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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: 21th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11), 43rd session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 43), 43rd session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 43), Twelfth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2-12) (Paris, 30 November - 11 December 2015)
= EU statements

Please find attached for information the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during COP 21, CMP 11, SBs 43, ADP 2-11 and the High-Level Segment.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia have associated themselves with these statements.

The twelfth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2-12)

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 29 November 2015

Dear Co-Chairs, Distinguished Colleagues, Dear Friends,

This statement is made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Since Durban, we have made a lot of progress towards the agreement all of us need to ensure the future on this planet is safeguarded. The political determination has never been as high. We know urgent action is imperative and recognize our responsibility to future generations. We are now in the last few days to work on the text we will present to ministers at the end of this week. We must use these days wisely, in a spirit of compromise, to be able to bring forward a text for the legally binding agreement applicable to all, and the decisions, that are concise, clear and coherent, with a limited number of political questions left open for ministers.

We support the Co-Chair's scenario note as proposed, and suggest that their facilitators should have the flexibility to encourage informal work between groups of Parties to reach resolution on key issues. As our hosts stated on Saturday - with ownership comes responsibility! The Contact Group should be used to address cross-cutting issues and those issues not allocated to spin-offs and be able to concretely address issues throughout the week. The agreement must be ambitious, it must allow us to get on track for a world that can stay well below 2°C global warming and it must move us all towards climate resilience. It must also be fair, effective, and durable, putting our economies and societies onto a pathway that is compatible with achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

We consider that the text needs work in particular in relation to the following key issues:

- The dynamic mechanism to raise ambition over time: This must include a stock take every five years that informs a process where all Parties would submit new INDCs or resubmit existing ones. The notion of progression over time is essential. We concur with others that mitigation and adaptation are equally important, but while elaborating them we have to recognise their specificities.
- The long term goal: the long term temperature goal of staying below 2°C global warming must be clearly operationalised to send the world a clear signal on the direction of travel all our economies and society are embarking on.
- A strong transparency and accountability system: to track progress of the steps forward of Parties towards achieving their targets. The INDCs need to be anchored firmly in the new legally binding Agreement.
- Transition to climate resilience: the agreement must help achieve development that is resilient to climate impacts.
- Support: the agreement needs to help mobilise support for those countries that need it, provided by those in a position to do so, to assist the implementation of action.

As for many of our partners here, these are key pre-requisites for the European Union to achieve an agreement in Paris that is worth signing up to. We will be looking during the course of the next days to strengthen both the agreement text and decisions to address these and other concerns.

We applaud all those Parties that have come forward with their INDCs. There are over 180 Parties with INDCs from all regions, representing a coverage of over 95% of global emissions. These INDCs demonstrate an unprecedented level of political engagement for climate action. But they are not enough in terms of ambition and so they cannot be a one-off event. The Paris Agreement must therefore ensure that Parties will come back to the table every five years, so that there is progression to close the gap and stay on track for the below 2°C objective. The agreement must ensure transparency and accountability so that we know what progress is being made.

We are here to adopt an Agreement – but not just any agreement. We have to work together to achieve a meaningful outcome, that demonstrates that nations can work together to overcome global problems in a peaceful and constructive manner benefitting all countries. If ever there was a time to confirm that multilateralism works - and produces the best results for all - it is now.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 5 December 2015

- The EU and its Member States would like to thank the co-Chairs – the current ones and the previous ones – for their efforts and leadership in guiding us in our journey from Durban to Paris.
- The text before us contains the positions of all Parties and the EU and others made a lot of efforts to find bridging proposals. We will work with this text.
- As such we look forward to our second week of negotiations in a spirit of compromise and cooperation with our negotiating partners and under the able guidance of the COP 21 Presidency.
- It is a cliché, but it is very true here: the World is watching. We all have the responsibility to deliver an ambitious Paris Agreement and a set of decisions covering all elements which should be applicable to all, and acceptable to all.

