Good morning.

I’d like to begin by thanking the speakers here today from Kiribati, Chad and Colombia Law School. You have movingly set out the threat that climate change poses to national and international security. The United Kingdom shares your view.

As an island state, we too face risks. Risks of losing land to the sea, and more frequent - and more dangerous - flooding.

However, our first national climate change risk assessment, two years ago, found that it could be the indirect, international impacts of climate change that present the greatest risks. We may see food price spikes, large-scale migration, and even state failure.
As we have heard from other speakers this morning, these are serious, shared concerns. So it is right that the Security Council should debate this issue.

The UK was honoured to co-host the last informal Security Council debate on climate change with Pakistan, two years ago – and I am grateful to Spain and Malaysia for tabling this meeting today.

As the speakers made plain, the security risks of climate change are already present - and managing them is an urgent task. That is why the UK has committed £3.9 billion to climate finance between 2011 and 2016 - including £720 million for the Green Climate Fund.

A large part of this money has already been spent on helping countries adapt to climate change.

We have met our pledge to spend 0.7% of our national income on overseas aid - and have embedded disaster resilience within many of our bilateral development assistance programmes.
In April, we agreed to work with our G7 partners to integrate climate change adaptation even more into our development assistance and into our conflict prevention work.

At the same time, it is equally urgent that we work to avoid unmanageable climate risks in the future...

...because it is not only island states that face extreme risks. In Europe, the worst natural disaster of recent times was the extreme heat wave of the summer of 2003 - in which more than seventy thousand people died.

Scientists estimate that such an event is already ten times more likely to happen today, and that it will become very common in a few decades’ time...

...and if global emissions continue to rise, then heat extremes in hot parts of the world could actually exceed the limits of human tolerance.

When we think about keeping our nations safe, we have to consider the worst case scenarios...
...and with the risks of climate change growing over time, it is essential that we take a long term view...

...a view we must keep in mind as we approach the negotiations in Paris at the end of this year.

A deal that keeps the two degree target within reach is still possible...

...but meeting that target will take sustained effort.

That is why we must approach climate change in the same way we approach any other grave threat to our international security – with urgency, effectiveness and determination.

Thank you.