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HIGH-LEVEL WEEK

**SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: CLIMATE AND SECURITY
STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT**

Mr. President,

Thank you for bringing the key systemic security issue of our time to our attention today. Over the course of multiple open debates on the nexus of climate change and security, Member States have increasingly acknowledged the fact that climate change is not only an aggravating factor and a threat multiplier for conflict, but itself a cause of mass insecurity. Addressing this issue in a human-centered manner is thus a prerequisite if the Council is to fulfill its mandate to maintain peace and security.

Mr. President,

As laid out in this year's AR6 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is increasingly likely that the next twenty years will see the world reach 1.5°C of warming – a threshold deemed the point of no return during the Paris negotiations, and a frightening portent for our fragile world. It is clear that climate impacts such as life-threatening heatwaves, dwindling water resources and the extinction of species and fisheries increase existing violent conflict and involuntary migration, poverty and social tensions. Many States fear the major disasters caused by extreme weather events, of which global warming has dramatically increased the probability, or sea-level rise, which at today's projections is likely to inundate entire territories within our lifetimes.

These impacts demonstrate how climate change is not just an intensifying factor, but the most significant threat to our common security itself. Accordingly, the Council's engagement on climate and security would be significantly strengthened by moving beyond a 'hard security' paradigm framed in terms of causes of and solutions to armed conflict. Attempts to restrict the Council's work in this way result in a myopic focus on militarized causes of and solutions to conflict, instead of sustainable and comprehensive conflict prevention and resolution. Instead, the Council should embrace a 'human security' paradigm, which allows for a perspective in which climate change itself is a cause of insecurity.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein continues to advocate for a Security Council resolution on Climate and Security as a standalone topic, and which establishes a reporting mechanism. In its day-to-day work, it is crucial that the Council include more systematic references to the impact of global warming in country situations, in particular, those outside of the African continent. In doing so, the Council should draw from the wide range of expertise across the UN system, including the important innovation of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security as well as the DPPA-UNDP-UNEP Climate Security Mechanism, and ensure regular briefings on the climate and security nexus.

Mr. President,

According to our common but differentiated responsibility, all States, collectively and individually, must significantly increase their ambitions and follow through with implementation. Council Members, of course, have a special responsibility in this regard, given the mandate conferred on them by the General Assembly to uphold peace and security. When climate change is itself the security threat, this implies an additional impetus for Council members to curb their emissions. For our part, Liechtenstein recognizes the need to improve adaptation measures and take early action to reduce vulnerability to the massive effects of climate change. Liechtenstein contributes towards these efforts through the provision of climate finance of approximately CHF 2.5 Million per year to climate-related projects in developing countries.

I thank you.