The forty-third session of the of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43)

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 1 December 2015

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

At this crucial meeting here at the Paris COP 21 all eyes will be on the **ADP negotiations**. However the **SBI** has its **important task** to fulfill: to sustain and implement what we have already decided.

Time is not on our side here in Paris. Therefore we have to work even more **focused** and **efficient** than before. We very much support the **approach** proposed by both the **chairs** of SBI and SBSTA to have face to face negotiations only on that items which are urgently needed for the Paris package and the new Agreement and we very much appreciate that this approach is supported by all Parties.

The following issues are of **particular importance** for us:

We are very much looking forward to completion of the first round of the **multilateral assessment** which has proved to be an open, constructive exchange of views and an opportunity for ensuring transparency of our goals and means to achieve them. The **International Assessment and Review IAR** is one pillar of our MRV system which has to be complemented by the **International Consultation and Analysis ICA** in a balanced and fair manner. It is of a crucial importance to improve the reporting of all Parties whilst keeping in mind the different capacities.

Furthermore we all know how important the **long term goal is in providing direction** for our shared actions on climate change and therefore for the new agreement. We look forward to put our best efforts jointly with SBSTA into concluding the **2013 to 2015 Review** and in doing this to send an important signal to society on our appreciation of the implications of the latest science and the imperative of achievement of the below 2 degree objective.

Another important area that we have to address is **adaptation and adaptation action**. We stand ready to continue with our support to facilitate countries in their efforts to become climate resilient especially the most vulnerable countries and those with least capacities. We are also looking forward to the report of the important work of the **Adaptation Committee** and the approval of its work plan. However we should refrain from preempting discussions we are having under the ADP..

Concerning the **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage** we very much appreciate that the Executive committee is finally in a position to start with its work and we are fully confident in the timely implementation of the initial two-year workplan.

When it comes to enhancing the **capacity** of countries to act in a gender-responsive way on climate change we are keen to start the **third review** of implementation of the framework for capacity-building. This will form a very important basis for our future work and therefore also for the ADP discussions. However we should not anticipate what has to be decided under the ADP and the new agreement.

We also need to continue discussions on **market mechanisms**, in particular the review of **CDM and JI**, as we should build on their experience in the new agreement, and look for ways to achieve net contribution to mitigation while reforming those existing mechanisms.

On response measures we hope to make progress on the future of the forum and its work programme, but this work clearly needs to be aligned with discussions under the ADP.

And lastly **technology cooperation** between all Parties can accelerate the transfer of low carbon and climate resilient technologies to support action on mitigation and adaptation. The EU acknowledges the **important work of both arms of the Technology Mechanism**, particularly on technology needs assessments. The EU underscores the key messages being presented to COP21, and welcomes the TEC report on the evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer.

Mr. Chair, dear colleagues, the EU is prepared to **work hard** and efficiently to support the adoption of an **ambitious Paris deal** at the end of these two weeks and to lay the basis for the further implementation work that lies ahead of us from 2016 onwards. Let's get down to work!

Thank you Mr Chair.

CLOSING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 4 December 2015

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We have had an **unusual SBI meeting** this time: time was short and therefore we had to work under time restrictions that were extraordinary. However we all worked disciplined and made progress at this historic COP. We would especially like to thank the chair and all Parties for working so swiftly and focused. At the same time we are looking forward to the next SBI negotiations next year in May at SB44 with more time for all items.

The EU wants to highlight the following results from this week, which have central importance to us:

We have successfully finalized the first round of **multilateral assessment** under the international assessment and review. We believe that this open, transparent and forward looking process implemented under the IAR helped building trust among all Parties. We see the multilateral assessment as an important part of the overall transparency framework pre 2020. We are looking forward to the start of the ICA in 2016.

Adaptation is together with mitigation our clear focus. We are pleased with the progress achieved under the Adaptation Framework, including the Adaptation Committee and the national adaptation planning process. Having welcomed the work plan of the Adaptation Committee and having considered its recommendations to the COP, we are confident that the Adaptation Committee will continue to successfully carry out its work. We also appreciate the efforts of all Parties to finalize the progress review regarding the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.

