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## UN and Qatari Leaders in Doha Commit to Addressing Water and Food Security Risks Aggravated by Climate Change

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the UN remained committed to pursuing various options to address climate change and emphasized that the United Nations will use all the tools at its disposal to meet the needs of people now and in the future.

"We are very much committed," the Secretary-General said. "We have a political and moral responsibility to our future generations—we are borrowing our future from our next generation."

The Doha event brought together UN agency leaders, State of Qatar officials, the World Water Council and ministers from Brazil, Nauru and South Africa to discuss sustainable solutions to the challenges of climate change, particularly in the world's drylands.

Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, President of COP-18 opened the event by stating: "Food and water availability are affected by climate change, and they affect the livelihood of many people in dry lands all over the world. New international challenges mandate new approaches to solutions."

"I am glad the Government of Qatar has chosen to focus this event on climate change and food security," Mr. Ban said. "We see the threat here in Qatar and across the world's drylands."

The Secretary-General commended the State of Qatar for its leadership on both food security and climate change and for showcasing the responsibility needed at the international level as a member of the global community.

Executive Chairman of the Qatar National Food Security Programme, Fahad bin Mohamed Al-Attiya said that climate change posed a severe challenge to Qatar as the country imports 90-95 per cent of its food and gets almost all of its water through desalination, which consumes considerable energy. "We are completely dependent and we are very alarmed."

Al-Attiya said Qatar has spearheaded the development of the Global Dry Land Alliance to promote collaboration among dry land countries to meet the challenges of food and water insecurity by harnessing the best of scientific, technological and financial resources on a sustainable basis. Since 2007, 29 UN organizations have pledged to work together for climate change action through the UN system Chief executives Board for Coordination, led by the Secretary-General.

Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, said that tackling climate change can help accelerate economic and energy transformations, drive revolutions in technology, and spur the creation of new production models. Climate action, she said, "can drive the creation of new goods, services, jobs, and exports. It can create new opportunities for both developing and developed countries."

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres said Qatar had helped bring the issue of food and water scarcity to the attention of the highest levels of the UN. The nexus between food, water and energy, she said, "is the face of climate change. It is the challenge, but at the same time the solution."