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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):  
- The resumed forty-eighth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 48) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 48) and the sixth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-6)  
(Bangkok, 4 - 9 September 2018)  
= EU statements

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Please find in the [Annex](#), for information, the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during the Climate Conference in Bangkok on 4 - 9 September 2018.

**The resumed forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the sixth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)**

**Opening statement**

**Bangkok, 4 September 2018**

Presiding Officers, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Concluding our work at COP 24 and making the Paris Agreement operational is critical for its effective and comprehensive implementation by Parties as well as for the credibility of the UNFCCC process. When we left Bonn in May, we collectively underscored that work under all agenda items of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) was progressing, but that a faster pace was required. This means that we need to seriously step up our efforts during this second half of the year.

We welcome the joint reflections note by all Presiding Officers and their efforts to continue to collaborate throughout the session. We also appreciate the work done by the APA Co-Chairs over the summer on the tools and on the preparations for the roundtable on Interlinkages.

We had fruitful and substantive discussions on the roundtable held yesterday. Parties spoke of concrete solutions to address the challenges posed by interlinkages across the negotiation items. In light of the urgency of our work here in Bangkok, the EU will do its utmost to ensure that we can maintain this cooperative and solution oriented spirit throughout the week as we move into detailed discussions of the PAWP agenda items. We urge all Parties to do the same. We cannot afford to wait.

The EU is keen to deliver an ambitious outcome here in Bangkok in order to start COP24 with a solid basis for political negotiations. In order to achieve such ambitious outcome we suggest the following:

1. Maximizing negotiation time here in Bangkok on the basis of the agreed agendas.
2. Support time allocation tailored to the substantive needs of the different agenda items, including the necessary level of detail.
3. Continue our discussions on the basis of the tools prepared by the APA co-Chairs. While not perfect, the tools overall offer a more streamlined, and navigable basis for our discussions.
4. We are open to working methods that help us accelerate our work and avoid procedural debates. When or where Parties can't agree, we support a stronger role for HoDs to overcome deadlocks and when needed find ways forward in the negotiations in an effective, transparent and useful manner.
5. Finally, we need to make our best efforts towards achieving draft decision language as the outcome of APA 1.6, SBI 48-2 and SBSTA 48-2.

We have detailed views, comments and – in some instances – concerns on the substance of individual agenda items. In the interest of time, we will not read them out here, but you will find them in the full version of our statement online.

The EU is looking forward to working on all the PAWP items under the APA, SBI and SBSTA at this session and would like to offer more specific views on a few of them:

**On APA 3**, the EU remains committed to discuss with Parties how to move this agenda item forward by focusing on substantial issues in order to advance the text in Bangkok. We deem this item at the core of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as it would allow gaining an appropriate understanding of Parties' national contributions to the objective of the Agreement. In this respect, we believe that the information to provide clarity, transparency and understanding (ICTU) should be developed according to their applicability to the various NDCs, depending on its content, as prepared and communicated by Parties. Furthermore, key information need to be complemented by accounting methodologies, meaning how Parties measure their NDC and contribute to reaching the objective of the Agreement itself.

**On APA 4**, we aim to develop a simple overarching guidance for the adaptation communication that avoids adding burden to Parties while ensuring a coherent and consistent outcome. All adaptation related provisions should aim to contribute to the achievement of the global goal on adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. We are looking forward to engaging with our partners and using time as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to make good progress on substance.

**On APA 5**, the EU reiterates that transparency is essential for the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement and that we are looking to make substantive progress in Bangkok to further elaborate text for the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines, with a view to adopt a single, common, set of MPGs applicable to all Parties, with built-in flexibility to those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities. The EU strongly believes this is crucial to ensure that the Enhanced Transparency Framework is robust, and fully operationalizes the Paris Agreement.

**On APA 6**, the Global Stocktake (GST) is at the heart of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement and it should inform and incentivize us in the pursuit of its long-term goals. Some refer to this as the year of ambition and as such the decision on the GST in Katowice needs to set out the elements to make the GST fully operational. What we expect from Bangkok is to focus our efforts on designing governance modalities, outlining its process and its inputs in a way the GST will be fit for the purpose as set out in the Paris Agreement.

**On APA 7**, we are looking forward to engaging with our partners on outstanding elements of the modalities and procedures to operationalize Article 15 of the Paris Agreement. Key and urgent aspects should be tackled with priority, such as defining means of initiation which will make the work of the Article 15 Committee meaningful, a sufficient link with the enhanced transparency framework for issues that remain unresolved by the procedures described in Article 13, and the relationship with other elements under the Paris Agreement and in particular Articles 4 and 6.

