

Delegation from the Kingdom of Belgium

Position Paper for the United Nations Security Council

The topic before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (UNSC) are Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict; and The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security. Being a founding member of the UN and now having the 6th term in the UNSC, the Kingdom of Belgium sees its responsibility to contribute to global peace and therefore expresses its firm willingness to cooperate with all Member States in order to meet these issues on this conference.

I. Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict

“The United Nations was born from a terrible World War. Our mission is to work for peace – every day and everywhere. (...) We must never – ever – stop pressing for an end to armed conflicts.” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated this in a video message on the International Day of Peace in 2017. However, working on peace does not only mean ending conflicts, but more importantly building and maintaining peace. In order to maintain global peace, after conflicts have been ended it is crucial to create a multidimensional frame where sustainable peace can be built up. This includes institutional, economic, and also social reforming, along with other measures such as development aid. The international community, in particular the SC, has a moral imperative to contribute to this. Therefore, the UN established the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in the resolutions A/RES/60/180 (2005) and S/RES/1645 (2005). With adopting peacebuilding within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) from the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1) in 2015, more specific in SDG 16: Peace, Justice and strong Institutions, the international community – and so Belgium – has committed itself to work towards this goal in every aspect.

In order to mitigate conflicts and strengthen peacebuilding, the Kingdom of Belgium approaches different areas. With regard to non-proliferation and disarmament, Belgium plays an especially active role in supporting projects of mine clearance and education on mines risks as well as initiatives focusing on the improvement of mines detection techniques. Also, Belgium has established a peacebuilding funding to support projects in conflict areas to help building lasting peace. Besides funding projects Belgium has taken part in UN and European peace operations for decades. Currently Belgians are involved in 15 civil peace missions from the European Union (EU). Having the headquarters of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, Belgium shows its commitment to a peaceful world. As the world's largest trading partner and aid donor, the EU contributes to SDG 16 by creating peaceful and inclusive societies, the rule of law, effective and efficient institutions. According to EU's *Sustainable development in the European Union — Monitoring report - 2019 edition* progress has been made. The Kingdom of Belgium recalls the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) that emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace. Furthermore, Belgium reaffirms its support to the 2018 twin resolutions (A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413) on follow-up to the Secretary-General's report (A/72/707–S/2018/43).

Due to the complexity of this issue it is crucial to respond on a multidimensional level. The Kingdom of Belgium urges all Member States to contribute to peacekeeping operations. Every Member shall take responsibility by providing troops, civil personal, logistical support, equipment or training facilities. Also, Belgium recalls the 2016 twin resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 and stresses the importance of implementing the 2018 twin resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413. Besides, the Kingdom of Belgium recognizes that young people play an important role in maintaining and promoting international peace and security. Thus, Belgium highlights SC resolution 2250 (2015) and calls all Member States promote youth conferences, youth ambassadors and exchange forums for young people. These young people will then be heard by government officials and can thus contribute their opinion in a well-received and solicitous manner. In order for this strengthening to work, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and implementing SDG 4 (Quality Education) is necessary.

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

Almost one year ago a teenager in Sweden started a movement to set combatting climate change on everyday agenda. Today all over the world young people are demonstrating for more awareness to

climate change and its impact. According to the 2018 *Global Report on Internal Displacement* around 22.5 million people have been displaced by climate or weather-related events since 2008 with numbers continuously rising. Climate-related disasters can cause resource scarcity, in particular food insecurity, which has already worsened situation for over 39 million people in 23 different countries in 2017. Considering these given facts and numbers, the impacts of climate-related disasters are clearly a threat to international peace and security. Though the international community has recognized climate change and its impact as an issue to tackle in SDG 13 in the *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development* from 2015 it still lacks progress.

The Kingdom of Belgium recognizes the importance of the situation described above and strives to make an improvement through mitigation and adaptation. Though lacking in progress towards SDG 13 having signed and ratified the *Paris Agreement* (2015) and the *Kyoto Protocol* (1997) and by having submitted the National Communication on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the 7th time, Belgium showed its commitment towards combatting of climate change and its effects. Therefore, progress could be made by adopting the *National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* (2010) and the *National Adaptation Plan*. In order to approach the mentioned issue, the EU passed regulation (EU) 525/2013 (2013) which is a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information relevant to climate change. Also, in implementing SDG 13, the EU made progress. Besides the mentioned international agreements in 1999, the UN established the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which has been tasked with the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015). Also, in 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/70/1 including the *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development* in which this issue is tackled in SDG 13. The SC in addition adopted resolution 2349 (2017) establishing that climate change and ecological change affect regional stability and impact the recognized factors of food insecurity, water scarcity, desertification, depletion of land, and drought. Also, it highlights humanitarian crises due to depleted natural resources, such as terrorist recruitment and migration.

Climate change is a major global challenge. And with-it climate-related disasters are a threat to international peace and security. The Kingdom of Belgium highlights its twofold solution (mitigation and adaptation) and suggests all Member States to follow this model. In order to this, Belgium proposes to strengthen the *Adaptation Fund* established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC to lower the damage climate-related disasters cause. Furthermore, Belgium calls on all Member States and UN Organizations, such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to pursue further research on this topic in order to find a solution. The Kingdom of Belgium requests the SC to adopt a resolution recognizing climate change including climate-related disasters, as a direct threat to international peace and security.