



RECENT UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRACTICE ON FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

“Climate chaos and food crises are serious and mounting threats to global peace and security. To avoid mounting threats to international peace and security, we must step in. And act now to break the deadly links between conflict, climate and food insecurity. We must create the conditions to resolve conflict and preserve peace — within countries and between countries”. This statement has been made by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ remarks for the Security Council high-level open debate on the impact of climate change and food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security (New York, 13 February 2024).

Nowadays, climate change is recognized as a “threat multiplier” from the political and scientific communities. It was for this reason that the engagement of the UN Security Council on climate and security matters has accelerated significantly in the past few years when there has been a considerable increase in the number of meetings being held on climate change and security as a thematic topic.

Another interesting aspect which emerges to the most recent practice from the UN Security Council concerns language on climate change and security that it has been increasingly being included in its outcomes (Presidential Statement and resolutions). In that regard, it must be stated references to climate change in Council outcomes have become more frequent since 2017 when it adopted the Lake Chad Resolution 2349 that recognised the “adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region”.

The aim of this essay is to analyse and to set out the link between climate change, peace and security in the light of more recent practice of the UN Security Council. Special attention will be paid on the two Presidential statements on West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and on the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), adopted on 2024. Furthermore, it will be examined the resolutions adopted by the Council to extend the mandates of the Peace Keeping Operations were located in countries ranked as most exposed to climate change. Emphasis will also be given to understanding the ongoing debate among the Member States on the potential role of the Security Council in addressing climate change and how it should approach the intersection between climate and security moving forward.