

Delegation from the Dominican Republic
Position Paper for the United Nations Security Council

Climate Change poses a major challenge for all Member States, as it goes along with severe disasters and conflicts. Keeping international peace is one of the original and main goals of the United Nations (UN). As an active Participant of the UN Security Council (UN SC), the Dominican Republic (DR) highly appreciates the opportunity to adopt the topic of Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict and well as Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security to the agenda.

I. Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict

As one of the founding members of the United Nations, the Dominican Republic highly recognizes the importance of maintaining international peace and security. These values represent the core principles in the UN Charter. *Chapter 1 Article 1* states that peace and security should be maintained, and possible threats should be prevented and removed. In order to meet any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to work together as an international community and unity, Peace has to be upheld. With rising potential for conflict due to climate change related scarcities, forced displacements and growing inequality within the Member States as well as between various States, the consistency gains importance. Strengthening Peace Building is therefore one of the most important issue the UN has to take further steps for.

The Dominican Republic strongly endorses SDG 16 and thus has been significantly progressive in improving transparency within its nation. Also, The DR has participated in the *Vienna Conference on the Protection of Civilians in Urban Warfare* in 2019, aiming to protect the civilian population in conflict areas. Youth in Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Processes is of essential significance. Under the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Dominican Republic is promoting Peace education amongst youth to secure Peace not only today but also within future generations.

The Dominican Republic acknowledges the strong connection between strengthening Peace building in order to mitigate possible conflicts to the largest extent. As Peace building missions lack severe intelligence, equipment as well as financial support, the Dominican Republic requests of the Secretary General Antonio Guterres, similar to the *resolution 2333 (2016)*, to deliver a report within 90 days that includes a well-developed peacebuilding plan to mobilize UN and other multilateral actors to assist those Member States concerned most with conflict. The ever-shifting nature of conflict demands for the UN SC to adapt to current situations and needs for Peacekeeping interventions. It is the civilians in particular that have to be looked after and included in solving conflict situation to establish Peace within a critical region. Peacekeeping missions are therefore of special importance and should be promoted more extensively. The Dominican Republic suggests a call upon Member States to contribute financially and to provide forces with less restrictions. To support that call, an image campaign for Blue Helmets should be released. An educational guideline, informing young people about peacemaking and-keeping within a working group, under the observation of associated NGOs as well as the Peace Building Observer Office and the UN Populations Fund, is a necessary step towards securing peace and the mitigation of conflict in the future.

II. The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security

In 2017, the DR was ranked the 10th most vulnerable country to climate change worldwide. Climate-related hazards, like floods and droughts, have been increasingly endangering the island and its population. The DR therefore recognizes the importance of climate-related disasters and the effect it has on international peace and security. It is, however, not only an issue concerning the Caribbean but rather all UN Member States. Finding solution-orientated consensus on how to secure Peace worldwide with the growing issue of climate change and its concomitant disasters. The Paris Agreement, which has been signed by a majority of Member States, is the first step towards reducing emissions in order to combat climate change.

In 2015 the DR submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The DR has further developed a more specified Action Plan focusing on the current legislation period from 2019-2021, working closely with the international community. Included in the NDC, the country prioritizes the following strategies to reduce causes and effects of climate change of the integrated and adaptive management of watersheds through local systems of sustainable production, the implementation of

initiatives to reduce climate vulnerability in agricultural and the tourist and marine coastal areas. Educational measures, promoting more sustainability amongst the young, have already been taken through the *UN CC: Learn program*, designed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which supports teachers to help young students with understanding the causes and consequences of climate change. With that, the DR is also working towards SDG 13, which includes strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries through the *Disaster Risk Management Act of 2002*.

To exculpate those Member States, affected most by Climate-Related Disasters, resulting in a violation of international peace, the DR encourages the Security Council to extant the collaboration with *UN Development Programme* (UNDP). Financial Support through specific Institutions (capacity development, training, coordination, decentralization) should be provided to help with developing action plans. In order to reduce the threat to international Peace, the DR recommends the implementation of a Think Tank under the *United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination* (UNDAC) to assess the Member States that are affected the most and to establish the individual country's needs. More ambitious goals and further commitment towards the *2030 Agenda* by each Member States. To support those, the DR Proposes the implementation of a working group, researching the extant of possible future hazards and the requirement of Peace Keeping Missions and the according financial support. This working group should corporate with the *International Panel on Climate Change*, retrieving data and recommendations from it.