### **On Finance agenda items across the PAWP**

**On ex-ante communications:** Under Article 9.5, the EU looks forward to making progress towards agreeing an enhanced set of information elements at COP24, including working on draft decision text this session. Related to this, we would like to highlight the forthcoming Strategies & Approaches submissions.

On **transparency of support**: The EU also stands ready to make progress in Bangkok towards an agreement on the modalities for accounting of financial resources to ensure timely integration into the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the enhanced transparency framework. These modalities should capture the improvements made in reporting since the BR guidelines.

On the **Adaptation Fund**: Regarding the future of the Adaptation Fund, the EU wants to ensure that there is continuity in the Adaptation Fund's work and projects. Therefore, we need to decide in 2018 on a starting date for the Adaptation Fund starting serving exclusively the Paris Agreement.

On **2.1.c**: It is important to the EU that Article 2.1.c, as one of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, is properly reflected in the outcomes of the Paris Agreement Work Programme. At minimum, this requires it being assessed as a long-term goal in the Global Stocktake. But we must also consider how we can ensure that the objective of greening the financial flows is given sufficient focus across the negotiated items.

On **Technology**, the EU is ready to progress the work on the technology framework and the scope of and modalities for a periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism as much as possible at this session, based on the good work by all Parties so far.

For **Article 6**, time has also arrived for streamlining. We welcome the inclusive and iterative process in SBSTA to date, with informal notes representing a comprehensive summary of the views of Parties. We expect this session to result in a streamlined text as a basis for negotiation. We need a comprehensive text, addressing all elements of the PAWP in a comparable manner. Therefore, we also need to address cross cutting issues in relation to Article 6, in particular for general accounting and reporting, since voluntary international cooperation in respect of mitigation will require additional guidance in respect of both accounting and reporting.

Presiding Officers, distinguished delegates,

The outcome of this session needs to pave the way for the successful conclusion of the Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP 24, which will demonstrate to the broader international community our common and continued commitment to ambition and action in tackling climate change.

We welcome the inclusiveness, transparency and openness of the UNFCCC process and we look forward to continue a good cooperation with you, Presiding Officers and all Parties and the wide community of Non-Party Stakeholders on our way to Katowice.

Thank you Chairs.

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### **Closing statement**

**Bangkok, 9 September 2018**

Presiding Officers, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

During the last week, Parties have made progress across the different agenda items of the Paris Agreement Work Programme through constructive engagement in the context of a very intense schedule.

Under many items, Parties managed to work through several iterations of the tools and documents by focusing on substance, clarifying views and advancing the maturity of the texts.

We acknowledge that progress made has been uneven. Some issues are far more complex and progress is unfolding at a different pace. This is natural and clearly shows the different nature of individual items. We should also bear in mind that key political issues were not meant to be resolved here in Bangkok. These challenges are still ahead of us in Katowice.

We have seen good progress being made on the Technology Framework, on the Global Stocktake and on Response Measures. On the finance issues, we have made some progress, but would have hoped to advance more. On APA 3, all Parties worked closely and constructively, but we all feel that we couldn't reach our aim for this session, as this is an issue where all of us have key demands.

Although progress has been achieved overall, we are concerned that the outcome of the Bangkok session is not sufficient to serve as a basis for negotiations with clear and streamlined options, with a sufficient level of detail that can be turned into draft decision texts. From discussions with Parties, we note a collective sense of urgency to step up our efforts in the coming months. The EU is supportive of informal work from now until Katowice if Parties consider it is useful to move us forward.

In this context, we would like to, once again, encourage you Presiding Officers to take a bold step in the approach you will use towards providing us Parties with textual proposals that bring us closer to the outcome we are all committed to achieve in Katowice.

We also note the successful collaboration between the Presiding Officers both through the joint reflections note, the roundtable on interlinkages and the joint consultations. We support the Presiding Officers in continuing this joint approach to their work.

We would also like to thank the COP Presidencies for undertaking consultations with Parties on the Talanoa Dialogue during this session. It demonstrates their commitment towards this important event. The Talanoa Dialogue also represents an opportunity for Parties to highlight progress since Paris as well as exchange views on how to promote further action. We also look forward to welcoming the IPCC 1.5 Degrees Special Report in the context of the work of the COP.

