Good morning.

I would like to thank the Permanent Missions of Spain and Malaysia to the UN for hosting this timely and important discussion.

We’ve heard this morning the profound implications of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and the broader implications these have for security. As President Obama and Secretary Kerry have made clear – and as this Council is well aware – climate change’s impacts – from rising seas to more severe droughts to stronger and more frequent storms – are a threat multiplier for instability throughout the world, and present serious near- and long-term threats to global security. Those countries already struggling with fragility and conflict are often also those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Last month, President Obama delivered a commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy that focused on the risks climate change poses to national security. As President Obama made clear, climate change threatens to undermine the hard-won development gains of recent decades, accelerate insecurity, and jeopardize the habitability of our common world.

Similarly, Secretary Kerry has elevated climate change as a top foreign policy priority for the U.S. Department of State, elevating it outside of the diplomatic silo in which it has sometime been placed.

A range of recent analytical and strategic U.S. government documents explicitly address the national security implications of climate change, including the Third National Climate Assessment, the White House’s 2015 National Security Strategy, the Department of Defense’s 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and its Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap, the Department

- Against this backdrop, the U.S. is working with other members of the G-7 to act on this threat. Earlier this year, G-7 Foreign Ministers agreed on the need to integrate climate-security considerations within our own development, diplomacy, and peacebuilding work, and to enhance international cooperation on this important issue. The G-7 has established a working group to scrutinize the report’s recommendations, and to report back to our Foreign Ministers in one year.

- The Department of State is now considering next steps to enhance our capacity to integrate considerations of climate vulnerability and fragility into our understanding of potential security risks around the world.

- The most effective way we can act now to address the long-term security implications of climate change is reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a pace that enables us to achieve our goal of limiting the global temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius. This requires ambitious action by all major economies and others, domestically and internationally.

- Domestically, the United States is acting aggressively to tackle climate change through the President’s new Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions from sectors across our economy.

- On the international plane, it is essential that we seize the opportunity to finalize an ambitious, inclusive and effective climate change agreement in Paris, as doing so would be a historic step towards limiting the security impacts of climate change. And it is essential that we come back to the table regularly to ratchet up our actions – every five years – until we have stabilized greenhouse gas concentrations.

- The United States is committed to playing a leadership role in the effort to reduce emissions, which is why in March we put forward a target to reduce emissions 26-28 percent below 2005 levels in 2025. This target puts us on a pathway to deep, economy-wide reductions of on the order of over 80 percent by 2050.
• We’re also committed to building the resilience of countries across the globe to the impacts of climate change, which will help address some of the near-term security challenges. We are working with communities from the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to the Andes and the Himalayas to not just resolve disputes over land and water resources, but to strengthen the sustainable management of these resources. We are improving our ability to integrate climate change into conflict early warning models, dedicating resources for conflict management in our disaster risk reduction programs, and establishing new partnerships on a wide range of environment and security issues. Further, we are engaged in the efforts of the Nansen Initiative, which will put forward later this year a global agenda to address migration and displacement in the context of natural disasters and climate change.

• Given its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council has an important role to play in keeping apprised of the security implications of climate change, especially as the impacts of climate change become more acutely felt. In this regard, we welcome consideration of this topic, and an update of the 2009 report.

• Thank you for this opportunity to speak.