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**Letter dated 30 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In its capacity as President of the Security Council for December 2021, the Niger is organizing a high-level open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: security in the context of terrorism and climate change", to be held on Thursday, 9 December 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, the Niger has prepared a concept paper (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdou **Abarry**
Permanent Representative

**Annex to the letter dated 30 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept paper for the high-level open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: security in the context of terrorism and climate change"**

1. **Background**

Many regions of the world face formidable challenges to peace and security, including those related to terrorism and the adverse effects of climate change. The consequences of these phenomena, in terms of human and ecological costs, threaten the survival of populations and even the stability and sustainability of institutions in affected regions. The international community is mobilizing and fighting relentlessly to guarantee a lasting peace and the much-desired ecological balance.

Indeed, the persistence and intensification of international terrorism and the adverse effects of climate change continue to be source of concern to the international community. While other countries in the Middle East and Africa suffer from the acts of terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaeda and their affiliates, it is in small island States and arid countries that the effects of climate change are most visible.

Today, the threats to peace and security caused by these two phenomena do not spare any region of the world. On the one hand, many countries have become the favorite terrain of the most varied terrorist groups, and on the other hand, they are suffering the consequences of climate change. It thus appears that terrorism and climate change are manifesting themselves in many theaters in the world and favour the development of a multifaceted insecurity that is increasingly endemic.

In addition to initiatives at the national and international levels, these threats to international peace and security have led the Security Council to take steps to better adapt its counter-terrorism response to effectively address the security challenges associated with this scourge. Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 2560 (2020) of 29 December 2020 are, among others, important benchmarks that illustrate the international community's commitment to combat terrorism. In resolution 1373 (2001), specifically, the Council calls on States Members of the United Nations to adopt adequate legal instruments to prevent and suppress, by all legal means, the financing and preparation of any terrorist act on their territory. In resolution 2560 (2020), the Council urges Member States to work more actively to implement the sanctions regime to combat terrorism more effectively.

The African Union has also undertaken various actions in response to the rise of jihadism and the devastating consequences of climate change, which add to the precariousness of peace in various parts of the continent and call for more relevant initiatives to address these issues. Indeed, as observers and specialists have so clearly pointed out, the sovereignty of States in Africa is weakening today in the face of the triple phenomenon of the proliferation, networking and the internationalization of terrorist movements. These issues must continue to receive the full attention of the international community.

For their part, the consequences of climate change are being felt more acutely throughout the world, with various manifestations (drought, floods, cyclones, deforestation, fires, etc.), particularly in regions such as the Sahel, where they have a strong impact on agricultural production, thus creating situations of food and nutritional insecurity. These effects of climate change are exacerbated by the strong demographic growth in the Sahel, the population of which is expected to reach more

than 330 million inhabitants in 2050, compared with an estimated 85 million in 2015. Under these conditions, the management of water resources, agricultural crops and grazing areas has become more complicated, often leading to intercommunal tensions between farmers and herders, or between communities in different geographical areas. These climate change concerns take on a different nature in the Caribbean and Pacific, where some island States are threatened by the rise of sea levels. On the humanitarian front, climate change is a threat multiplier, with disproportionate impacts on women and children, who are rendered vulnerable by the heightened fragility.

## 2. Justification

Despite the existence of a global partnership underpinned by important instruments of cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the concerted management of the consequences of climate change, these issues remain at the heart of the international community's concerns. Indeed, the aforementioned Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) resonates with the Algiers Convention of July 1999 on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. This Convention is accompanied by a protocol for strengthening cooperation, a plan of action and a model law on the fight against terrorism, aimed at helping Member States strengthen or update their national legislation in this area.

The Nouakchott Process, launched in March 2013 to strengthen security cooperation and operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture, reflects this desire to fight terrorism in different regions of the African continent. Specific organizations dedicated to the fight against terrorism and insecurity have been created, such as the Group of Five for the Sahel, which aims to develop appropriate solutions based on the link between security and development, or the Lake Chad Basin Commission, which has set up a mixed multinational force to fight terrorism, including Boko Haram.

In the same perspective, the climate emergency is mobilizing the international community in accordance with the conclusions of the Paris Conference (United Nations Climate Change Conference, 2015). At the level of the United Nations, the Security Council has already stressed the need for the United Nations, regional organizations and Member States to take into consideration the security implications of the negative effects of climate change, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia, Darfur, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cyprus and Iraq.

The above constraints eloquently demonstrate the urgency of more decisive action in the fight against terrorism and climate change and demand the sustained attention of the international community.

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this high-level debate is to engage the international community on ways to address the fight against terrorism and climate change and develop more effective strategies at the regional and global levels.

## 4. Guiding questions for the debate

- How can the fight against terrorism and the security risks linked to climate change be better considered in the maintenance of international peace and security?

- How can international cooperation be strengthened to address the impact of terrorism and the negative effects of climate change in conflict and post-conflict situations and support the countries and communities concerned?

• The interactions between development, climate change and insecurity are increasingly evident in many conflict theaters around the world. How can these challenges be adequately taken into account in the analysis of and response to conflicts and in the formulation of mandates for United Nations peacekeeping and political missions?

## 5. Format

This meeting, which will be held on 9 December 2021, is a high-level open debate that will be chaired by the President of the Niger, His Excellency Mohamed Bazoum, at 10 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber.

Member States that are not members of the Security Council and observer States wishing to participate in the debate may send a standard Rule 37 request letter to the Security Council Affairs Division (dppa-scsb3@un.org).

## 6. Briefers

1. Secretary-General of the United Nations

2. Chair of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat

3. Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force, Ambassador Mamman Nuhu (TBC).

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