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Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**Security Council Ministerial Open Debate on threats to International Peace and Security:
Sea-Level Rise – Implications for International Peace and Security**

New York, 14 February 2023

Mr President,

let me first congratulate Malta on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council and thank you for organizing this debate on the important topic of Sea- Level Rise.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security. We wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Climate change is not only an environmental concern, but one of major global security threats; it puts into danger humanity's very own existence.

The impact of Climate Change on Sea level rise is one of its most critical manifestations. It threatens the territorial integrity, jeopardizes livelihoods, exacerbates humanitarian crisis, increases social tensions and leads people to move.

It does threaten the very existence of small islands and low-lying states. And there should be no doubt that these states deserve our outmost attention and support.

Even in my own country, Slovenia – one of the least affected global countries- on current projections, the sea will rise by at least 30 cm by the end of the Century, in the worst-case scenario by 1 meter, leaving our coastal area flooded 40% of the time.

Chair, I wish to make the following three points on the topic at hand:

First, our community needs to work together to implement measures to mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise, while at the same time support affected communities, including through investment in adaptation and resilience efforts.

Slovenia is joining those who are increasing their contributions to this end. The severity of impacts demand global solidarity and we need to be there for the countries who need us the most.

Second, the United Nations must focus more systematically and ambitiously on the interactions between climate change and global security, also in the Security Council. We commend Malta for bringing this topic to the Council.

By prioritizing these issues, including with discussions on the highest political level, we can prevent the world from becoming even more unjust and dangerously unequal. Building resilience in the vulnerable regions and with vulnerable groups is the only way forward.

We should pay particular attention not only to women, children and youth, but also to older persons. Climate action requires to acknowledge also social inclusion and good governance.

The triple nexus – humanitarian, development and peace – must remain at the heart of any effort towards global security and well-being.

Thirdly, as the incoming chair of the Barcelona Convention – the key platform of the environmental multilateralism in the Mediterranean region – Slovenia is highly committed to the protection of the maritime ecosystem and aware of its importance for peace and security and the region.

In conclusion, my country Slovenia remains ready to continue working globally and proactively on this important issue also in the future.

I thank you.

