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Subject: Preparations for the UNFCCC meetings in Katowice (2 - 14 December 2018)
– Council conclusions

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) the Council conclusions on preparations for the UNFCCC meetings in Katowice (2 - 14 December 2018), as adopted by the Council at its 3640th meeting held on 9 October 2018.

Preparations for the UNFCCC meetings in Katowice

(2 - 14 December 2018)

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

URGENCY OF GLOBAL ACTION

1. EMPHASISES the unprecedented urgency to step up global efforts to avoid dangerous effects of climate change and STRESSES opportunities and advantages of the global transition to low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, climate resilient and sustainable economies and societies;
2. IS DEEPLY CONCERNED by the new evidence on the negative impacts of climate change that are unequivocally confirmed by the latest scientific findings reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global GHG emission pathways. In this context it is a matter of extreme urgency to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty;

3. EMPHASISES that the Special Report demonstrates clearly vulnerabilities, impacts and risks of further global warming to human societies and natural systems, including the attainment of sustainable development and of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby strengthening the scientific underpinning of the objectives and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; STRESSES that stepping up global action will reduce risks and negative consequences of climate change and global warming; and RECOGNISES the IPCC conclusions that emission reductions in all sectors, transition in energy, urban, land and industrial systems and changes in human behaviour are crucial to limit global warming and that further action is needed in mitigation and adaptation to achieve the climate resilient development pathways that can limit climate change, while adapting to its consequences, reducing vulnerability and achieving sustainable development; in this regard, NOTES WITH CONCERN that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the global average rate resulting in serious global consequences;
4. RECALLS that recent UN reports show that, collectively, Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by Parties and current emission trajectories fall far short of what is required to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; UNDERLINES that all countries must enhance mitigation action in coherence with, among others: sustainable development and poverty eradication, increasing food security, achieving gender equality, protection of biodiversity, including through nature-based solutions, and respect for human rights, for right to health, and for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, for the benefit of present and future generations; in this context RECOGNISES the importance of enhancing the emphasis on science, education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance action under the Paris Agreement;
5. RECALLS the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 26 February 2018 on European Climate Diplomacy and RECONFIRMS that the EU will continue to lead the way in the global pursuit of climate action as well as the recognition of the severe implications that climate change has for international security and stability;

6. WELCOMES the Environment Council Conclusions of 25 June 2018 on delivering the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy and RECOGNISES the contribution of the circular economy to tackling climate change;
7. ENCOURAGES all Parties that have not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to do so as soon as possible; CONTINUES to support an inclusive approach ensuring that all Parties can fully contribute to the operationalisation and implementation of the Paris Agreement;

ADVANCING ACTION

8. URGES all Parties to accelerate the implementation of their pre-2020 mitigation efforts and the preparations for the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
9. WELCOMES the ratification of the Doha amendment by the EU and its Member States and ENCOURAGES all Parties that have not yet ratified it to do so as soon as possible in order to allow its urgent entry into force; UNDERLINES that the EU and its Member States' 2020 commitments under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol are already being implemented as of 1 January 2013; HIGHLIGHTS that the EU continues to successfully decouple its economic growth from its emissions - from 1990 to 2016 the EU's economy grew by 53%, while total GHG emissions decreased by 23%; also HIGHLIGHTS that the EU and its Member States are therefore set to overachieve the goal of a 20 % GHG reduction domestically by 2020 with existing policies under the EU 2020 climate and energy package;

10. **HIGHLIGHTS** that the EU is implementing ambitious climate policies, in line with the 2030 climate and energy policy framework for the European Union agreed by the October 2014 **European Council** in order to achieve the target of reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels; **RECALLS** the recently adopted EU legislation on greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including on the reform of the EU emission trading system (ETS), emission reduction targets in sectors falling outside the scope of ETS and on the integration of land use, land use change and forestry in the EU climate and energy framework, in line with the EU and Member States' NDC; also **UNDERLINES** that the EU 2030 renewable target will be increased to 32% and that the energy efficiency target will be increased to 32.5%, and implemented by a reliable governance system; **HIGHLIGHTS** that these targets will have an impact on our level of achievement; the EU and its Member States **WILL TAKE STOCK** of those additional efforts and of other sector specific policies;
11. **LOOKS FORWARD** to the proposal by the European Commission for a Strategy for long-term EU GHG emissions reduction, in response to the request by the **European Council** of 22 March 2018, in accordance with the objectives and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the national plans and the latest available science, especially the Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels; to inform the discussion, **UNDERLINES** that the proposal should consider several pathways for reducing GHG emissions towards achieving a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks in line with the long term goals of the Paris Agreement, including 1.5 °C scenario and at least one pathway towards net zero GHG emissions in the EU by 2050 followed by negative emissions thereafter, as referred to in the EU Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action; also **LOOKS FORWARD** to discussing this further, including at the highest political level, taking into account the outcome of the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue;

12. EMPHASISES the need to involve all relevant sectors, such as transport, buildings, energy, industry, agriculture and forestry and other land use, in actions necessary to achieve GHG reductions, enhancement of removals, building resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, and transition towards a sustainable European future; further RECOGNISES the imperative of a just transition of workforce and creation of decent work and quality jobs as an important component of effective climate policy;
13. RECALLS the EU and its Member States commitment to contribute to international climate finance, as part of the collective developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 through to 2025 for mitigation and adaptation purposes in developing countries, from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation; HIGHLIGHTS that the EU and its Member States are the largest provider of public climate finance, including to the multilateral climate funds; STRESSES the need for future participation of a broader range of contributors; REITERATES that private climate finance will continue to play a significant role; REFERS to its intention to adopt conclusions on climate finance;
14. STRESSES the importance of all Parties working towards making global finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development; RECOGNISES the contribution of the European Commission's Communication "Action Plan: Financing Sustainable Growth" to this goal;
15. In this context ACKNOWLEDGES the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and the need for timely and targeted support to avert, minimize and address those effects;

