



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE

**ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY**

STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this open debate, which brings necessary attention to the key issue of our time. Since the first open debate on climate change in 2007, member states have become increasingly aware that climate change is a driver of insecurity and a threat multiplier for conflict, as well as a threat itself to our collective security. In Liechtenstein, the average temperature has increased by almost two degrees since temperature recordings started in 1871.

Mr. President,

Although there are other UN organs with the competence to address climate change, including the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, it is essential that the Security Council engages with the international and transnational threat that climate change poses to peace and security. One cannot fully address the root causes of conflict, nor take on the mantle of prevention emphasized by the Secretary-General, without acknowledging our changing climate.

We are pleased that Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme, has been invited to brief the council today, and encourage the council to strengthen its coordination with other UN bodies with responsibility for addressing climate change. We also hope that the council will continue to advocate for enhanced analysis and information on climate issues.

We are pleased to see that the Security Council has begun to integrate climate issues in its country and region-specific work, building on the precedent set in Resolution 2349 on West Africa and the Sahel. In areas like the Lake Chad Basin, where 90 per cent of the economy relies on agriculture and pastoralism, it is self-evident that a deteriorating climate will negatively affect peace and security, exacerbating vulnerability that can be exploited by malicious actors and driving mass displacement. We also welcome the council's inclusion of similar language addressing climate in its resolutions covering the UN Office for Central Africa, Mali, Somalia, and Darfur. However, we believe that the council can and should do more on these files: in addition to mandating Governments and the UN to address the effects of climate change, the council should also encourage measures to prevent and mitigate climate change as a root cause of conflict itself. The Security Council should also specifically address marginalized groups, such as women and young people, who will be particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects of climate change— for example, due to a lack of educational and employment opportunities.

In other situations, such as Libya, South Sudan, Yemen, and Syria, climate change has exacerbated the severity of man-made conflict through increasing extreme weather patterns. We hope that the Council will be able to mainstream its consideration of climate in its resolutions, while at the same time retaining focus on those responsible for causing and perpetrating these conflicts.

Mr. President,

Looking to the future, we are also aware that our changing climate may create conditions for conflict in areas that have until recently been peaceful. The melting of Arctic summer ice creates incentives for increased contestation over the resources buried beneath it, the extraction of which will further exacerbate climate change and spur further degradation of the Arctic environment. The increased attention to the region poses challenges for regional institutions, including the Arctic Council. We should also mention the impact of competition for resources on the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region, whose relationship with their historic lands, territories and resources should be respected.

Mr. President,

For many of the UN's member states, in particular small island developing states, climate change is an existential threat. Moreover, its effects – mass displacement and loss of homes and livelihoods - echo the outcomes of those armed conflicts that the Security Council addresses in its daily work. Given this reality, the council should treat climate change as a direct threat to our global collective security. Finally, the Security Council's action on climate change must be underpinned by our resolute commitment to multilateralism, something epitomized by the Paris Agreement. We must take the spirit of that agreement forward, and work together ambitiously to create effective and sustainable solutions.

I thank you.