



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
United Nations Security Council
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STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UN
DURING
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE
ON
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: SECURITY IN
THE COTEXT OF TERRORISM AND CLIMATE
9TH DECEMBER 2021 at 10:00am

Thank you Mr. President,

1. I congratulate you on Niger's leadership of the Security Council this month.
2. I have the honour to transmit to you a message of gratitude from His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for your delegation's effective advocacy on behalf of Africa during the entirety of your term.
3. Your key role in the A3+1 has benefited the peace and security of African states and peoples.
4. As you leave the Security Council, we will continue to work together to build a more secure and prosperous Africa.
5. I also thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union and the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin for their briefings.

Mr. President,

6. We have come to this Open Debate to debate.
7. Today we are debating climate change and terrorism only a short time since the outcome of COP-26 in Glasgow.
8. Even as all delegations here make statements on the role of the multilateral system dealing with the specific question you have posed, we are forced to wonder whether multilateralism itself can truly move beyond the rhetoric of celebrating it to bold action.
9. We all know that the world's scientists and policymakers embrace the consensus that climate change is exacting its greatest costs in

countries and regions least responsible for causing it. Yet this knowledge is not leading to ambitious global action on adaptation in Africa.

10. Past commitments, such as the \$100 billion per year in financing made in Paris, which only cover a small proportion of the necessary response, are being reversed.
11. If there is reluctance to act on what global leaders call the greatest threats to humanity, will there be a will to truly respond to the impact of climate change on the security of our citizens?
12. I put it to this assembly that our biggest challenge is not climate change or even the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the moving goalposts, double-standards and false hierarchies between the developed and developing regions.
13. Enlightened self-interest, solidarity, and even science do not appear to be sufficient to overcome this short-sightedness. From unscientific travel bans to jumping the queues to vaccines and stockpiling, while others have scarcity, to the dithering on adaptation in Glasgow, the evidence of a failing multilateralism is glaring.
14. The world's peoples are yearning for leadership that can rescue multilateralism from its present rut, and re-position it as a source of solutions that are fit-for-purpose.
15. As a member of the UN Security Council, we certainly hope that multilateralism's shortcomings and failures will not so easily be reflected in its actions as we fear is increasingly the case.

Mr President,

16. Kenya condemns the recent terrorist attack against MINUSMA peacekeepers that has claimed seven lives and left three injured. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and to the Government and people of Togo.
17. These relentless heinous attacks demonstrate even more profoundly the need for a robust force that can take the fight to the terrorist.
18. It is clear, and was made even more clear during the Council's recent trip to the Sahel, that the region's armies must be assisted to raise their competence and their equipment and finances upgraded. MINUSMA is doing a commendable job but it will not assure the stabilisation of the Sahel against terrorism. Dedicated African forces are required. We all know this.
19. However, here again multilateralism is faltering. Since the 9/11 attacks on this city, we have known that effective counter terrorism requires global cooperation since Al Qaeda and ISIS-affiliated terrorism has a transnational and global footprint.
20. When the most powerful are attacked, we all close ranks with them and fight together. When the most vulnerable are attacked, the multilateral system is grudging in its response.
21. Instead, we want to see the instruments deployed by this Council against this unique crime utilised to their fullest effect. We need to see UN assessed contributions to African forces that are delivering to the mandate of international peace and security when they have limited budgets urgently required for developmental needs.
22. Unfortunately, here in the Council we are witness to an uneven application of sanctions regimes. Some groups such as Al Shabaab

that are self-admittedly Al Qaeda affiliates are kept off the appropriate sanctions listing even as members of the Council unilaterally sanction these groups as Al Qaeda!

23. A false divide between humanitarian access and counter terrorism has arisen; one that ignores that terrorism is one of the greatest causes of humanitarian crises.
24. Victims of terrorism are being told that the utmost was not done by the Security Council to save them. The world is being told that the Council's counter terrorism architecture is applied on a case-by-case basis in relation to interests not facts.
25. Every delegation to the Council has analysed the growing conflicts for resources between pastoralists and farmers, and between groups responding to the effects of changing weather patterns. Every security agency with a global outlook understands that these impacts are part of the growing crisis in the Lake Chad Basin.
26. The problem is not convincing the Security Council that there is a link between climate change effects and resource conflicts that may offer terrorists new opportunities to exploit. It is to convince the Council that African crises require and deserve that it fully live up to its mandate.
27. And it is for the countries most responsible for climate change to live up to their responsibilities. We can speak at length about what the responses on the ground in the Sahel should be. But of a far more important order is to meet our responsibilities, which the whole world witnessed being short-changed in Glasgow.

28. We need the Security Council to provide solutions that respond to the challenges we are facing in line with its mandate, otherwise its relevance will disappear with every passing day.
29. You are absolutely correct Mr President that our region and the world cannot wait forever for adequate responses.
30. We doubt that there will be ambitious action on climate change and terrorism when it is lacking in countering terrorism.
31. If African forces like G5 Sahel are not receiving the predictable and adequate financing they need to deliver international peace and security, then what real actions on climate and security can we realistically expect?

Mr. President,

32. Please allow me to close with five proposals that I believe we can all appreciate, and perhaps even embrace.
 - i. **First:** we cannot only talk of the impacts of climate change without equally paying attention to its causes. The present conversation of the climate-security nexus is almost exclusively about the suffering countries, most in Africa and does not sufficiently link to the cause of climate change. If this continues, it will allow responsibility to be shifted from those that have caused the crisis to those who are suffering the most from it.
 - ii. **Second:** climate change mitigation efforts in the Global North should not cut off the development path for the Global South. Affordable, accessible, and at scale energy is required for development.

- iii. Attempts to frustrate energy justice for the Global South assure continued poverty which will translate to continued crises and states without the resources to solve these problems. Instead, mitigation should be underpinned by understanding that it will only be afforded and undertaken if countries in the Global South become developed.
- iv. **Third:** climate change adaptation is the most peace-positive and peacebuilding undertaking in regions such as the Sahel. States and the private sector in the region must design investment-ready public and private projects that require investment and that clearly accord to Environmental, Social and Governance criteria. UN bodies like the Peacebuilding Commission, the UN Development Programme and the Global Compact can help shape the way forward.

There will need to be investment and capacity building to identify and prepare these projects for investment. One of them that is clear from our field trip to Niger, and needs immediate investment is in quality education that allows young people to be part of a thriving green economy.

- v. **Fourth:** grants and cheap financing must be availed to the projects above. Where conflicts are raging, grants and actions by IFIs needs to be undertaken so that later the private sector can find a path to investing.
- vi. **Fifth:** effective counter terrorism will not directly emerge from climate action. It is rooted in competent security services that actively coordinate their counter terrorism and criminal justice efforts with those of their neighbours. It calls for a Security Council that understands that these regional capabilities require international

financing otherwise UN peacekeeping will fail to prevent state collapse in multiple countries.

- vii. It also requires the inclusive management of diversity as a core state capability as important as that of providing security and basic services. Effective counter terrorism requires that the state be able to support local livelihood uplift, and it is in this arena where climate action, and specifically, adaptation, can play an important role.
10. As I conclude **Mr. President**, Kenya commends Niger and Ireland, as co-chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security for the thematic resolution which represents a good starting point in this debate.

I thank you for your attention.