Concept Note

High-level Meeting
Staying ahead of the Curve – Climate Security and International Law

23 September 2022, 10:00AM-11:30 PM (doors open at 9:45 AM)
Auditorium
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

I. Objective
This High-Level Side Event will explore effective approaches to resolving humanitarian, peace- and security-related and geopolitical effects of climate change. Discussions will focus on the legal frame in which we strive to address climate change:

- Is our international legal framework sufficient to face the upcoming challenges? Do we need new legal tools?
- What international legal instruments are needed to counter climate-related threats, losses and damage to people and states?
- How can instruments under international law be interpreted in a contemporary manner? Which instruments may need to be adapted or supplemented in order to be able to provide a response to the challenges associated with climate change - but without weakening established standards?

II. Background
Since 2018, the International Law Commission (ILC) has been dealing with legal issues related to sea level rise, in particular the impact on sea borders, on the statehood of affected states and on the protection of individuals. More than others, small island states are vulnerable and existentially threatened. The event will serve to build a bridge between abstract standards of international law and the threatening reality of climate change.

III. Structure and format
The High-Level Meeting will be hosted by Germany and Palau. The meeting will be moderated by Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. A panel of experts reflecting national and international perspectives will provide initial reflections on key priority areas for addressing climate change. Participating States will then be invited to present their efforts and reflections on how best to advance common efforts towards addressing climate change in particular through applying norms and setting standard.

The invitation is for Foreign Minister (plus 1). Please note that space is limited and that registration is required by 21 September 2022 to pol-s5-vn@newy.diplo.de. Kindly indicate if your Minister intends to take the floor. The High-level Meeting will be streamed on UN-TV.