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To: Delegations

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Subject: Preparations for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Dubai, 30 November – 12 December 2023)  
- Council conclusions

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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) the Council conclusions on the abovementioned subject, as approved by the Council at its 3973<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 16 October 2023.

**Preparations for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

**(Dubai, 30 November – 12 December 2023)**

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

URGENCY OF CLIMATE ACTION

1. EXPRESSES WITH DEEP CONCERN that the observed impacts of climate change, from drought to floods, wildfires and heatwaves, among others, continue increasing all around the world with record breaking extremes affecting communities on every continent in the context of record levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Furthermore, RECOGNISES with concern the increasing impacts in highly vulnerable areas such as, among others, coastal and mountain areas and polar regions. In this light, STRESSES the extremely urgent need to strengthen the global response to address the climate emergency with a significant acceleration of global GHG emission reductions by all countries and adaptation action and sustainable development as the only way to tackle climate change and ensure better standards of living and prosperity for the people around the world while also protecting nature and ecosystems.
2. WELCOMES the adoption of the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and REITERATES its strong appreciation for the work conducted by the IPCC in the context of its 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Cycle and UNDERLINES the policy relevance of its assessments on potential solutions for action.

3. RECALLS with concern the key findings of this Synthesis Report, including that i) the scale of changes in the climate system caused by anthropogenic emissions is unprecedented in the history of humanity, ii) human-caused climate change is increasing the frequency, magnitude, spatial extent and duration of extreme weather events in every region across the globe, iii) despite progress in adaptation planning and implementation, adaptation gaps and limits exist, and iv) currently, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) collectively are not nearly enough to keep the 1.5°C limit within reach during the 21<sup>st</sup> century while emphasising that feasible, effective and low cost adaptation and mitigation options are already available.
4. NOTES with great concern the findings of the latest World Meteorological Organisation’s Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update report, that points to record levels in global temperatures in the next five years, estimating a 66% likelihood that the annual average near-surface global temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year.
5. UNDERLINES that climate change is part of a mutually reinforcing triple planetary crisis including biodiversity loss and pollution. CALLS for solutions that have the potential to address several crises simultaneously, including nature-based solutions.
6. In this context, URGENTLY CALLS for increased global action and ambition in this critical decade, in line with the IPCC reports: limiting warming to around 1.5°C requires global GHG emissions to peak at the latest before 2025 and be reduced by 43 percent by 2030 and by 60 percent by 2035, compared to 2019.

7. REITERATES in the strongest possible terms the condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, which not only grossly violates international law and is causing massive loss of life and adverse health effects including to civilians but also an immediate damage to nature and a long-term environmental degradation, poses risks to nuclear safety, and delays the much-needed action on climate change. STRESSES that this war has serious negative secondary effects on energy and food security, especially in the global south, besides undermining global security and stability and has to be urgently and decisively addressed by the international community.

#### ENHANCING ACTION, AMBITION, OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT

8. Ahead of COP28, REITERATES that international engagement through strong rule-based multilateralism is crucial for achieving successful results in addressing the global challenge of climate change.
9. HIGHLIGHTS the opportunities climate action brings, not only for the planet and the global economy, including in terms of investment and finance opportunities, competitiveness, innovation, job creation and economic growth, but also for the people in terms of better standards of living, health, decent jobs, sustainable food systems, and affordable energy prices.

10. ACKNOWLEDGES that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children and youth, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and girls and intergenerational equity STRESSES that public and inclusive participation, engagement and access to information, including for civil society and different stakeholders, are key for promoting social justice, fairness and inclusiveness in the global transition towards climate neutrality. REITERATES that the EU remains committed to these values. In this context, ACKNOWLEDGES the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.
11. UNDERLINES that as reflected in the IPCC reports, collectively, NDCs and their updates and implementation remain highly insufficient to keep the 1.5°C objective within reach and EMPHASIZES with serious concern that global ambition must substantially increase in line with the Paris Agreement.
12. RECALLS that all Parties have been urged to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs as well as to publish or update their long-term low GHG emission development strategies (LTS) as necessary to align them with the Paris Agreement temperature goal well in advance of COP28. These should include all GHG and sectors and be underpinned by concrete policies and measures to implement them.

