



Security Council

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Letter dated 21 September 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to refer to the letter of 27 August 2020 by Guenter Sautter, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, with regard to the open debate of the Security Council on the theme "Climate and security", held on 24 July 2020 under the presidency of Germany.

We would like to express our objection to the request to the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to "act as the secretariat of the informal expert group [of the Security Council on climate and security], coordinate the provision of information to Council members, as necessary to the group's work, and facilitate its meetings", as expressed in the aforementioned letter. We find it inappropriate for the Secretariat to fulfil such a role owing to the absence of a specific intergovernmental mandate. We also disagree with providing such a mandate to the Secretariat under any pretext.

Furthermore, we are concerned that this initiative to convene this informal expert group is creating a precedent whereby certain "voluntary" expert bodies would be established without official decisions of the Security Council and while views of its key Member States are not taken into account.

In addition, it is worth mentioning that the Secretariat has, on many occasions, raised the issue of its challenging financial situation. In this respect, it would be more appropriate for the Secretariat to focus its efforts on providing support to activities that are mandated by intergovernmental decisions.

We would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

(Signed) **Vassily Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

