

Delegation from the Republic of Peru
Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: I. Environmental Migration as a Concern for Peace and Security; II. Preventing Violence Towards Refugees and IDPs; and III. Partnerships Between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organizations in Peacekeeping Operations. While recognizing the importance of each topic, the Republic of Peru would like to discuss first topic II considering the importance of the ongoing global refugee crisis followed by topic III and finally topic I.

I. Environmental Migration as a Concern for Peace and Security

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951 as leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration, the Republic of Peru has been a member of the IOM since 1964 and has ever since been committed to the protection of migrants and the prevention of the need for further migration. In 2018, the IOM published an alarming report on the current state of migration over the world. Over the past 20 years, the number of migrants has steadily augmented, due to conflicts but also due to the worsening of environmental living conditions. The IOM estimates the number of refugees to 22.5 million and the number of IDPs to 40.3 million worldwide. Unfortunately, environmental migration can lead to threats to peace and security when heightened levels of tensions between the migrants and local lead to rising xenophobia. In 1992, at the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, refugee, climate and environmental policy were linked for the first time. The result of this conference was the elaboration of the *Agenda 21* (1992), a program of action for the 21st century in terms of climate policy. Ever since, because of the acceleration of climate change and global warming, the topic of environmental migration has been on the agenda of the General Assembly (GA). In 2014, Peru hosted the 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) in Lima and a year later at the COP21, the *Paris Agreement* was agreed upon. It constitutes a set of measures to combat climate change and to date, the *Paris Agreement* has been ratified by 184 of the 197 Parties to the Convention. The international community has recognized the danger presented by climate change and its impact on populations. The depletion of water resources, rising sea waters and desertification have already led to massive population movements. According to the IOM, in 2017 extreme weather events caused the displacement of over 16 million people. To prepare vulnerable populations and countries exposed to potential natural disaster, the UN adopted the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* after the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. This framework aims at prevention and risk reduction in vulnerable areas, it enters in the preview of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Recalling resolution 70/1 (2015) of the General Assembly *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Peru would like to underline the impact of environmental migration on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically goals 10 and 13 which respectively deal with the matter of equality within and among countries and the need to take urgent action to combat climate change. To slow the latter, thus reducing the need for population to leave their lands, Peru encourages all UN Member States to ratify and abide by the principles laid out in the *Paris Agreement*. Peru recommends the organization of Disaster Risk Reduction capacity buildings and resilience enhancement in areas more susceptible to natural disasters so as to prevent environmental migration. This capacity building program would be offered to the population to enable them to lower the risk in case of an extreme weather event. We suggest these trainings to be organized and funded by the UNISDR in cooperation with relevant local partners. Teams of local and UNISDR experts will lead these trainings after an assessment of the local needs, such as nature of potential hazard, risk of exposure, likelihood of said hazard. Peru hopes for further collaboration in the resolution of this issue

II. Preventing Violence Towards Refugees and IDPs

The Republic of Peru argues to discuss this topic first considering that 60 million people are currently living as refugees or IDPs. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) from 1948, in its articles 2 and 3 lays out the rights to freedom and security of the person. In 1950, as a response to the millions of displaced people at the end of World War II, the UN created the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as the entity dedicated to ensuring the respect of refugees' human rights and their safety. The SC consistently works on preventing violence towards refugees and IDPs. Resolution 1296 (2000), *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, calls for an immediate end to violence against IDPs. The SC also recognizes the particular vulnerability of women and children in resolution 1325 (2000) demanding the end of violence against women, specifically refugee women. Too often refugees are confronted to violence, for women, in particular sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UN Women estimates that more than one in three women experienced SGBV which is deeply alarming. Recognizing this issue, the SC adopted resolution 1820 in 2009 in which sexual violence is qualified as a war crime, thus falling under the preview of international criminal law. For the past 20 years, the Sphere Project has worked