13. In this context, RECOGNISES the critical role of all major economies in limiting increases in global temperature over this critical decade and in subsequent decades and UNDERSCORES that every major economy should have significantly enhanced the ambition of its NDC since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, already peaked its GHG emissions or indicated that it will do so no later than 2025, included economy-wide absolute reduction targets that cover all GHGs in their NDC. Also UNDERSCORES that major economies should have presented or updated their LTS, including a target to reach net-zero GHG emissions as soon as possible, and by 2050 at the latest, in line with their updated NDCs and with keeping the 1.5°C objective within reach.
14. UNDERLINES that the shift towards a climate neutral economy in line with the 1.5°C goal will require the global phase out of unabated fossil fuels and a peak in their consumption already in this decade to deliver the necessary mitigation as indicated by the IPCC. In this context, UNDERLINES the importance for the energy sector to be predominantly free of fossil fuels well ahead of 2050 and the importance of aiming to achieve a fully or predominantly decarbonised global power system in the 2030s, leaving no room for new coal power, since cost effective zero emissions measures are already widely available in that sector, which provide multiple benefits, inter alia, for sustainable development, human health and air quality, job creation as well as energy security. Furthermore, UNDERLINES that emission abatement technologies which do not significantly harm the environment, exist at limited scale and are to be used to reduce emissions mainly from hard to abate sectors and that removal technologies are to contribute to global negative emissions, and EMPHASIZES that they should not be used to delay climate action in sectors where feasible, effective and cost efficient mitigation alternatives are available, particularly in this critical decade. CALLS for a phase out as soon as possible of fossil fuel subsidies which do not address energy poverty or just transition.

15. ENCOURAGES work towards agreeing global 2030 1.5°C compatible goals and targets for rapidly increasing energy efficiency and accelerating renewable energy. Therefore, CALLS ON global action towards the tripling of installed renewable energy capacity to 11 TW and doubling of the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, while respecting each country’s national energy mix. These targets must go hand in hand with energy savings and the phase out of fossil fuel energy production and consumption, to be adopted by COP28, while working with developing countries, including through capacity building, technical and financial assistance from all sources, to address the challenges and secure the benefits, including in terms of energy access and security, of the transition.
16. UNDERLINES the findings of the IPCC in its 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Cycle, that the necessary energy-related mitigation measures should be accompanied by materials-related measures, such as material efficiency and circular economy.
17. WELCOMES the agreement of the essential elements of the necessary legislative framework proposed via the “Fit for 55” package that will enable the European Union to implement its NDC and reduce its net GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and to achieve climate neutrality at the latest by 2050 and aim to achieve negative emissions thereafter. NOTES that, according to the Commission’s estimates, the “Fit for 55” legislative framework, when fully implemented, could enable the EU and its Member States to overachieve the EU’s net domestic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions target of at least 55% compared to 1990 by 2030.
18. WELCOMES the submission to the UNFCCC of an update of the NDC of the European Union and its Member states reflecting the essential elements of ‘Fit for 55’ in the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding (ICTU), in line with the decisions taken at COP26 and COP27 to address the urgency to act in this decade.

19. SIGNALS that the EU will set its next climate target, in accordance with the European Climate Law. RECALLS that, to that end, at the latest within 6 months of the first Global Stocktake, the European Commission shall make a legislative proposal, as appropriate, based on a detailed impact assessment.
20. RECOGNISES the increasing importance for all Parties to improve their adaptive capacity, build their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and UNDERLINES the central role of holistic, inclusive, and effectively implemented national adaptation strategies and plans.
21. UNDERLINES the growing effort by the EU and its Member states to prevent the risks arising from climate change, both at home and abroad, as reflected in the formulation and implementation of adaptation strategies and plans by all Member States, mainstreaming adaptation across relevant EU sectoral policies and the upfold of the European Mission on Adaptation and the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy. LOOKS FORWARD to the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) that will support the identification of adaptation-related policy priorities in Europe and policy development in climate-sensitive sectors.
22. REITERATES the importance of the international dimension in the EU Adaptation Strategy, highlighting the EU's support for international climate resilience and preparedness, the design of policies and incentives to promote climate resilient investments, and targeted support to partner countries, particularly for activities which support the implementation of the different stages of the adaptation policy cycle (risk assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning).
23. CALLS ON all Parties for greater efforts to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience into relevant and existing policies, programmes and activities, within all relevant sectors, as these efforts are crucial to counteract the growing threats of climate change.