The EU also welcomes the adoption of the first report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for **Loss and Damage** as well as its work plan. This is a very good basis for the WIM to carry out its important work.

On **Market Mechanisms** we welcome the progress made with the review of the rules for **Joint Implementation**. To deliver a robust mechanism of high environmental integrity, some further work is needed next year in Bonn, for which the text provides a good basis. Regrettably on **CDM**, no similar progress could be observed in this session. Nevertheless, we remain committed to the review of the modalities and procedures for the CDM and will continue our discussions next year also in the light of the ADP results.

Over the last months, we have had constructive engagement with our negotiating partners on the issue of capacity building. We regret that we were not able to reach agreement during the time allocated to the SBI deliberations as, in our view we are very close to agreeing on this issue. We have listened carefully to our partners and are persuaded of the need to strengthen capacity building institutions under the Convention. We understand that this is our common vision and we will therefore work constructively with other Parties with a view to establish **a capacity building committee** as part of the outcome of this COP.

The EU is also pleased with the recommendations regarding the evaluation of the Poznan Strategic Programme on **technology transfer and cooperation**. The available reports of the Technology Executive Committee and the Global Environment Facility should be widely considered and can contribute to the common objective to enhance the effectiveness of the Technology Mechanism.

On **gender mainstreaming** the EU welcomes the conclusions and is very committed to support the Lima programme on gender and follow up of the in/session work shop on mitigation and technology development and transfer.

However, the EU is very disappointed that the joint contact group on the **2013 to 2015 review** was unable to agree conclusions or to provide text of a draft decision to the COP. Keeping the temperature rise as small as possible is the best way to minimise risk and capping that rise at less than 2 degrees is feasible and limits the risk of dangerous interference with the climate system. And while staying below 2 degrees is a necessity, let us recognize that below 2 degrees is not considered enough by the most vulnerable countries. Therefore, reviewing the adequacy of the long-term goal and the consideration of strengthening the goal, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 degree, is an extremely important process that goes to the heart of the issue for many vulnerable Parties. The EU will continue to engage constructively in further discussions including those under the ADP and calls upon all Parties to do so.

Mr. Chair, dear colleagues, the EU is happy that we could conclude this session with **meaningful results under these exceptional circumstances**. We are looking forward to further working on SBI topics until and during SBI 44. Now we will focus on the ADP and a strong ambitious outcome for next week.

The forty-third session of the of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 43)

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 1 December 2015

Ms Chair, distinguished colleagues,

I have the privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Although **ADP negotiations** will attract most of the attention here at COP 21, the **SBSTA** has **key tasks** to fulfil: to provide the COP with advice on scientific, technological and methodological matters.

With limited time devoted to both Subsidiary Bodies here in Paris, it is crucial to use this short time in the most **focused** and **efficient** manner. That is why the EU supports the **approach** proposed by both the **chairs** of SBI and SBSTA to convene contact groups only on those items that are urgently needed for the Paris package and the new Agreement. We do also appreciate that all Parties support this approach.

The seven following issues are of **particular importance** for us.

Firstly, we all know how important the **long-term goal is in providing direction** for our shared actions on climate change and, therefore, for the new agreement. We look forward **to make all possible efforts** jointly with SBI for concluding the **2013 to 2015 Review**. Closing this item would send an important signal to the society as a whole on how the international climate community assesses the implications of the latest science developments. It would also stress clearly the imperious need to achieve the below 2 degree Celsius objective.

Secondly, concerning the **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage** we very much appreciate that the Executive committee is finally in a position to start with its work, and we are fully confident in the timely implementation of the initial two-year workplan. We are also looking forward to the report relating to the important work led by the **Adaptation Committee** and to the approval of its workplan.

Thirdly, **technology cooperation** between all Parties can accelerate the transfer of low carbon and climate resilient technologies to support action on mitigation and adaptation. The EU acknowledges the **important work of both arms of the Technology Mechanism**, particularly on technology needs assessments. The EU underscores the key messages being presented to COP21, and welcomes the TEC report on the evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer.

