

**Proposed United Nations Security Council**  
**Presidential Statement of 30 July 2015**

S/PRST/2015/xx

“The Security Council convened an Open Debate on the Security of Small Island States on 30 July 2015. The Council heard from all fifteen members, and also from other Member States of the United Nations.

“The Security Council reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, including the determination of threats to international peace and security under Article 39.

“The Security Council recalls the report of 11 September 2009 submitted by the Secretary General to the General Assembly on ‘Climate change and its possible security implications’ (A/64/350) which identified a set of emerging climate change-related threats which merit the focused attention and increased preparedness of the international community, namely, those that appear highly likely, are large in magnitude, may unfold relatively swiftly, and are unprecedented in nature, including loss of territory, statelessness and displacement of persons; and stress on shared international water resources. The Council notes that this was not identified as an exhaustive list, as new challenges might warrant the attention of the international community in future.

“The Security Council recalls General Assembly resolution 69/220 of 19 December 2014, entitled ‘Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind’ in which the Assembly reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expressed profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, and remained deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts.

“The Security Council notes the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change.

“The Security Council recalls its presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15 of 21 July 2011 in which it expressed concern that adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security.

“The Security Council heard expressions of concern from the small island states that extreme weather events and sea-level rise are threatening their national security and indeed their very existence. It notes that extreme weather events and sea-level rise are also increasing instability within and among all member states but in particular land-locked and drought-prone states and states with low-lying coastlines and large delta systems.

“The Security Council also recognizes that further adverse effects of climate change, including ocean acidification and thermal expansion, biodiversity loss and depletion of natural resources including in particular fisheries, fresh water availability and food security, increases social and political instability world-wide.

“The Security Council therefore determines that climate change constitutes in itself a threat to international peace and security.

“The Security Council looks forward to the successful conclusion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Paris in December 2015, including the adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties.

“The outcome of the Paris conference must, in the opinion of the Security Council, meet the requirements of the Framework Convention, namely the prevention of dangerous climate change assessed to be within an average global temperature increase of 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

“The Council will address the issue of climate change no later than three months following the conclusion of the Paris conference, with a view to assessing the results of the conference, and determining what, if any, measures the Council may need to take for the prevention of dangerous climate change as a threat to international peace and security.”