

Delegation from the Republic of South Africa

Position Paper for the United Nations Security Council

The Republic of South Africa, has held four times United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) presidency, is, for third time, a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the term 2019 – 2020, and continued engagement within the UN framework, as well as in regional organizations, namely the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). We are looking forward discussing and working multilaterally on the following topics: Strengthening Peacebuilding to Prevent and Mitigate Conflict; and The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security.

I. Strengthening Peacebuilding to Prevent and Mitigate Conflict

In 2018 according to the Trends in Armed Conflicts, 1946 - 2018 report of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) 46 out of 52 active armed conflicts are classified as intrastate conflicts, where especially internationalized intrastate conflicts drastically increased within five years to 14. These conflicts result in 53,000 casualties (PRIO) and 41.6 million, women as most vulnerable group, internally displaced people according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On this background the UN developed the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), which has been accepted by all Member States at 2005 World Summit, especially like stated in respective paragraphs 138 and 139. It highlights the importance of regional and multilateral cooperation stated in Chapter VII Regional Arrangements of the UN Charter, as well as in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The Republic of South Africa strengthened, in accordance with UN Charter Chapter VII and SDG 16, the peacekeeping mission UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) significantly by contributing 1,223 troops, ranked 4th of troop contributors, including one mission force commander for the term of 2015 – 2018 as well as three experts. The Republic of South Africa generally raised female peacekeeping troop contribution to now 14 %, as we believe that they act as inspiring role models in local environments, especially in male-dominated ones, thus reducing local impact of tensed conflicts and support positive attitudes towards peacekeeping troops. Furthermore, we supported the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with technical assistance and skill education to build up a hydroelectric power plant in the Bas Congo Corridor which contributed to a stable energy infrastructure, this project has been funded multilaterally under the umbrella of SADC.

We acknowledge that the presence of female peacekeepers in conflicts have positive effects on all dimensions of peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes, thus we urge all Member States to increase their women's share of peacekeeping troops and generally contribute more troops with less operative restrictions to peacekeeping operations (PKO), thus overcome deficiencies of PKO's. Furthermore, the South African Republic highly believes that strengthen multilateral cooperation with regional and international actors should be a focus of the global community to reduce spill over effects of internationalized intrastate conflicts. The international community should especially support conflict affected areas in building up stable basic infrastructure like energy grids, water supply and sanitation systems.

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

While climate change related disasters are sometimes root cause of conflicts, they considerably became the top multiplier cause of conflicts, deteriorating conflicts for about 40 million people according to World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2019. Climate change caused droughts are a major driver to terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, as these groups offer at least a low degree of existential needs like water. We ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016 and submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat in 2015.

The Republic of South Africa established a profound and cohesive Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WCWDM) framework in 1994 in order to establish, examine and develop

suitable water resource management and strategies. Within that framework we implemented a Rainwater Harvesting Strategy Development (RHSD) framework as rainwater collection and storage is easily applicable in rural and urban areas, to economic sectors and private households. Currently we work on large-scale efficient water systems, water storage and infrastructure tied to a prudent resource and demand management. To prevent and mitigate climate change related conflicts the Republic of South Africa strongly supports the Peace Parks Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), in various ways to establish four cross boarder trans frontier conservation areas (CTCA) with our neighbouring countries. These CTCA's conserve biodiversity, enable community development and finally promote cooperative behaviour between our neighbour countries. These measurements have evidently positive effects to peacebuilding and -keeping efforts in the region.

The Republic of South Africa recognizes trans frontier conservation areas as an effective way to build and sustain peace between conflicting parties and developing an ecological diplomacy. Therefore, we urge all Member States to support multilateral establishment of trans frontier conservation areas in conflict affected regions as a measurement to prevent both ecological and social disaster. Additionally, we believe establishing of national climate change reaction frameworks with international support should be focused. Finally, we encourage all Member States to increase financial support to developing countries prone to climate related disasters and further supporting UNFCCC's and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change its work on all dimensions.