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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
(Katowice, 2-15 December 2018)

- 24th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change (COP24)
- 14th session on the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP14),
- The 3rd part of the 1st session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1-3),
- 49th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI49) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA49) and
- The 7th part of the 1st session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA1-7)

= EU statements

Please find in the [Annex](#), for information, the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during COP 24, CMP 14, CMA 1-3, SBI 49, SBSTA 49 and APA 1-7 in Katowice on 2-15 December 2018.

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OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Katowice, 2 December 2018

Mister President, distinguished Colleagues,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Government of Poland for welcoming us in Katowice and for organising the COP in this excellent venue. The EU gives the Presidency its full support in organising COP24 and enabling Parties to deliver what the world expects. We also thank Fiji for their leadership and all the efforts made as the first COP Presidency from a Small Island Developing State.

Nearly 3 years ago in Paris 196 Parties came together to adopt the Paris Agreement, a historic landmark to globally act on climate change. Now, at COP24 finalising the work to make the Paris Agreement operational is critical for its effective and comprehensive implementation by Parties as well as for the credibility of the UNFCCC process.

The EU is fully committed to taking forward the momentum and spirit of Paris. We are on course to exceed our 2020 commitments and have legislated to further reduce emissions to 40% by 2030. Just last week, the Commission has proposed a vision for an EU strategy for long-term greenhouse gas emissions reductions, taking into account a wide stakeholder consultation and the recent IPCC Special Report on 1.5 °C. This will now kickstart an EU-wide debate among policy-makers, stakeholder and citizens and also at the highest political level, which should allow the EU to adopt a long-term strategy and submit it to the UNFCCC by 2020.

We also remain fully committed to the global goal to mobilise 100 billion dollars a year by 2020 and through to 2025, from a variety of sources, to finance climate action in developing countries. In 2017 alone, the EU and its Member States contributed a total 20.4 billion Euro in climate finance – through this, the EU is leading efforts of developed countries as climate finance continues to rise in line with a pathway towards the goal, as shown by recent SCF and the OECD analysis.

The EU stresses the need to encourage and effectively assess collective progress towards the objective of making finance flows consistent with the pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development, including, but not limited to, through the global stock-take, and to undertake further work to develop methods and modalities towards this end.

Adopting a robust outcome of the Paris work programme, with clear provisions on all key issues including transparency, means of implementation, mitigation and adaptation, is the EU's top priority for COP24. The outcome must be fully in line with the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement, be applicable to all Parties, take into account different national circumstances and capacities and ensure that our efforts reflect the highest possible ambition over time.

The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C makes clear the need for this ambition. The EU welcomes this report and we thank the panel for delivering this important scientific assessment, which unequivocally confirms the current level of warming and the negative impacts of climate change as well as the advantages and challenges to people and ecosystems of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C. The report's conclusions indicate that deep transformations in all sectors are crucial to reduce global emissions and that further action is needed in the short term to reach the temperature goal as set out in the Paris Agreement. In this regard, the EU and its Member States see the Talanoa Dialogue as one of the key processes throughout 2018, culminating at COP24, which will enable all Parties to take stock of their collective efforts and inform the preparations of NDCs to be communicated by 2020, focusing on collective action and enhanced global ambition.

It is with this sense of urgency that we must undertake our work here.

- Firstly, we must leave Katowice having adopted ambitious, comprehensive and operational implementing rules for the Paris Agreement that enable Parties to implement their contributions and track progress towards them.
- Secondly, take a very active part in all mandated events: tomorrow's Multilateral Assessment, the pre 2020 high level event, the climate finance ministerial, and of course the Talanoa Dialogue to demonstrate our current ambition in both action and support.
- Finally, that we balance efforts towards mitigation and adaptation, supporting developing countries in their efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.

The political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue should send a strong message to the world, in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to spur momentum for action. The EU expects all Parties to share evidence of their action and progress on their nationally determined contribution (NDC) and to reflect on their levels of ambition in light of the latest climate science so as to inform the preparation of all Parties' NDCs, as agreed in Paris.