Then, on **response measures** we hope to make progress on the future of the forum and its work programme, but this work clearly needs to be aligned with discussions under the ADP.

A fifth critical issue for the EU is **methodologies for the reporting of financial information** by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. This is also a stimulating issue we are eager to discuss with other Parties, especially in the context of MRV of support addressed under the ADP. In general, SBSTA issues dealing with reporting are of critical importance since they have linkages to the discussions on transparency of support under the ADP.

As for the items under the “**Market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention**”, the EU is aware that due to limited time here in Paris it would be difficult to have fruitful and conclusive technical exchange of views. Consequently, we support the SBSTA Chair view of drafting conclusions on the way forward to avoid another application of Rule 16 as it was unfortunately the case at SBSTA 42 in Bonn.

The seventh important issue for the EU under the SBSTA agenda relates to **methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol**. For, inter alia, credibility reasons, there is a clear need to keep a balance between the pre-2020 commitments settled through the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, on the one side, and the post-2020 commitments and approaches to be discussed under the ADP, on the other. Therefore, the EU urges the Parties to work towards a constructive outcome and resolve outstanding issues still on the table after the June 2015 session so that the second commitment period can become effective with legal certainty. In this context, we would like to highlight the importance of finally determining how to obtain the “**average annual emissions for the first three years of the preceding commitment period**”.

Finally, Ms. Chair, the EU welcomes efforts made by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** in addressing international transport greenhouse gas emissions and we strongly encourage them to step up their related work and activities to contribute their fair share to achieving the below 2°C target, including an **agreement on a global market-based mechanism** for aviation in 2016.

Ms. Chair, dear colleagues, the EU supports your proposed approach for the 43rd session of SBSTA and is prepared to **work hard** and efficiently with you and all of the Parties to reach meaningful results that will make the COP21 a success.

CLOSING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Paris, 4 December 2015

Madam Chair, distinguished colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

If we want to summarize this SBSTA session in two words, they would be ‘**uncommon**’ and ‘**successful**’. Indeed, Madam Chair, time was short and therefore we had to work under unusual time restrictions. However, at this historic COP, we all worked in a disciplined manner and made substantive progress in a number of SBSTA agenda items. We would especially like to thank the Chair, the co-chairs and co-facilitators, the Secretariat and all Parties for having worked so swiftly, in a focused and constructive manner. We are also looking forward to the SBSTA negotiations next year where we will have more time for negotiating, including on the potential new items initiated by the outcomes of COP21.

We welcome the progress achieved on a number of issues which are of central importance to the EU.

Firstly, we would like to praise the hard work, the flexibility and spirit of compromise of all Parties to agree on a package of draft decisions concerning all three sub-items under the **methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol** relating to **Articles 5, 7 and 8** and **associated matters**. Now we can end the long preparatory work for fully implementing the technical elements for the second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. The next step will be the conducting of the review of Kyoto Protocol information in 2016, for which we have also prepared and agreed a draft decision in this session of the SBSTA.

In our view, outstanding results have also been reached under other agenda items.

On **methodologies for the reporting of financial information by Parties included in Annex 1 to the Convention**, the EU is very pleased with the outcome that is the result of two years of intensive work. We want to thank our negotiation partners for the constructive and efficient cooperation and we are confident that we will see the fruits of our labour reflected in enhanced consistency and transparency of financial information reported by Annex I Parties under the Convention.

We also believe that we have made good progress on other agenda items such as the **Adaptation Committee**. Now that its work plan for 2016-2018 has been welcomed and its recommendations to the COP been considered, we are assured that the Committee will continue to successfully carry out its assignments. In this regard, we would like to stress that enhancing existing processes on adaptation is very important for the EU. This is why we welcome the conclusions of the **Nairobi Work Programme**, but also the adoption of the first report of the **Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**. This is a very good basis for this Mechanism to carry out its important work.