24. HIGHLIGHTS that keeping the global average temperature rise within 1.5 °C will be essential for averting, minimising and addressing future loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
25. HIGHLIGHTS that no single means of response will be sufficient to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. In this context, ACKNOWLEDGES that many countries, institutions and stakeholders are already involved in financing a mosaic of solutions for responding to loss and damage. RECOGNIZES that the existing funding arrangements need to be strengthened to increase responses to loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change and to address existing priority gaps related to providing action and support in responding to loss and damage. In this light, NOTES, inter alia, the potential of the Multilateral Development Banks and the International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and the European Investment Bank, to contribute to funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage.
26. REITERATES the EU strong support to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a universal coverage of life saving early warning systems within the next five years through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), as well as the V20/G7 initiative Global Shield against Climate Risks to increase protection for vulnerable people and countries by providing and facilitating substantially more and better pre-arranged finance against disasters. COMMITS to support these efforts including through scaling up Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) and making the global CDRFI architecture systemic, coherent and sustained.
27. LOOKS FORWARD TO to the discussion on its Conclusions on climate finance at its meeting of 17 October 2023.

28. REAFFIRMS the strong commitment of the EU and its Member States towards the delivery of the collective USD 100 billion goal for climate finance mobilisation through 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation, EXPECTS this goal to be met in 2023 and URGES all other concerned countries to step up their efforts in this regard. CALLS ON all partners, from all regions, in a position to do so, including governments international financial institutions, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for climate action, including in responding to loss and damage, as well as to identify new and innovative sources of funding, including from the fossil fuel sector in order to support the most vulnerable countries in mitigating and building resilience against climate change.
29. WELCOMES the outcome of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, which will contribute to updating the international financing system and mobilise additional financial resources to fight against poverty and better address global climate and biodiversity challenges. TAKES NOTE of the outcome of the Green Climate Fund replenishment conference.

## DELIVERING IN DUBAI

30. UNDERLINES the importance of successfully concluding the first Global Stocktake at COP28 in Dubai, as the backbone of the ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement, with an ambitious and forward-looking outcome crystallising pathways and opportunities for a climate resilient and sustainable development that keep the 1.5°C limit within reach, including concrete recommendations for enhanced, balanced, immediate, transformative and ambitious action on mitigation and adaptation pre and post 2030, across all systems, as well as for aligning global financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In this context, CALLS for the outcome of the first Global Stocktake to provide concrete policy signals to Parties and non-Party Stakeholders that can drive action on the ground and enhance international cooperation, and CALLS ON all Parties, in particular major economies to prepare and communicate LTS, including a target to reach net-zero GHG emissions as soon as possible, and by 2050 at the latest, and successive enhanced NDCs that are in line with keeping 1.5°C within reach, include economy-wide emission reduction targets covering all greenhouse gases. URGES the High Level Committee of the Global Stocktake to trigger political momentum for a successful outcome of the first Global Stocktake in the run-up to and during CMA5 and WELCOMES the outcomes of the UN Secretary General’s Climate Ambition Summit.
31. WELCOMES the launch of the mitigation work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade (MWP) and the selection of just energy transition as this year’s annual topic. CALLS for the MWP to collect good practices and provide actionable solutions that can enable all Parties to reduce emissions from the energy sector which holds the biggest potential for emission reductions and provides the more cost-effective measures therefore being in the best position to contribute to increasing ambition and implementation in this critical decade. URGES the annual High Level Ministerial Roundtable on pre-2030 ambition to consider these solutions in order to trigger political impulse to their implementation at the national level, and its consideration into the NDCs with a view to increase global ambition and CALLS ON all Parties for a significant and ambitious decision on the MWP at COP28.

32. WELCOMES the establishment of the Just Transition Work Programme on pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and COMMITS to work constructively with Parties to reach a decision on its scope and design for consideration and adoption by the CMA5. CALLS for a people-centred work programme, leaving no one behind, and that creates a space where all Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders can collaborate, provide and draw information on just transition and therefore enhance their capacity to implement just transition domestically founded on meaningful and effective social dialogue and inclusive participation of all.
33. WELCOMES the enriching dialogue which has taken place under the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation, which has facilitated sharing different visions and learning about best practices and experiences that can inspire the identification of shared priorities for global action which support progress towards implementing and achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation. STRESSES the need to ensure inclusive, locally-owned and participatory processes and to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from climate change, and REITERATES the EU's strong commitment to engage constructively towards reaching an agreement at COP28 to provide an effective framework reinforcing, with actionable targets, the adaptation policy cycle for guiding the achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation and the review of overall progress made to reach it.
34. RECALLS that the Glasgow Climate Pact urges developed country Parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources. HIGHLIGHTS the EU's commitment to be at the forefront of the collective effort to scale up adaptation finance provision and mobilization with a specific focus on poor and vulnerable countries and communities, particularly LDCs and SIDS.