We have more detailed reflections on the substance of some of the individual agenda items of the Paris Agreement Work Programme:

**On mitigation (APA 3)**, the EU would like to express deep concerns regarding the lack of substantive progress at this session. We consider that the elements being negotiated under this agenda item are a key part of the PAWP and we urge the co-chairs to work with co-facilitators intersessionally to ensure that work at COP24 can promptly move into negotiations on draft text, while making sure that views expressed at this session on this topic are fully reflected.

**On adaptation (APA 4, adaptation registry and AC/LEG)**, in relation to the adaptation communication, good progress has been made and good discussions have been initiated on some of the more complex issues related to linkages to other agenda items. We encourage Parties to engage intersessionally to continue those discussions. The text on the public registry on adaptation is well advanced and Parties also engaged constructively on the AC/LEG mandates and were able to make significant progress.

**On transparency (APA 5)**, we were pleased to engage in constructive discussions, and particularly to learn more about other Parties' positions and expectations for the MPGs for the transparency framework in informal discussions. However, we remain aware that a significant amount of work is required on the MPGs, and that collectively we will need to exert every effort in Katowice to finalise clear guidance for all Parties in the time available. We were disappointed not to discuss matters related to operationalisation of paragraph 98 of decision 1/CP.21, and we urge the co-chairs to create space at an appropriate level for discussions on this topic, as it is vital to the success of the transparency framework.

**On APA 6**, the Global Stocktake (GST) is at the heart of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement and it should inform and incentivize us in the pursuit of its long-term goals. During the Bangkok session, we made considerable progress encouraging us that a well-functioning GST will be agreed upon in Katowice. In our further deliberations, it remains crucial to keep focused on the concrete modalities, so we will have in Katowice a fully operational GST that is fit for the purpose as set out in Paris.

**On APA 7**, we acknowledge that fruitful and constructive discussions took place here in Bangkok. We want to thank Parties who showed flexibility with the aim of reaching a result acceptable by all and the co-facilitators for guiding us through. Four iterations of the APA 7 tool were produced. Outstanding elements of the modalities and procedures to operationalize Article 15 of the Paris Agreement still remain unresolved, but we noticed a moderate growing understanding among Parties on aspects such as means of initiation which will make the work of the Article 15 Committee meaningful, a sufficient link with the enhanced transparency framework for issues that remain unresolved by the procedures described in Article 13, institutional arrangements and a possible mandate to deal with systemic issues.

**On finance agenda items across the PAWP**, the EU is pleased that all Parties' positions are now reflected in the tool on **APA 8 (Adaptation Fund)** and we look forward to working with colleagues to reach a decision at COP 24 that ensures the continuation of the Adaptation Fund's work without disruption as it moves to serve the Paris Agreement.

Good progress has been made under **SBSTA 13 on accounting modalities** for financial support provided and mobilized, which we welcome as it will enable the timely integration of these modalities into the Enhanced Transparency Framework. We look forward to further engaging with Parties in a constructive manner on the basis of the draft negotiation text.



The EU welcomes the positive exchange of views and progress made under **SBI 15 regarding work on Article 9.5**, and while we would have liked to find a way to advance to draft decision text, we are confident that Parties will conclude work to identify information to be provided by Parties under Article 9.5 at COP 24.

On this same matter, we would like to raise our concern that we are including placeholders at this late point of time to the text under APA5 that are not in line with what was agreed through the Paris Agreement. We should be mindful that there is not much time left to finalise the PAWP and therefore we need to focus on completing the mandate that was given to us from Paris.

**On technology**, we are pleased that Parties found common ground to make a big step forward to finalizing the scope of and the modalities for the periodic assessment of the technology mechanism, while also the elaboration of the technology framework progressed in such a matter that we reached a common understanding on several elements of the framework. We realized a good starting point for finalizing the technology items at COP 24.

**For Article 6**, we welcome the substantive and constructive discussions Parties had on the revised informal notes, which have enabled progress in the texts towards a draft negotiating text with clearer options.

Presiding Officers, distinguished delegates,

When we adopted the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21 two-and-a-half years ago, we all committed to put the agreement to action through the Paris Agreement Work Programme. We have made progress on this endeavour. We are moving closer to adopting a comprehensive set of decisions on all elements of the Work Programme. We are not there yet, but we are convinced that with flexibility and determination by all we can achieve a successful outcome at COP 24.

We welcome the inclusiveness, transparency and openness of the UNFCCC process and we look forward to continue a good cooperation with you, Presiding Officers and all Parties and the wide community of Non-Party Stakeholders on our way to Katowice.

Thank you Chairs.

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