



2 December 2018

## EU Opening Statement

### COP24/CMP14/CMA 1-3/SBSTA 49/SBI 49/APA 1.7

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 COP 24 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.

Elaborating further on these priorities, the EU:

- Welcomes the joint Reflections note and the textual proposals put forward by the Presiding Officers and considers them as a good base to start negotiations without delay;
- Supports, where necessary and possible, maximising of negotiating time for Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) items;
- Supports the PO's approaches on the mode of work, including by engaging with Heads of Delegation in addressing key outstanding issues;
- Encourages the facilitators to present as many iterations of texts as necessary to allow us to make as much progress as possible during the course of the first week;
- Emphasises that the outcome of the PAWP must provide a common set of rules for the implementation of all provisions of the Agreement in a balanced and tailored manner. Clear rules and guidelines will also serve Parties' own policy-making, by providing a robust underpinning for domestic policies and reflection on enhancing ambition over time, as well as improving the tracking of climate finance through robust accounting modalities. The transparency and accountability achieved through these rules on both action and support will be essential to build and maintain trust among Parties and to assess whether we are individually and collectively on track to meet our goals 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 incentivise processes to progressively enhance ambitious climate action;
- Recognises the key importance of the political phase of the facilitative 'Talanoa Dialogue', which should send a strong message to the world and spur momentum for action. The EU expects all Parties to share evidence of their action and progress on their nationally determined contribution (NDC), as part of a collective global conversation on how to enhance ambition;
- Stresses Action for Climate Empowerment as key for effective climate policy;
- Acknowledges that to respect and promote human rights, gender equality as well as the rights of indigenous peoples is a crucial consideration in the efforts to address climate change;
- Commits to engage with an open, transparent and forward looking dialogue in order to gain positive experiences for the future common consideration of progress under the Paris Agreement;

- Appreciates the work of the Task Force Displacement in delivering on the recommendations on integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address displacement.

While our objectives are simple, we appreciate that the route to achieve them may not be so straightforward. We may all have our different views on how to do it but the most important thing is that we all share the same aim – to realise the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

To resolve these differing views we will need to work quickly and effectively from day one. We have full trust in you, your team and the Presiding Officers to guide us into a successful outcome in Katowice.

Thank you, Mister President