35. RECONFIRMS the EU's continued commitment to the full operationalisation of the Santiago Network for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change as quickly as possible by the election of a host of the Network's Secretariat and an advisory board, by CMA5, to further strengthen global coordination to catalyse demand-driven technical assistance of relevant organisations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
36. WELCOMES the work of the UNFCCC secretariat and the Transitional Committee on the operationalisation of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage as well as to maximize support from existing funding arrangements, in responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. LOOKS FORWARD to the recommendations of the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage to be considered at COP28. REITERATES its commitment to operationalise the COP27 decision on new funding arrangements, including a fund, to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. UNDERSCORES the importance to look beyond traditional indicators when assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities and LOOKS FORWARD to the continuation of the Glasgow Dialogue among Parties, relevant organisations and stakeholders. UNDERLINES that the new funding arrangements, including a fund, should be based on the identified priority gaps in the existing financial landscape within and outside the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, must focus on developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and be based on a broad contributor's base and also consider coordination, coherence, and complementarity with the existing funding arrangements.

37. LOOKS FORWARD to continuing the deliberations on a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation that, while taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, contributes as a global effort, from a wide variety of sources, public and private, to the goals of the Paris Agreement, including in the context of making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate resilient development. Strongly ENCOURAGES a discussion on expanding the contributor base for the new collective quantified goal, reflecting the dynamic nature of capabilities, in the upcoming technical expert dialogues as well as at the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue at COP28. CALLS ON all Parties to the Paris Agreement in a position to do so to contribute to this global effort.
38. WELCOMES the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue on exchanging views on and enhance understanding of the scope of Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9. REITERATES that the implementation of actions to reach the aim set out in Article 2.1.c will not replace the provision of climate finance to developing countries and the related commitments of developed countries. ENCOURAGES the private sector and other key stakeholders to increase their action and to engage in this discussion with the aim of identifying solutions to address barriers in mobilising private finance for climate action. LOOKS FORWARD to the outcomes of the two workshops in 2023 and its report for consideration of the CMA5 on the deliberations of these workshops and LOOKS FORWARD to setting a new dedicated agenda item at COP28 to frame and advance the discussions and the shared understanding of how to realise the goal of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development as a critical enabler to mobilize finance at scale. In this context, HIGHLIGHTS the work of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.

39. While the focus needs to remain on domestically reducing emissions and increasing removals, RECOGNISES the potential of Article 6 to facilitate further ambition to close the gap towards limiting global warming to 1.5 °C and fostering private sector involvement in, and mobilisation of financial and non-financial resources for climate action, whilst adhering to environmental and social safeguards, respecting human rights, and protecting against climate related risks. UNDERLINES that the indispensable premise is to ensure that the use of Article 6 contributes to the Paris Agreement long-term goals, encourages ambition, protects biodiversity, safeguards natural sinks, supports transformative investment, sustainable development and secures environmental integrity, while upholding human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. STRESSES the importance of closely aligning the Article 6 mechanisms with the NDC of host Parties, their LTS and with the goals of the Paris Agreement respecting host country contributions and preserving space for higher ambition through the sharing of mitigation benefits and avoiding lock-in to unsustainable levels of emissions, ensuring transparency and additionality, addressing non permanence and avoiding double counting among Article 6 participants as well as improving on robust and transparent measurement, reporting and verification processes in all sectors. UNDERLINES the importance to ensure a robust, exhaustive and transparent infrastructure and reporting to allow for the tracking of units from their issuance to their cancellation in a centralised manner. EMPHASIZES the importance of capacity building to developing countries for a robust implementation of market based activities under the Paris Agreement. WELCOMES the Call to Action for Paris Aligned Carbon Markets launched at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact.

40. IS DETERMINED to work with all Parties to:

- Continue promoting the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.
- Continue promoting an inclusive discussion on the future of UNFCCC with a focus on streamlining the agendas and improving the efficiency of the process, while ensuring inclusiveness and providing more space, as well as facilitating digital participation, within the UNFCCC process, for engaging on enhancing ambition and strengthened implementation.
- Advancing the ambitious implementation of the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and its Action Plan.
- Address the gender dimension to leverage the full potential of climate policies and support comprehensive actions to achieve gender equality, including with the continued implementation of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its second Gender Action Plan.
- Advance on discussions under the new Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work programme on implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security and adopt a roadmap that outlines its work until COP31 (2026).

41. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of non-Party stakeholder action, also within the UNFCCC process, and ENCOURAGES their further efforts towards the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and the implementation of the outcomes of the Global Stocktake, including through the Global Climate Action Agenda. CALLS for such efforts in reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement- including through transparent and robust net-zero commitments which allow for accountability, supported by credible actions plans, in line with the recommendations of the UN SG Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities.

42. ACKNOWLEDGES the strong calls by civil society, especially from young people, for more ambitious and faster climate action, taking into consideration intergenerational equity, and the need to put in place a socially beneficial ecological transition which takes into consideration the needs of the citizens; in this context RECOGNISES the importance of public participation and active engagement as well as access to information in planning and implementation of climate action.
43. RECOGNIZES the leadership of local and regional governments in accelerating and broadening climate action while effectively engaging citizens in the transformative process to sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production and STRESSES the need for increased involvement of local and regional governments in the process of implementing NDCs, national adaptation plans (NAPs) and LTS.
44. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of multi-stakeholders' initiatives and pledges by countries and private entities for accelerating the implementation of climate action across all sectors.

#### OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND PROCESSES

45. UNDERLINES that the climate change and biodiversity loss crises, desertification, pollution, as well as land, water and ocean degradation are strongly interconnected and reinforce each other, and STRESSES that they can only be successfully addressed in a coherent approach that comprises mutually beneficial strategies, with strong social and environmental safeguards, including nature-based solutions as defined by the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5). ENCOURAGES Parties to include nature-based solutions in their NDCs, LTS and NAPs. CALLS for closer cooperation and strengthening the synergies among the Rio Conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as other relevant UN initiatives and international processes. HIGHLIGHTS the need for addressing the interconnected water and climate nexus in a strong and holistic manner.

46. REMAINS STRONGLY COMMITTED to strengthening the synergies between UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the alignment with and support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the COP15.2 in December 2022 in Montreal, and specifically its Target 8, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and to further advancing measures for mutually reinforcing co-benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation and halting and reversing biodiversity loss. WELCOMES cooperation between the IPCC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services during the seventh assessment period as called for at IPBES-10. RECALLS the Glasgow Leader’s Declaration on Forest and Land Use with the aim to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.
47. ALSO REMAINS COMMITTED to strengthening the synergies between the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), through initiatives such as the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), the UN Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. WELCOMES the President of the General Assembly conclusions of the 2023 UN Water Conference, and URGES their rapid implementation, recognizing the central role that water plays within the sustainable development agenda, highlighting water as a key opportunity to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation. ALSO WELCOMES the UNGA resolution in follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference which harnesses the political momentum created by the conference and offers a path forward in shaping the future of Water Action at the UN. In this context RECALLS the EU council conclusions on Water in the EU’s external action and the European Council conclusions acknowledging the need for enhanced EU and global action on water and underlines the importance of a strategic approach to water security.

48. REMAINS COMMITTED to highlighting the fundamental role that sustainable ocean and water management and healthy water-related ecosystems play in overall climate resilience, and the importance to work in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 and the UN Water Action Decade 2018–2028. Therefore, WELCOMES the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement and CALLS for its rapid ratification and entry into force as well as for urgent action in the protection of the ocean and water, in particular to support the negotiations to develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment while STRESSING the need for concrete achievements in relation to the climate, ocean and water SDGs.
49. RECALLS that the IPCC’s AR6 WGIII report identifies international aviation and shipping as sectors where more action to reduce emissions is needed. WELCOMES the progress made by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in its revised GHG strategy that includes an enhanced common ambition to reach net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping close to 2050 with indicative checkpoints for 2030 and 2040 and ensures an uptake of alternative zero and near-zero GHG fuels by 2030. ENCOURAGES the IMO to continue its work to develop and adopt by 2025 midterm measures that should incorporate a standard regulating the gradual reduction of the marine fuels’ GHG intensity, and a maritime GHG emissions pricing mechanism. CALLS ON ICAO Member States to agree no later than at the ICAO Assembly in 2025 to significantly ramp up CORSIA’s ambition level in line with achieving its long-term aspirational goal and meeting the Paris Agreement objectives.

50. The Council recognises the critical role of oceans, their ‘blue carbon’ function, and the critical need to protect, conserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, including forests, as well as inland and coastal water ecosystems, in mitigating, adapting to and building resilience against the effects of climate change. WELCOMES the Ocean and Climate Change annual Dialogue under the UNFCCC.
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