

## **SDG 13 - Climate Change**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

I am speaking today on behalf of the **Volunteer Groups Alliance**.

Volunteers in vulnerable communities are on the front lines of experiencing and combating the impact of climate change and the devastation that so often accompanies storms of increasing strength. Volunteers are also addressing climate change before a disaster or shock occurs.

I am a volunteer on a project in Tunisia. The TERO project is designed to raise awareness of the threat of climate change among oasean communities and how to address it. The effort is improving organizations' ability to mobilize volunteers, creating partnerships between youth organizations and environmental protection organizations and implementing concrete actions to increase resilience of oases to climate change

The youth projects that we organize via the TERO project allow awareness building amongst the youth of the oasis to the environmental question.

Collaborations of this kind are essential if we wish to achieve the SDG by 2030.

My role through volunteering is to motivate and support local actors to carry out

their projects. How can we imagine effective solutions if the commitment of young people to attain these goals does not exist?"

Volunteers are often on the front line of responding to the devastation caused by the growing climate crisis. They are helping communities to adapt and prepare for the effects, but they are also advocating for the system wide change in policies and behavior that we know we need to make a real difference.

We ask that member states recognize the contribution of volunteering to the implementation of the SDGs in the VNRs, and in the national plans and strategies for implementing Agenda2030, and provide a strong enabling environment for civil society and volunteering.

To have been delivered by:

**Flora Ben Chekroun**, 26-year-old French-Mauritanian volunteer on assignment with France Volontaires in Tunisian oases, focusing on communities' resilience to climate change (DESA funded participant)