on the creation of standards regarding humanitarian intervention and the treatment of beneficiaries. The Sphere Handbook is the most widely used and internationally recognized tool for the delivery of qualitative humanitarian assistance, it has, among others, been recognized as such by UN agencies dealing with humanitarian aid. Peru has consistently supported initiatives to protect civilians in conflicts, particularly the protection of particularly vulnerable persons such as women and children and has supported initiatives aiming to pursue the punishment of perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law. Currently over 250.000 people have found refuge in Peru, fleeing a political or economic crisis, Peru has been working with the regional branch of the UNHCR to protect and host these people in the best possible conditions. Peru reaffirms that the protection of refugees and IDPs from conflicts should be a priority for the Security Council and therefore would like to discuss this issue first Peru recommends the SC to adopt a resolution condemning any kind of violence towards refugees and IDPs and specifically the use of SGBV. Furthermore, we believe that the perpetrators of such crimes should be prosecuted in front of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Every man, woman and child deserves to be protected from violence of any kind and see that their human rights are respected. To this end, Peru encourages the establishment of safe areas within the refugee camps, where women and children can be protected from violence. These safe zones will be handled by the UNHCR, in cooperation with relevant local organizations. They aim at providing shelter for isolated women and children. Peru hopes that through cooperation the UN SC can make the world a safer place.

III. Partnerships Between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organizations in Peacekeeping Operations

On August 29th 2017, Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, permanent representative of Peru at the UN, said: "My delegation emphasizes the importance of generating a common political vision to allow integrated action by the various entities involved in Peacekeeping Operations, among others, troop contributors and regional and sub-regional organizations." With 14 ongoing Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Peru sees the cooperation with Regional Organizations as highly important to make the PKOs as effective as possible. Since 1948, 71 PKOs were deployed over the world, most of them in Africa and the Middle-East. With the increase in the number of PKOs at the end of the Cold War in the 1990s, it became apparent that the UN did not always possess the resources to handle every aspect of these operations. First, because the increasing number of PKOs had strained the resources. Second, the tragedies in Rwanda and Yugoslavia showed that the UN on its own could not prevent such disasters because of a lack of cooperation with local authorities. This was fully expressed in the report *Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations/arrangements in a peacekeeping environment*, published in 1999 by the UN Department of PKOs (DPKO). The SC realised the need to strengthen the cooperation between UN Peacekeeping Operation and Regional Organizations. The collaboration with the European Union (EU) is based on the *Joint Declaration on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management* (2003). In resolution 1510 (2003), the SC requests North Atlantic Treaty Organization's assistance in the ongoing PKO in Afghanistan, the collaboration between the UN and NATO in future PKOs has not, however, been formalized. In 2007 the SC adopted resolution 1778, in which the council reiterated the need for cooperation with the African Union (AU) in PKOs and the need to enhance the response capability of the local police. Peru was a member of the SC at the time and supported a stronger cooperation between the UN and regional organizations. In 2006, the *United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security*, which detailed the partnership between the UN and AU in terms of PKO was signed. Peru's commitment to global peace and security has been reflected through the 22 PKOs in which Peru participated since 1958 by sending troops to assist in the operations. Peru is the fifth largest contributor of peacekeeping troops in the Americas. We promote greater efficiency and effectiveness of PKOs and the adoption of mandates and goals with more precise deadlines. The Republic of Peru recognizes the value of the *Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians* (2015), as a tool to improve the efficiency of PKOs. Peru encourages Member States to commit to an international framework that would strengthen multilateral cooperation in the monitoring of PKOs. A better monitoring of ongoing operations would allow for easier cooperation between organizations in the future by laying out the good practices in place, as well as the mistakes to avoid. This would serve as the basis to lay out the principles of future common work. The DPKO will liaise with Regional organizations to organize this monitoring, alongside UN agencies involved in the operations. The results of the monitoring will be made available to both the UN DPKO and Regional Organization associated in PKOs. The Republic of Peru hopes for fruitful discussions leading to improvements for future Peacekeeping operations.