



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
to the United Nations, New York  
Security Council - 2021-2022

EXPLANATION OF VOTE (EOV) ON THE CLIMATE AND SECURITY  
RESOLUTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021

REMARKS BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

---

**Thank you Mr. President,**

1. We thank the co-chairs for their steadfast efforts, as well as the steadfast support registered by the wider UN membership for the resolution.
2. Kenya is disappointed at the decision of a veto. We believe that this measure can still enjoy progress on the basis of consensus. We are ready for further efforts, and shall engage on the resolution tabled by the Russian delegation.
3. Kenya voted for this resolution but did NOT co-sponsor it. Not because we do not support its aim, but because we are profoundly convinced of the importance of taking JUST action on climate change.

4. Our reticence to co-sponsor came from analysing that there is a profound risk in the passing of this resolution without consensus.
5. We advised the co-chairs that it was worthwhile to fight for consensus.
6. In the coming years, the issue will continue to return to this Council and it is crucial that further efforts correct its course.
7. We listened carefully to the resolution's detractors. Even while disagreeing with some of their points, we believe there were important arguments made that could have been included.
8. In addition, we sought consensus because it has been the primary mode of decision-making in regard to climate change action. It underpins the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.
9. At COP-26 in Glasgow, our need to embrace consensus meant that we, as part of Africa, had to swallow a bitter pill as previous commitments on climate change action were reversed.
10. In Glasgow, the commitments made by countries whose economies have been the primary cause of climate change were dialed back.
11. Dangerous obstacles to energy access and development were put in the path of developing countries that are suffering most disproportionately from climate change.
12. If only the outcome in Glasgow was voted on. But it was not. Where was the commitment to climate finance for the countries suffering the most?
13. Instead, we embraced consensus and agreed to an outcome that while deeply dissatisfying, at least kept the process alive.

14. It must be said that our disappointments at the reversals in Glasgow were caused by some of the same members of the Security Council who are the today the strongest supporters of this resolution.
15. It leaves us to now wonder what has changed between Glasgow and the Security Council chamber. What is it that they hope will be achieved on climate change in the Security Council beyond the UNFCCC?
16. What commitment can they now proclaim with such enthusiasm here in New York that they could not in Glasgow?
17. We must also recall the Council's consistent resistance to taking ambitious action to enable UN support for African missions to effectively respond to escalating terrorism threats in regions such as the Sahel.
18. On the one hand you have resistance to just climate change action, on the other to bold action against terrorism. Yet there is seeming enthusiasm for a resolution on the combination of climate change and security.
19. If climate change is indeed the "code red for humanity", and certainly in the shorter term to members such as the Small Island Developing States, it will be a fundamental challenge to peace and security.
20. We hope that future work on this issue will focus as much on the countries impacted by climate change as those with the leading role in causing it.
21. As the Council seeks to undertake actions to resolve wars escalated or even caused by the effects of climate change, we call on it to have the moral courage to also deal with the major emitters.
22. We look forward to the Security Council reforms that may one day ensure that countries disproportionately affected by climate change are represented by permanent or veto-wielding members.

23. Kenya will continue to champion advancing the climate and security nexus. Our delegation, as co-chair of the informal group on climate and security, in 2022, will do the utmost to enable discussions that embrace balance, consensus and ambition.
24. We will also advocate for it to enjoy more comprehensive science-policy interface in the work by UNEP, in the hope that it enjoys a consensus that enables clear commitments and actions.
25. We encourage delegations to re-engage if they are indeed convinced of the importance of the impact of climate change on security.

**I thank you Mr. President.**