

Mr. President

We thank you for your initiative to convene this thematic debate. We value this opportunity to offer our view on the topic and are grateful for the high-quality and stimulating discussions of yesterday in the framework of the panels organized by you. Clearly, climate change is an exemplary challenge for global cooperation, since the need for multilateral action can hardly ever be more obvious. It therefore constitutes a unique challenge to the United Nations system. The leadership that the Secretary-General has shown on this topic ever since he took office is thus crucial. Tremendous momentum has been created on the issue of climate change over the past months, and the Bali Action Plan was a first step to translate this momentum into concrete action. Of course, more must follow. In tackling climate change, we must realize that this is not merely an environmental issue, but predominantly one of sustainable development. Since climate change can exacerbate existing security threats, it also has a strong security dimension and thus contains elements of the priorities of the United Nations work in general. It is also highly relevant for another priority topic that we will address later this year, our ongoing work on the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President

The report of the Secretary-General before us today illustrates the impressive range of activities related to climate change in which different players within the UN system are already engaged. It also shows that the response to the challenge of International Environmental Governance that is under discussion can make an important contribution to targeting our response to climate change. The key areas for action mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing as well as deforestation must be carried out in a manner that based on an inclusive and coherent approach, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General. We therefore support the statement made yesterday by the two Co-Chairs in charge of the institutional framework. We also look forward to the continued leadership of the Secretary-General in shaping a coordinated approach of the UN system, in particular the work underway with the Chief Executive Boards.

Mr. President

Financing and technology rightfully occupy a central place in the framework we have agreed on in Bali. Clearly, the resource side is one aspect where much thinking is yet to be done, and we hope for creative proposals on mechanisms for financing. At the same time, we must not be led to believe that there is a technological answer to the complex challenge that climate change poses. An indispensable element of our success is sustained political will as well as the promotion of a global consciousness of the magnitude of the challenge we are facing. In this respect, partnerships between all the stakeholders can have a strong catalytic effect.

I thank you.