On **Systematic Observation** negotiations were constructive and efficient too. The outcome highlights the continued importance of systematic climate observation, and the services that are built on it, as one basis of adaptation and mitigation measures. Nevertheless, we would also like to emphasize the critical importance of the availability and accessibility of climate data for climate services aiming at informing decision-making.

Finally, still on the positive side, the EU is pleased with the draft decision regarding the joint report of the two organizations of the **Technology Mechanism**. This shows that the mechanism is operational and delivering and will contribute to enhance technology cooperation of all Parties.

With regard to **bunkers**, the EU would like to thank by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the reports on progress. While we appreciate the efforts already made, we are however strongly concerned by the inconsistency between the continued growth in emissions from both sectors on the one hand, and the global effort to limit aggregate global warming to below 2°C, on the other. In this context, we encourage the ICAO and IMO to step up their efforts as soon as possible and to make a fair contribution to the global effort to attain the long-term temperature goal. We also look forward to further progress under both organisations, and in particular to the finalization of the negotiations on the global market-based mechanism under ICAO in 2016.

This leads us to some areas where we were not able to make progress.

The EU is very disappointed that the joint contact group on the **2013 to 2015 review** was unable to agree conclusions or to provide text of a draft decision to the COP. Keeping the temperature rise as small as possible is the best way to minimise risk and capping that rise at less than 2 degrees is feasible and limits the risk of dangerous interference with the climate system. And while staying below 2 degrees is a necessity, let us recognize that below 2 degrees is not considered enough by the most vulnerable countries. Therefore, reviewing the adequacy of the long-term goal and the consideration of strengthening the goal, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 degrees, is an extremely important process that goes to the heart of the issue for many vulnerable Parties. The EU will continue to engage constructively in further discussions including those under the ADP and calls upon all Parties to do so.

Finally, Madam Chair, we note that there was no time to properly address the issues of **market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention** here in Paris. Even draft conclusions proposed by the Chair could not be accepted by some Parties. Consequently, an unfortunate “rule 16” had to be applied again, as in Bonn six months ago. However, as these mechanisms may have relevance for our post COP21 work, we remain eager to pick up the discussions next year.

Madam Chair, dear colleagues, the EU is happy that we could conclude this session with **meaningful results under your skilled leadership**. We are looking forward to further working on SBSTA topics, until, and during, SBSTA 44. We are now looking forward to similarly positive results for the ADP, and a strong ambitious outcome for next week.

Joint COP 21/CMP 11 opening statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Paris, 30 November 2015

Dear Presidents, Distinguished Colleagues, Dear Friends,

This statement is made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First of all, we would like to express our condolences to our host country, to all Parisians, and to all countries that have been the victims of senseless violence. We hope that COP21 can be a symbol of the determination of nations to work together across continents, faiths and borders towards a better future.

We would like to congratulate Peru for its successful steering of the UNFCCC process throughout the last year. You have made it possible for us to arrive to the point we are at now – very close to a good Paris outcome. We now welcome France – you have to take the baton for the final lap, bringing us to a result here that will herald the turning point in global climate action.

We are therefore truly happy to be in Paris after all the years of working towards this moment. We look forward to the culmination of our work here, to the adoption of a fair, effective, durable, global and ambitious Paris agreement and decisions putting our economies and societies onto a pathway that is compatible with achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. In parallel we hope to progress the agenda items for the COP and the CMP significantly, solving outstanding issues and presenting an overall result of Paris to our citizens that we can be proud of.

Since the last COP in Lima, the political landscape has changed dramatically – almost all countries that are part of the UNFCCC have presented INDCs, demonstrating unprecedented determination to tackle one of the greatest global challenges that humanity faces of all time, climate change. Over 95% of global emissions are now covered by these plans, which are based on important domestic discussions on the policies and measures needed to achieve them, on how to cooperate internationally to accelerate the implementation of the INDCs, and on the recognition that acting on climate change actually supports, and does not hamper economic development.