16. RECOGNISES the importance of non-state actors and their contribution to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, in complementing and inspiring the ambition of Parties, including by their role in the Talanoa dialogue, and the strong supporting role the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) is playing by bringing together Parties and non-Party stakeholders; in this regard, WELCOMES events such as the follow-up meeting to the One Planet Summit and the Global Climate Action Summit held in September 2018;

THE WAY TO KATOWICE

17. ACKNOWLEDGES the progress made on the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP); UNDERLINES that Parties collectively fell short of making progress so far on controversial issues and URGES Parties to make swifter progress in the negotiations towards the completion of the PAWP while respecting the spirit of the Agreement and its delicate balance achieved in Paris; LOOKS FORWARD to working productively with all Parties intersessionally and at COP24; and SUPPORTS the Fijian COP/CMP/CMA Presidency and the incoming Polish Presidency in the run-up to and at COP24 in Katowice and with a view to a successful completion of the PAWP, that will enable the Paris Agreement to be fully implemented;
18. EMPHASISES that achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement is a shared commitment of all Parties and delivering on the rules and guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in a detailed, comprehensive, robust, and operational manner is a key objective of COP24;
19. UNDERLINES that the outcome of the PAWP to be adopted at COP24 must provide a common set of rules for the implementation of all provisions of the Agreement in a balanced and tailored manner, applicable to all Parties while addressing Parties' different starting points and evolving capacities;

20. STRESSES that the transparency and accountability achieved through these rules on both action and support will be essential to build and maintain trust among Parties in order to implement our commitments in a transparent, accurate, complete, comparable and consistent manner, while preserving environmental integrity, including by avoiding double counting , and to assess whether we are individually and collectively on track to meet our commitments under the Paris Agreement; REITERATES the importance of designing a global stocktake fit for purpose as the key element of a wider ambition cycle that will inform and incentivize processes to progressively enhance ambitious climate action, both collectively and individually, allowing for a smooth transition of all Parties to economy-wide targets; RECALLS the importance of striving towards common time frames for all Parties' NDCs;
21. REAFFIRMS the EU commitment to continue to support developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in their efforts to implement the Paris Agreement; WELCOMES and SUPPORTS the implementation of the Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT) and other initiatives, such as the NDC Partnership, to enhance national capacities, development and technology transfer; LOOKS forward to the full operationalisation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform at COP24;
22. UNDERLINES the strong EU commitment to the Talanoa process enabling all Parties to take stock of their collective efforts and progress towards the long-term goal contained in Article 4.1 of the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparations of NDCs to be communicated by 2020 in line with the Paris Agreement mandate; WELCOMES the positive spirit and constructive conversations during the preparatory phase of the Talanoa Dialogue, in particular during the roundtables held at the May 2018 session of the subsidiary bodies in Bonn; IS ENCOURAGED by the discussions at the "EU for Talanoa" event (Brussels, 13 June 2018) and other "Talanoa" events organised by the Member States and other Parties as well as non-state actors throughout 2018;

23. EMPHASISES that the Talanoa Dialogue should foster an honest global reflection of the adequacy of the current NDCs and of international cooperation for climate action, and continue to be based on the best available science and informed by the recent IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C; LOOKS FORWARD to a dedicated space to facilitate the understanding of the implications of this Report; HIGHLIGHTS that the outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue in Katowice should be a commitment for all Parties to reflect on their levels of ambition and inform the preparations of all Parties' NDCs pursuant to Article 4 of the Paris Agreement; UNDERLINES that the EU will continue to create a positive momentum amongst all Parties to enhance global climate ambition; STRESSES that the EU is ready, in accordance with paragraph 24 of Decision 1/CP21, to communicate or update its NDC by 2020, taking into account the collective further efforts needed and actions undertaken by all Parties to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement;
24. LOOKS FORWARD to a constructive Global Climate Action Champions High-level Event at COP24 as well as to the high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance and the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition to showcase progress and to identify opportunities in order to inspire and incentivise efforts by all Parties;

OTHER PROCESSES

25. WELCOMES the initiative of the UN Secretary General to host a Climate Summit in 2019 with a view to step up climate action in light of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, building on the outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue;

26. WELCOMES the adoption by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of its Initial Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions and its agreed objective of reducing GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008 and of phasing them out as soon as possible in this century, as a contribution of the sector to the Paris temperature goals; ENCOURAGES a swift agreement on an ambitious work programme on the implementation of further measures at the next Marine Environment Protection Committee in October 2018;
27. RECALLS the need for international aviation to contribute its fair share to mitigate climate change; CALLS on ICAO to agree on a long term goal at the next ICAO Assembly in 2019 consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement; and STRESSES the need to secure environmental integrity of CORSIA, including by avoiding double counting of emission reductions; and CALLS on ICAO to swiftly adopt the remaining essential implementation elements of CORSIA;
28. WELCOMES the efforts undertaken by all Member States to ensure speedy completion of their national ratification procedures of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
