



31st of May 2021

June Session

EU Opening Statement

Dear Presidencies, SB Chairs, colleagues,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

The EU is extremely glad that we are finally gathering in an SB session to advance work towards a successful outcome at COP26.

Despite all challenges, the international community remains committed to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and willing to accelerate climate action as demonstrated by the significant announcements including ambitious NDCs and LTSs made by several Parties over the past weeks and months in response to the Paris Agreement provisions. Nonetheless, more needs to be done and expectations remain high for the coming months while we await for additional formal submissions of enhanced NDCs and Long-Term Strategies ahead of COP26. More ambition is needed if we are to arrive in Glasgow with global commitments keeping 1.5°C within sight.

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the challenges associated with physical gatherings around the world, the EU remains supportive of virtual work, provided it is transparent and inclusive. We thank the Presiding Officers and the Secretariat for convening Parties regularly through HoDs meetings, thematic discussions, and workshops, which converged around the idea of maintaining momentum and advancing our work in the intergovernmental process in 2021.

With the support of the Secretariat and the Presiding Officers, the Parties were able to exchange views and deepen understanding across different agenda items, such as transparency, article 6, common time frames, adaptation and finance.

The work in the UNFCCC must progress if we are to develop and strengthen the guidance and the institutional framework for the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement by all Parties. The EU is looking forward to working with all Parties and non Parties stakeholders in



this upcoming session. The next 3 weeks will be quite intense and require the engagement and cooperation of all as we navigate through the challenges of the virtual work but also necessary to arrive in Glasgow well prepared to finalise our discussions.

We see all of mandates carefully reflected in the revised draft provisional agendas for the 2021 SBI and 2021 SBSTA sessions. We are pleased to work under the leadership of the Presiding officers, in line with the proposals made in their scenario notes. We acknowledge that this is the first time that we meet under these circumstances and the EU stands ready to support your guidance and be flexible in trying to accommodate any adjustments that may enhance the dialogue during the session. We also appreciate the approach by the incoming COP 26 PDCY to continue with focussed thematic discussions.

We attach particular importance to the concept notes by the co-facilitators and the informal notes, where Parties discussions and progress will be captured, which can helpfully and transparently facilitate the work for when we meet again. These informal notes should be the basis for the next steps in the negotiations towards taking decisions in Glasgow.

Due to the pandemic, the possibility of having in-person meetings prior to COP26 remains uncertain. Therefore, we, as Parties, should use the virtual space as much as possible as if we are meeting in person. This includes being open to the possibility of virtual decision making at any point in time. We are fully committed to progressing substantively to cope with a comprehensive and loaded agenda for COP 26.

Advancing our work is critical if we are to deliver the mandates for COP26 and the EU is fully committed to that goal and looking forward to working with all of you in the next 3 weeks.

Thank you.