resources and the least capacity to cope.

And in addition to coping with these changes and extreme events, Small Island Developing States and low-lying coastal areas will also need to address—as a matter of survival—the issue of relocation of parts or all of their population.

The consequences of climate change also threaten to undermine many successes in the past 70 years with regard to development, trade and stability and will affect the world economy, increase inequality and add new stresses to interstate relations. This is why numerous organisations such as the United Nations have been warning about the ongoing and pending threats to human, national and international security posed by climate change.

Climate change, though, is not only a catalyst or “threat multiplier” intensifying and compounding the impacts of drought, natural disasters, hunger, conflict and migration flows; it is the most important security threat of the century.

It is because of this urgency that the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to emphasize the importance of the adoption of a new and ambitious, legally-binding, global agreement in Paris later this year. An agreement that ensures that the world remains on track to keep global warming below 2°C.

In line with these and related international negotiations and initiatives that address the (security) impacts of climate change, and to ensure a continuing dialogue, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has decided to organise an international conference on “Planetary Security: Peace and Cooperation in Times of Climate Change and Global Environmental Challenges” on 2 and 3 November 2015. It’s needless to say that this conference takes place in the International City of Peace and Justice, the Hague, at the Peace Palace.

The conference, that will become an annual event, will provide an international platform for leading politicians, high level policy-makers, academics, think tanks and security organisations working on the threats posed to security, stability and development by climate change, environmental degradation and resource scarcity. The intention is to enhance knowledge sharing, international cooperation and agenda-setting amongst policy-makers and experts and to create greater political awareness and wider
involvement for implementing an integrated agenda to help strengthen resilience to climate-fragility risks.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of the Netherlands encourages the United Nations Security Council to take climate security under its umbrella, including an update of the 2009 Secretary General Report "Climate change and its possible security implications".

I thank you.