On the issue of climate finance, and the delivery on the Copenhagen pledge of USD 100bn by 2020, a recent report by the OECD and CPI shows that very significant public and private climate finance has been mobilised in support of developing countries - USD 62bn in 2014 and USD 52bn in 2013 . Among the donors the EU and its Member States alone mobilised €14.5bn public climate finance in 2014, an increase compared to 2013. The EU and its Member States will further scale up climate finance by 2020, to ensure together with other developed countries that the goal of USD 100bn by 2020 is achieved. We will also make efforts to channel a substantial share of public climate finance towards adaptation, with a particular focus on support to the most vulnerable countries with least resources. Last year in Lima we welcomed the initial capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – and this year we particularly welcome the announcement of support for its first projects.

The EU and its Member States have committed USD 4.7bn to the GCF – close to half of the funding of the GCF (46%). We recognise that post-2020 climate finance in the context of meaningful mitigation and transparency is a vital part of the Paris Agreement. The mobilisation of climate finance is central for a shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient economies and societies. In the Paris outcome we think that improved transparency is not only vital on action, but also support.

We also note the work of the Adaptation Committee in assisting the COP in reaching our shared objectives. The importance of capacity building has never been clearer, and the EU and its Member States are supporting a wide array of initiatives in this respect, including on gender responsiveness. The Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage has also seen progress this year, and we welcome the initialisation of the work of the Executive Committee.

In respect of the **CMP** agenda, in Doha, the EU and its Member States agreed to join the second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol as a bridge towards a post-2020 global climate change agreement. The legislation necessary for the EU to formally ratify the Doha Amendment has already been adopted in July 2015 and currently, the EU and its Member States are already successfully implementing the domestic legislation which will deliver our 2nd commitment period target of 20% from 1990 levels by 2020. Meanwhile here in Paris we expect to see the formal adoption of the rules set for the technical implementation of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It is crucial for us to have legal certainty about the specific rules which will apply to MRV and accounting obligations for the second commitment period.

The EU places great value on the positive momentum created by high-level ministerial events, including the June 2014 ministerial roundtable on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments. To this effect, the report of the secretariat on the high-level ministerial round table on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments has provided useful information. The EU considers that this process has ended now and that the CMP plenary should take note of the report without further consideration. However the lessons for this process will be hugely relevant for the new Paris agreement, in which the 5 yearly reviews are a central element and key for overall credibility.

We have heavy agendas and a lot to do, the EU is ready to work constructively to ensure smooth running and efficient handling of our programme. Paris must deliver. Now, more than ever, it is important for all of us here to show the world that we can work together to find solutions to our common challenges and pathways to shared opportunities.

Opening statement for the High-level segment of the twenty-first sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol delivered by Carole Dieschbourg and Miguel Arias Cañete on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Paris, 7 December 2015

Carole Dieschbourg, Minister for the Environment, Luxembourg

Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Nous avons l'honneur de parler pour l'Union Européenne et ses Etats Membres.

Nous sommes venus à Paris pour ouvrir un nouveau chapitre de la lutte universelle contre le changement climatique et ses répercussions.

Mr President; Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We came here to Paris to open a new chapter in the global fight against climate change and its impacts.

We should be aware of our mission: during the next days we speak not only about numbers, about percentages and statistics. Behind the numbers are human lives – there are human destinies, it is about our planet. We have a big responsibility to deliver.

The new Agreement is now within reach. We have an opportunity to go down in history as ministers who together set the global economic development on a more sustainable course, on a course which leads to global stability and wellbeing.

We have been negotiating under the Convention for twenty years. We have made some steps forward, but they are clearly not enough. Global greenhouse gas emissions are still rising.

We need to stop this – and we need to act now!

We need a solid and ambitious agreement, applicable to all, to finally stem these dangerous trends.

Mr President,

Our message today is simple: **we are confident we can rise to the challenge, if we all show openness and willingness to compromise.**

The world is now ready. Our leaders have signed off on 185 INDCs covering more than 95 % of emissions. Almost 150 Heads of State and Government came here last Monday to reconfirm their determination.

