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Climate Divides West, Russia

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UNITED NATIONS — Western nations have clashed with Russia and developing countries over whether climate change was a security matter meriting the attention of the UN Security Council.

Diplomats said Russia initially blocked the adoption of a statement on the issue by the 15-nation council, but later agreed to a revised, weakly worded text that spoke of the "possible security implications" of climate change.

Wednesday's spat came as the council formally debated the environment for the first time in four years and followed dire warnings by a senior UN official that global warming was speeding up, with unpredictable consequences.

(Reuters)

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