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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: UN Climate Change Conference
(Bonn, 6-17 November 2017)

- 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP23)
- 13h session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP13)
- The second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1)
- = Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject.

The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017, under the presidency of Fiji, the first small-island developing state to preside over a COP, and with the participation of 194 countries.

The main outcomes of the conference are:

- Agreement on the design of the *2018 Facilitative 'Talanoa' Dialogue*, which is intended to take stock of the collective efforts of parties in relation to progress towards the mitigation objective of the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change. The dialogue will be conducted in the spirit of the Pacific traditional approach of Talanoa and be structured around three general topics (where are we? where do we want to go? how do we get there?). The dialogue will start in January 2018, with a preparatory phase that will lead to a high-level political phase at COP24.
- Progress on the elements of the *Paris work programme* – the set of rules to operationalise the Paris Agreement that are due for adoption by 2018 in the next conference in Katowice. However, the texts that emerged show that significant differences remain between Parties, particularly on how to deliver a robust set of rules that is applicable to all Parties in the light of different national circumstances.
- Progress under agenda items under the Convention, including a decision on *agriculture* that will help farmers and promote climate action on the ground; agreement on the first ever *Gender Action Plan* under the Convention, which seeks to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promotes gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the process; and an agreement on the functioning of the *local communities and indigenous peoples platform*, which was established at COP21.
- A decision that the *Adaptation Fund* (created under the Kyoto Protocol to directly support developing countries in their adaptation efforts) shall serve the Paris Agreement. The decision remains conditional to further completion of preparatory work, including in defining sources of funding for the fund. Several EU Member States announced new contributions to the Fund.

- Further to the demand of developing countries for a space to discuss *pre-2020 implementation and ambition*, a decision was adopted on two stocktakes, which will apply the format of the 2016 facilitative dialogue and will take place during the COPs in 2018 and 2019. The EU reiterated that the work to enhance pre-2020 action remains a priority for the European Union and its Member States.

The European Union and its Member States played an instrumental role in achieving the above-mentioned outcomes. As a sign of climate leadership and a major milestone in demonstrating our commitment to the international rules based regime, the European Union and its Member States announced that we intend to deposit the ratification instruments of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol by the end of this year. We also demonstrated commitment to make significant efforts to scale up support to climate-relevant action. In 2016, the EU and its Member States provided EUR 20.2 billion to help developing countries tackle climate change.

The discussion regarding the reporting by developed countries of projected levels of public financial resources to be provided to developing countries, under the Paris Agreement, dominated the last days of the conference, with developing countries systematically focusing on expanding the relevant mandate, thus politicising technical work. There was finally an agreement on transferring the work to the Subsidiary Bodies in order to allow for additional negotiation time, with the mandate remaining unchanged.

The Global Climate Action saw unprecedented engagement of non-state actors as businesses, local governments, financial institutions, non-profit organisations came together in search of solutions and showed their commitment to climate action. Local and regional leaders from around the world adopted the Bonn-Fiji Commitment which signals their commitment to bring forward a critical shift in global development and deliver the Paris Agreement at all levels. In particular, following the announcement of the US government's intent to withdraw the Paris Agreement, US non-state actors (businesses, cities, states, etc.) showed that many parts of the US society remain committed to the Paris Agreement. The COP23 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions published the first-ever Yearbook of Climate Action, which provides an overview of climate action on the seven thematic areas and the achievements under the Marrakech Partnership. In addition, to enhance the participation of non-Party stakeholders, the first ever 'Open Dialogue' between Parties and NGO Constituencies took place.

Looking ahead, Parties will have to intensify their efforts to secure robust Paris rules ahead of the deadline next year. The outcome of COP23 is testament to countries' unwavering commitment to the Paris Agreement, despite the emerging challenges. In this regard, the European Union and its Member States should maintain leadership, e.g. through the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action and through scaling up international collaboration in terms of bilateral policy dialogues, sharing of experiences and creating investment opportunities for low-emission development.

The next Climate Change Conference will take place on 3-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. Until then, the European Union and its Member States would need to work closely with all international partners and with the Fijian and the Polish COP Presidencies.
