

Delegation from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
Position paper for the United Nations Security Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict; and The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is aware of the high responsibility that goes along with a membership in the SC. We therefore look forward to discussing the topics of peacebuilding and climate-related disasters within the members of the SC in order to foster cooperation between states on these issues.

I. Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict

Maintaining international peace and security is what the UN were built for. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is ambitious in the pursuit of peace, as it is enshrined in the coat of arms of the country: *Unidad, Paz y Justicia* (Unity, Peace and Justice). Therefore, it is a great honour for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to occupy a non-permanent seat in the UN SC during the 2018-2019 period. One of our particular interests is the effort to secure peace, stability and development in Africa. While being one of its smallest countries, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea presents a role model for peace and security on the African continent. Democracy and liberalism are two pillars our foreign policy is built on. We highly respect the sovereignty of states and believe in the principle of non-interference in the international affairs of UN Member States. However, we are supporting regional and international UN projects in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea admits to the aims determined in *An Agenda for Peace*, which was introduced in 1992 by former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. This fundamental document emphasizes the need to respect states sovereignty and to concentrate on national capacity development during the peacebuilding process, which is highly supported by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. In the sense of SC resolution 2282 (2016) and GA resolution 70/262 we are aware of the important role that peacebuilding plays in the mitigation of conflicts and appreciate the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). At the SC debate on Peacekeeping Operations in September 2019, the equatoguinean delegate also stressed the important role of peacekeeping missions. Nevertheless, we also recognize the need for progress in the peacebuilding architecture of the UN in order to make it even more effective. As outlined by the equatoguinean delegate at the High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in 2018, we want to increase the integration of youth in decision-making. For this reason, we are welcoming SC resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), which urge Member States to give young people more opportunities to participate in the process of peacebuilding. The recently elaborated SC resolution 2493 (2019) concentrates on the participation of women in the peacebuilding process and urges Member States to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Furthermore, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea wants to emphasize the need for closer cooperation between the UN and regional organizations for achieving international peace and security. As outlined in SC resolution 2457 (2019), the prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States. Nevertheless, we cannot establish or secure peace in a certain region without taking in consideration how it affects or is influenced by other States or conflicts. For this reason, the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security was signed in 2017, followed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on UN-AU partnership in Peacebuilding. The UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, held on 21 September 2019, welcomed the cooperation between the two organizations, particularly in relation to the flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063 on Silencing the Guns in Africa, which is the AU theme for 2020.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is of the opinion that trained local personnel is a key factor in the mitigation of conflict. Therefore, we support the idea of the UN-AU framework which aims to develop training curriculum for personnel to be employed in AU peace support operations. We are willing to strengthen our national education possibilities and invite other African states to do so as well. Quick Impact Projects for communities (QIPs) are another opportunity to foster collaboration between the SC and local actors. They can create confidence in the peace process and primarily provide direct support where it is needed the most. We therefore propose to expand the fund for QIPs in order to reach even more people. Furthermore, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea wants to emphasize the high importance of women for the establishment and maintenance of peace. Starting with our own nation, we also want to support other African States in their fight for gender equality. Besides the involvement of women, we also want to work for a higher participation of youth in the peacebuilding process. Related to that, we would like to propose the establishment of an African-wide campaign that

sensitizes young people for peacebuilding topics in order to demonstrate the will to actively include them into decision-making.

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

Within the past decades, the topic of climate change became one of the most important problems the international community has to face. Storms, floodings, heatwaves and droughts are examples for natural disasters caused by climate change that affect the lives of innumerable individuals especially in developing countries. Africa is a continent that is affected in extraordinary extent of this phenomenon. People who lose their home through climate-related natural disasters try to find a better life in the north of the continent or even further in Europe. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea therefore considers climate change as a serious threat for international peace and security.

We highly appreciate the efforts that have already been made by the UN in order to minimize climate change itself and its effects on the population. The 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was the first international document examining the topic of climate change. It was signed by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in 2000 in order to cooperate with the other signatories on climate-related issues. The Paris Agreement was established in 2015 the Convention of Parties (COP) and ratified by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in 2018. It represents a milestone in combating climate change and mitigating its threat for global peace and security. As a declaration of the national contribution to the Paris Agreement, the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment developed the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015. As outlined in this document, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea prioritizes the topic of climate change in its national policy and implements measures to foster the resilience against it, as well as policies to condemn it. Its main focus lies on the reduction of the emission of carbon dioxide of 20% until 2030 (in relation to the emission of 2010) and a reduction of 50% until 2050. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes the high vulnerability of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea by climate-related disasters. A high variability of precipitations, high temperatures and an increase of the sea level strongly affect the population in the sectors of agriculture, fishery, housing and others. Another important measure that has been taken by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is the implementation of the strategy of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The Equatoguinean forests are a national treasure which can contribute to combat climate change as well as to economic growth, which in turn will improve the wellbeing of Equatoguinean population. The plan will furthermore contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which were adopted by all UN Member States. SC Resolution 2349 (2017) deals among others with the Lake Chad Basin in which the Islamic terrorist groups Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa are acting. It acknowledges the effect of climate-related disasters like droughts or food insecurity on the stability of regions, which then build a fertile soil for terrorist organizations. As a neighbouring state to Cameroon, which is also affected by Boko Haram, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea highly encourages the intense engagement of the SC with this important topic. Therefore, we also support the demands of The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security, elaborated on the third annual Planetary Security Conference in The Hague in 2017. The declaration establishes climate change as a main factor for international peace and security and emphasizes the need for regional and international cooperation in order to combat the humanitarian crisis in Lake Chad Basin.

Only with combined powers it will be possible to combat climate change and minimize its impact on the population. As the African continent suffers from climate-related disasters to a great degree, it is also highly affected by the threat through terrorist organizations which in turn also affects other continents, as it increases migration. Taking the situation in Lake Chad Basin in consideration, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea calls upon all Member States to intensify the cooperation between the UN and regional African organizations and expand their financial support. Moreover, emphasizing the important role of forests for the global climate, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea invites UN Member States to support the REDD+ program in developing countries. Reducing deforestation and forest degradation will reduce the emission of carbon dioxide a lot and thereby contribute to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. However, at the moment, the REDD+ program mainly addresses developing countries. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea wants to create awareness also in industrial countries about their great responsibility for deforestation in developing countries.