

Remarks by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard, during the high-level open debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: Climate and Security” of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Mexico thanks the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, for convening this debate on the effects of climate change on international peace and security.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that international security can no longer be viewed through the single lens of traditional threats; the threats are multidimensional and linked to challenges of social and economic development. It is up to this Security Council to respond in a timely manner to the current challenges to the maintenance of peace.

The UN Secretary-General repeatedly reminds us that fires, floods and other extreme weather events have worsened in all regions of the world and that the risk of the catastrophe that would result from an increase in the global temperature of more than 3 degrees has increased.

Food insecurity, water scarcity, droughts and floods have reached alarming levels in various regions of the world, especially impacting those communities that are immersed in conflict and specifically impacting women.

Climate change must be addressed in a multilateral manner with a comprehensive and coherent approach throughout the United Nations system. Mexico will spare no efforts to ensure that the next Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held on Glasgow, is a success and can map out the actions needed for a sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

We commend the United States for its return to the Paris Agreement and its renewed commitment to what Mexico has always believed to be an effective path: multilateralism. Climate change requires a coordinated international response that emphasizes ecosystem preservation and support for mitigation and adaptation commitments. In this vein, Mexico just presented its updated nationally determined contribution to comply with our commitments under the Paris Agreement.

As part of the Global Commission on Adaptation, Mexico promotes nature-based solutions, for example, sustainable infrastructure that offers recovery, resilience and investment to reduce economic and social inequalities.

Mexico promotes a balance of financial resources, political attention, and efforts of adaptation, in addition to efforts directed only towards mitigation.





For Mexico, adaptation is a priority issue, given the urgency of strengthening communities and those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In this sense, prevention is a key part of our comprehensive risk management policy.

Similarly, Mexico believes that implementation of the Sendai Framework should underpin and create synergies in line with the actions taken as part of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other multilateral processes.

A rigorous analysis of the main risks and their specific environment would allow the Security Council to identify in a timely manner situations and areas in which the effects of climate change can have multiplier effects that affect international peace and security. This in turn would make it possible to take preventive actions to avoid or mitigate humanitarian catastrophes.

The Council's creation of an informal group to monitor the links between climate change and security is therefore timely and welcome. This group, with the support of the analyses done by the collaboration mechanism of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, are the type of concrete measures that will help us strengthen the capacities that the system needs.

The current COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, above all on the most fragile situations, has shown how urgent it is to protect people and their livelihoods, and to ensure the construction of a sustainable peace.

We agree with the Secretary-General: the post-pandemic recovery efforts are an opportunity to "build back better" and we must make a transformative change. For this reason, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to making the fight against climate change a priority and reiterates its desire to work together to find global, multidimensional and structural solutions to environmental issues, in order to build societies that are more egalitarian, more sustainable and more resilient.

Thank you.

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