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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 25 June 2026  
Implementing the Global Stocktake: Results and follow-up of the first  
Conference on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels  
- Information from the Netherlands

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From 24 to 29 April 2026, the Netherlands and Colombia co-hosted the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta. The overall aim was to follow up on discussions at COP30 in Belém, and support implementation of the first Global Stocktake (GST), concluded at COP28 in Dubai. Here, Parties agreed to accelerate efforts to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

The conference took place against the backdrop of continued volatility in global energy markets, triggered by ongoing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. They highlighted the vulnerability of countries to fossil fuel price volatility and supply risk. High and volatile prices create uncertainty and additional cost for households and businesses, while countries with a larger share of renewable energy are generally better equipped to withstand such price shocks.

At the same time, reducing dependency on fossil fuels remains a complex challenge given the extent to which fossil fuels are embedded in our economies worldwide. In addition to national policies and measures, addressing these challenges requires international cooperation, knowledge sharing and practical solutions. Measures at EU level can likewise provide a response to the immediate crisis and support implementation of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

The aforementioned developments prompted discussion among a broad group of countries and representatives on the challenges and opportunities associated with transitioning away from fossil fuels. In total, the conference brought together 57 participating countries, representing roughly 1/3 of global GDP, together with representatives from international organizations, financial institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector.

Rather than negotiating new commitments, participants focused on discussing ways *how* countries transition away from fossil fuels and accelerate the implementation of agreed goals. The conference was decidedly not intended to replace multilateral decision-making under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, nor was it aimed at laying the groundwork for any new legal regime. Instead, it served to strengthen and accelerate implementation of existing agreements.

The main takeaways show that the transition extends beyond the energy sector and that broader economic transformation is needed. This requires addressing challenges related to fiscal dependence on fossil fuels, access to finance and investment, energy access, workforce transition and economic diversification. At the same time, we need to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies, electrification, energy efficiency and modern energy infrastructure to support both energy supply and demand. All of this requires strengthened international collaboration.

To maintain momentum and further develop the themes discussed in Santa Marta, three workstreams will be established.

The three workstreams will focus on:

- *National roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels:* To connect countries with the Science Panel on the Global Energy Transition and the NDC Partnership. The workstream will help countries develop roadmaps and align them with their NDCs.
- *Macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture:* This workstream will conduct an analysis of, and map solutions to, barriers stemming from macroeconomic dependencies and the international financial architecture, including debt, fiscal dependencies and fossil fuel subsidies. It will be supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

- *Opportunities for producer-consumer alignment:* To strengthen decarbonisation and fossil fuel-free value chains, including demand- and market creation for clean energy technologies and products. This workstream will be supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Netherlands and Colombia will develop these workstreams together with partner organisations and the co-hosts of the second Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, Tuvalu and Ireland. Implementation will build on existing initiatives to scale up efforts, strengthen synergies, avoid duplication and make efficient use of resources. The workstreams will remain open and flexible, allowing additional countries and organisations to join over time.

Against this background, the Netherlands invites the Commission and Member States to take note of the outcomes of the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels and to engage in continued dialogue on the implementation of this outcome of the first Global Stocktake.

This coalition is open to all those willing to start on the journey. The Netherlands therefore also invites all Member States that have an interest in the transition to participate in the follow-up activities, including the thematic workstreams and preparations for the second Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in 2027.

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