



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sunil Sitaldin
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Suriname to the United Nations to be delivered at the
Open Debate of the Security Council on the impact of climate change and
food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security**

13 February 2024
New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I take the opportunity to congratulate the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for February 2024 and express sincere gratitude for convening us on this very important topic.

I wish to extend appreciation to the UN Secretary-General and the briefers for their valuable contributions.

Suriname aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representative of Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM and the distinguished Representative of Mauritania on behalf of the OIC.

Mr. President,

As we all know, the multiple global challenges such as climate change, escalating geopolitical tensions, and the rising cost of living, have an impact on food and nutrition security.

Suriname recognizes that climate change, food insecurity, and maintenance of peace and security are interlinked.

Conflicts can lead to food insecurity.

Food insecurity can trigger conflicts and exacerbate existing conflicts.

Climate change can have impacts on peace and security, especially in fragile and conflict-affected regions.

Climate change can also lead to food insecurity and can trigger competition over natural resources, insecure livelihoods, and mass displacement, increasing the risk of social tensions and instability.

As underscored by the UN Secretary-General in his remarks on presenting the priorities of the organization for 2024, and I quote:

“Whether the cause is conflict or climate, the result is the same: disruption to global supply chains and increased costs **for everybody**. Developing economies are particularly vulnerable to these disruptions”, end quote.

Hence, Suriname strongly advocates for urgent and equitable global action to address these existential challenges.

The United Nations, in particular the Security Council and the ECOSOC have a significant role to play in this regard.

The mandate of both, the Security Council and ECOSOC provide a good basis for joint efforts to encourage conflict prevention and addressing the multiple global crises threatening peace and security.

Suriname emphasizes the imperative of ongoing dialogue, coordination, and collaboration between these vital organs of the UN.

Mr. President,

To be successful in maintaining peace and security and ensuring sustainable development for our current and future generations, the following fundamental pre-conditions must be met:

- Setting aside ideological differences, to collaboratively advance the prosperity of our people and the protection of our planet.
- Demonstrating political will
- Upholding firm commitments to international principles, international law, and the principles of the United Nations Charter
- Urgent and comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture, to address the economic, financial, and environmental challenges faced by developing countries.

In conclusion, Suriname underscores the critical importance of effective multilateralism in addressing our global challenges, including the impact that climate change and food insecurity have on the maintenance of international peace and security.

We must pursue these objectives with unity and solidarity.

Peace and security lie at the heart of the United Nations' founding principles, and we must prioritize conflict prevention, which is the cornerstone of our efforts to ensure sustainable development and a habitable planet.

I thank you.