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**General Assembly**

**INFORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE**

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**Statement by  
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*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

I want first to express our thanks and appreciation to you for convening this meeting and organizing this debate on such an important topic.

Greece aligns itself with the statement delivered by Portugal in its capacity as Presidency of the European Union.

Climate change affects human security, deteriorating conditions of living and adversely influencing development in both developed and developing countries. Developing countries are facing more difficulties as far as adaptation and mitigation is concerned.

Greece believes that it is necessary to promptly respond to the challenge of a collective, coherent and cross-regional approach to the climate change threat.

In the course of the last years considerable attention has been devoted to this issue in the framework of international and regional organizations and fora.

Greece recognizing the importance of the problem of climate change and having assumed the Chairmanship of the Human Security Network, has made the choice to adopt it as its priority. In this context, Greece decided to focus on vulnerable population groups in developing countries, including women, children and persons fleeing their homes due to climate change. These people, who ultimately are the least responsible for climate change, are likely to be affected the most by its negative effects. In that respect, development cooperation and assistance can play a significant role in addressing the impact of climate change on vulnerable population groups.

The Greek Chairmanship of the Human Security Network wishes to emphasize that climate change is an issue that transcends national boundaries and needs to be addressed accordingly. It primarily affects the conditions of living, well being and development opportunities, particularly in vulnerable regions and vulnerable groups.

We wish to add our voice to theirs and advocate that human security and development cannot be one sided or inequitable.

The Human Security Network as a cross-regional platform of communication can aim at raising awareness on the human security impact of climate change on vulnerable groups as well as promoting international synergies to find path-breaking solutions.