We also have strong support from the business community and civil society all over the world in all the activities and measures reflected in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda.

We would fail them if we left Paris without a robust agreement which has a long-term goal, assures transparency and upward review cycles.

We are confident because we now know that climate action is not only compatible with economic development – it's even the condition for further economic and human development.

We have evidence from around the globe that all points to the opportunities that come with transitioning to low carbon economy. Climate action carries multiple benefits - improved human health, access to sustainable energy; safer food and water supply – exactly the themes that countries highlighted most when presenting adaptation elements in their INDCs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also recognises the intrinsic links between development and climate. And there is also the existing experience we have - since 1990, the European Union has cut its emissions by 23 per cent while growing our economy by 46 per cent. Now, we have set ourselves an even more ambitious target of at least 40 per cent reduction by 2030.

We know from experience that climate action is not a punishment or a straitjacket – it's a moral obligation and an economic opportunity.

Mr President,

We are also confident because we think the INDCs are only the beginning.

It can be very hard to design a climate policy for the first time. However, as we progress with implementation, we also realise the gains.

The Lima Paris Action Agenda of the Peruvian and French COP Presidencies shows that there is a vast amount of willingness from all stakeholders, including cities and businesses, to act. The role of non-state actors and regions has to be recognized in the agreement.

And we are confident because we know we can mobilise the necessary means. Climate finance, domestic and international, is flowing to both adaptation and mitigation. Not only are developed countries on track for the \$100 billion goal by 2020, but it is encouraging to see that South-South cooperation is also picking up.

With the Paris Agreement, we will be able not only to continue mobilising billions in public money, but also reorient trillions in private finance.

Let us seize the opportunities now and work together for a solid agreement. Let us realise that there is more that connects us than could possibly divide us.

Let us show courage and commitment.

Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission

Mr President,

The European Union came to Paris with a very clear objective: to conclude a **fair, inclusive, dynamic, durable and ambitious legally binding climate agreement** that will stop climate change over the century.

Paris is a historic opportunity that we cannot miss.

*We must translate the momentum we have seen on the road to Paris into an **ambitious agreement**.*

*The European Union wants to sign an ambitious agreement and **not just any kind of agreement**.*

We need a robust agreement.

We need a credible agreement.

*We need an agreement **fit for purpose and fit for the future**.*

We owe this to the outside world: our citizens and our children.

To succeed, we need every country doing its very best and the world moving together in the same direction. The world has changed for the better, and everyone needs to take responsibility.

*For the European Union, the **credibility** of the deal will depend on our collective ambition.*

First, mitigation ambition:

In order to really reduce global emissions, the agreement must have:

- A global vision for a long-term operational goal in line with science. This goal will tell us how and when we need to increase the ambition to meet our target;
- A regular review every five years to consider the progress made and raise our collective ambition. This is essential since we know that initial contributions will not be enough to keep temperature increase within the below 2 degrees objective.
- A robust transparency and accountability system to ensure that what is promised will be delivered.

These elements are necessary to give the world the confidence that , we the governments, are determined to do what it takes to stop catastrophic climate change.

Second, adaptation ambition.

Beyond emissions reductions, this agreement must help countries, especially those most vulnerable, **adapt to climate change impacts.**

The European Union is the world's leader provider of climate finance with more than half of the total global climate finance.

Our message to the most vulnerable countries is very clear: **you can count on the European Union.**

We have done a lot in the past, and we will continue to do more.

Together, we must conclude a **balanced agreement** that will help us reduce emissions while helping the most vulnerable to adapt to the existing climate impacts.

Mr President,

These are not just the European Union's priorities.

Only a week ago here in Paris, we heard the global leaders call for these elements by and large in unison.

We have confidence in your leadership and in our collective wisdom and determination.

The European Union come here to Paris to seal an ambitious deal.

We look forward to the next few days.

Let us get the job done. Together.