The EU will work constructively with all Parties, the Presiding Officers and the COP Presidency to ensure we achieve our collective objectives. We have 4 days until the conclusion of the work of the APA and the SBs and therefore we must start our work swiftly and efficiently. We must close on Saturday with draft decisions text – with clear and streamlined options that reassure Parties, and wider society, that we will fully deliver on our mandate in Katowice and gives the Ministers the possibility to address the key outstanding issues during the Ministerial week.

Thank you.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Katowice, 15 December 2018

Elisabeth Köstinger, Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, Austria

President, Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Let me start by thanking our COP24 hosts, the Republic of Poland and President Michal Kurtyka and his team for providing us with such a beautiful setting for these negotiations and all their efforts in bringing us to where we are today.

I also thank the Fijian Presidency who, as the first ever Small Island Developing State to host the COP, has introduced the Talanoa concept to all of us.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa and her team for all the hard work and support.

Two weeks ago, we arrived here in Katowice with a two-fold task:

- On one hand we had the task of completing the rulebook for making the Paris Agreement operational.
- On the other hand we needed to take stock of collective progress made in view of the long term goals of the Paris Agreement.

So two weeks later and many sleepless nights behind us where did we arrive with those tasks?

Now, at the closure of the COP, we should remember that just a few weeks ago science was leading the way when the IPCC scientists presented us different scenarios for a below 1,5 degrees future.

The report concluded that the target of the Paris Agreement is still within our reach and that we all have to take decisive action now.

During the last week I got the strong impression that we are heading towards the right direction:

In the context of the Talanoa dialogue at the beginning of this week we had the first political opportunity to take stock of the global progress made since Paris.

The stories we heard there were those of resolve and determination.

We proceeded with the high level ministerial dialogue on climate finance. The debate demonstrated a very strong evidence of an increasing and accelerating shift in finance flows towards a low greenhouse gas emissions economy.

And it also showed an increase in the mobilization of support for developing country efforts.

Last but not least, in the context of the Action agenda and the multiple side-events we saw that the groundswell of action by stakeholders shows no signs of slowing down.

Despite the daunting findings of science, I am very confident that we are heading the right way towards a climate-friendly future.

Now let me hand over to Miguel to elaborate in more detail on the rulebook.

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

On the rulebook we now have a balanced and solid result that will enable us to make the Paris Agreement operational. It is not perfect, but I trust it will do the job.

We have secured the first ever universal transparency and accountability system applicable to all that provides flexibilities to those who genuinely need it. This will inspire all Parties to improve their practices over time and allow us to show the world that we will deliver on our promises and communicate the progress made in clear and comparable terms.

We have also obtained an operational outcome on the universality of action and participation by all according to respective and real capabilities and capacities.

This result reflects the economic and societal changes the world has undergone in the past two decades. At the same time it preserves the notion of contemporary differentiation based on national circumstances, as reflected in the Paris Agreement. This is key for a credible response to the global climate challenge and recent emissions data.

We have secured a good outcome on Adaptation issues: guidance for the Adaptation Communications and their registry, as well as for the adaptation-related work are significant deliverables.

As to the global stocktake process which we consider absolutely essential for the durability of the Paris Agreement, the result can be considered satisfactory and a basis for further elaboration on the detail. It is clear however, that we still need further work and that some of the detail is clearly not according to our preferences.

In this context let me underline that the EU considers the global stocktake the central innovation of the Paris Agreement. This feature is vital in the reality where all our current NDCs put together fall well short of what is required to keep global temperature increase within the limits enshrined in the Paris Agreement's long-term goals.

The stocktake preserves the notion of progression over time – and ensures interplay between the international reflection on progress and science, and the Party-specific national responses in terms of long-term strategies, the policies and measures that bring ambition to action.

Finally, with our decisions on finance we have a solid package that we trust provides reassurances on our commitment to continued global solidarity and support and that also relates to making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

All in all we have achieved the outcome we set ourselves two years ago in Marrakesh.

It is now for all of us to take these results back home and start acting on them – including in the context of preparing our national policies and our long term strategies.

In doing so, we are opening the next chapter in our global response to climate change.

Thank you.
