

Delegation from the French Republic Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: Strengthening Peacekeeping to Mitigate Conflict; and the Impact of Climate Related Disasters on International Peace and Security. The French Republic is deeply aware of the Mandate of the SC to maintain international peace and security. Therefore, the French Republic is determined to find comprehensive solutions for the above-mentioned topics, to enforce the SC's commitment of maintaining international peace and security, to strengthen the friendly relations among nations by cooperation and to protect human rights.

I. Strengthening Peacekeeping to mitigate conflict

Peacekeeping has always been a big priority in the work of the SC. Since the founding of the United Nations in 1948 there have been 72 Peacekeeping Operations in different Member States. As peacekeeping missions take up a considerable sum of the UN household, there is a never ending need to discuss and reflect on current peacekeeping missions operated by the United Nations. The French Republic reminds with deep concern all Member States of the threat that terrorist organizations have on international peace and security. Terrorist groups endanger the safety of numerous civilians, as they take advantage of their vulnerability. Therefore, we want to emphasize the important role peacekeeping missions play for the international good. The government of the French Republic has sent out hundreds of soldiers to peacekeeping missions. With deep condolence we have witnessed the recent death of 13 French blue helmets soldiers, who died in an airplane collapse during a peacekeeping mission in Mali on September 25th. The French Republic deeply regrets the death of these soldiers, who started the mission believing in restoring peace and security in an unstable Member State. Without forgetting these horrible incidents, the French Delegation wants focus on regional, national and especially international measures to develop more effective, more efficient and safer strategies

The French Republic deeply recognizes the work that the *Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations* has done to establish concrete solutions for Peacekeeping Missions. France has been a Member of this committee since 1965 and wants to use this platform to strengthen the solidarity between Member States by focusing on the way peacekeeping missions can be effectively implemented. The Delegation of France provides important resources to peacekeeping operations by being the second biggest troop giver within the SC and by contributing 6.28% of the Peacekeeping household. Although deeply concerned about the lost lives of blue helmet soldiers, the French Republic recognizes the significance of peacekeeping operations. Therefore, the French Republic has been involved in the implementation of resolutions regarding several Peacekeeping Missions. France was significantly involved in Security Councils work to adopt resolution 2348 (2017) which enables the *United Nations Organizations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo* (MONUSCO) to give an end to the crisis happening in the Member State. Furthermore, France appreciates to have been part in the implementation of the SC resolution 2373 (2017) to renew the mandate of the *United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon* (UNIFIL). In respect of the long relationship the French Republic has with the Lebanese Republic, France urges the significant importance to reestablish the authority of the government in the Member State. On behalf of all civilians threatened by terrorists, France deeply supports the implementation of SC resolution 2295 (2016) to enhance the mandate of the *United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali* (MINUSMA) to carry out the *Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation* in Mali. Recognizing the work that all Member States have put into the fight against terrorism, the French Republic wants to thank all Member States for their never-ending efforts in establishing peace and security around the world.

Recognizing the connection that exist between peace and development, the French Delegation can not stress enough the importance of prevention initiatives. Therefore, France wants to remind all Member States of the SC to use their partnership to work on efforts that can enhance and preserve recent measures. Acting on the S/RES/2284 (2016), by focusing on inter- mission cooperation for the Peacekeeping Operation MINUSMA, the French Republic would like to invite all Member States to discuss further implementations to strengthen the cooperation between the French troops stationed in Mali and the Group of Five deployed in Sahel to protect the civil society against the terrorist environment and to help those in need. Reminding all Member States of the tragic deaths happening to blue helmet soldiers, France underlines the importance of securing the work of those deployed in these operations. Further on, the Delegation of France suggests on working on explicit actions that can be taken to improve the working conditions and the safety of troops. Measures could be taken by modernizing the equipment, extending the control of the equipment and improving the training of the soldiers. By aiming

to restore peace and security in these regions, the Delegations of France is looking forward to work with fellow Member States on the strengthening of peacekeeping operations.

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

Recalling on the observation of the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO) that climate related disasters endanger the existence of the society, the French Republic understands the need to implement more drastic solutions to fight climate change. The past years, Member States were able to witness different effects caused by climate change. Although Member States might experience these changes differently, from extreme droughts to hurricanes and flooding, the warning signs have never been more obvious than now. Climate change does not only have environmental effects, it also threatens global peace and security. As natural resources decrease, caused by extreme weather conditions, social instability rises, giving opportunities to terrorist groups to take advantage of the vulnerable civil society. Climate change is a threat multiplier, as it displaces populations and breaks social order in fragile societies. In 2018, 18 million individuals had to give up their homes and migrate to a different country. In 2018 the French Republic has registered 139 330 asylum seekers, forced to start a new life because of resource instability and national insecurity. France would like to stress the importance of going from speeches and debates on climate change to action. All Member States should work together on the prevention of climate related disasters and to implement effective measures achieved through cooperation.

Recognizing the important work that Member States have contributed to act on climate change, the Delegation of France would like to thank all 195 Member States supporting *the Paris Agreement* of 2015. The aim to not exceed the 2 degrees Celsius mark is of big importance, as global heating enhances food scarcity which threatens the civil society of hunger and allows violent conflicts to arise. Furthermore, France believes that effective judicial groundwork is crucial to support Member States in implementing measurements to act on climate change. This is why, the French President Emmanuel Macron has worked together with the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres to work on *the Global Pact for the Environment* in June 2017 to start the work on a document binding all Member States and helping them in the national implementation of measurements against climate change. Furthermore, the Delegation of France thanks all Member States that have helped to pass A/RES/71/277 (2018) *Towards a Global Pact for the Environment* by establishing an ad hoc open working group. France was also part in initiating the first *One Planet Summit* in Paris in December 2017. During the Summit Member States tried to enhance financial aid from the private and finance sectors to fund initiatives that aim to reduce the effects of climate change. Recalling Member States to be aware that climate related disasters often affect the least developed countries. Therefore, these disasters threaten their national peace and security the most, the French Republic supports the S/RES/2349 (2017) to implement measurements preventing the risk of water insecurity and water management. The French Republic is aware that all Member States must focus on human security when trying to find effective solutions to eliminate the threat of climate related disasters on international peace and security.

The French Republic welcomes a warm discussion with other Member States to find new ways to reduce climate related disasters by fighting the root causes of climate change. Although there is not one solution that fits all problems, the Delegation of France would like to focus on two important subjects during the next session: First, France would like to use the time offered to evaluate the information that the ad- hoc open working group, resulting from A/RES/71/277 (2018), has kindly gathered on identifying inconsistency in international environmental law. Furthermore, France would like to invite all Member States to work on further strategies and solutions to implement judicial structures as they have never been more important than now to guarantee national and international peace and security. Again, the Delegation of France would like to express their deepest appreciations to all Member States which invested their time and efforts within the working group. Secondly, the French Republic would like to build upon the solutions gathered during the *One Planet Summit* in Paris of 2017. The *12 international Commitments* gave important initiatives with explicit solutions against climate change. Our aim now is, with the help of fellow Member States, to use the knowledge we have acquired during the past two years on climate related disasters, to strengthen the 12 initiatives. The French Republic is looking forward to gathering with Member States of the Security Council to discuss on this important issue.