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Subject: Council conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy: accelerating the
implementation of Glasgow outcomes

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy: accelerating the implementation of Glasgow outcomes, as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 21 February 2022.

Council conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy: accelerating the implementation of Glasgow outcomes

1. The Council welcomes the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26), in particular the announced new emission reduction targets, net zero goals and long-term strategies and the recognition of the increased sense of urgency of scaling up action and cooperation on climate adaptation, resilience and averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage as a result of human induced climate change. The Council also welcomes the resolve by Parties to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C, which requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions in this decade and the commitment to close the book on unabated coal power through a phase-down, and ending inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. At the same time, the Council reaffirms the high level of ambition of the EU's climate diplomacy and its call for concrete actions emphasizing the need for a resolute and just worldwide transformation towards climate neutrality, including phasing out of unabated coal in energy production and – as a first step – an immediate end to all financing of new coal infrastructure in third countries, and discouraging all further investments into fossil fuel based energy infrastructure projects in third countries, unless they are fully consistent with an ambitious, clearly defined pathway towards climate neutrality in line with the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement and best available science. It also welcomes the sectoral initiatives launched *inter alia* at the World Leaders' Summit and the conclusion of the Glasgow Climate Pact. The EU and its Member States will actively work on their implementation. The completion of the Katowice rulebook of the Paris Agreement is a significant step forward, allowing the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

2. However, even with full delivery on all targets and pledges as announced in Glasgow, there still remains a significant risk of failing to limit global warming to well below 2°C, whereas we are targeting 1.5°C. Global fossil fuel emissions rebounded in 2021 to pre-pandemic levels and may not have peaked yet. More global efforts on both mitigation and adaptation are therefore urgently needed, as every fraction of a degree of global warming above 1.5°C will have severe detrimental impacts on people and their environment, as confirmed by the scientific evidence presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹.
3. With the European Climate Law, ambitious and legally binding emission reduction targets for 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050, at the latest, and the climate legislative package as proposed under the Green Deal, the EU is taking determined and decisive action to work towards its swift adoption, in the knowledge that its external climate diplomatic heft relies on the strength of its domestic EU policies and the innovative solutions by EU industry and business. In this context, the EU also welcomes commitments from different sectors such as transport, including shipping. These Council Conclusions set out our priorities for accelerating implementation of the Glasgow COP26 outcomes through Climate Diplomacy in 2022, building on previous Conclusions, in particular on Climate and Energy Diplomacy of 25 January 2021.
4. Climate change is an existential threat to humanity. Full implementation of the Paris Agreement and delivering on the commitments made at COP26, working in partnership towards the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh and the COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, will be crucial to address the climate emergency. The EU and its Member States will, in a joint Team Europe approach, engage with partners around the world to address the still existing and emerging challenges and will actively work on the implementation of various sectoral initiatives and calls, stemming from Glasgow. The EU will do its utmost to support the work of the Egyptian COP27 Presidency towards an ambitious outcome.

¹ Most recently in its preparatory work for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Reports from Working Groups I, II and III, and the three issued Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C, Climate Change and Land, The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. See <https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/>.

5. The EU welcomes all new pledges and submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with enhanced ambition and Long Term Strategies. The EU recalls that all Parties have been requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, to present Long Term Strategies, and calls on all Parties, in particular the G20 members whose current 2030 and Long Term targets are not compatible with the Paris Agreement temperature goal, to increase their climate ambition in 2022 and move towards economy-wide emission reduction targets and a trajectory towards climate neutrality by mid-century.
6. Achieving progress on Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is a priority for the EU. In this context the EU will work closely, amongst others, with its African partners to support universal access to safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies, energy efficiency and the development of an interconnected energy infrastructure, maximising the benefits of leapfrogging to renewable energy sources. In this context, the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative will be used to leverage private and public funding for energy projects and reforms in line with the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement and in a joint Team Europe approach. In its endeavours, in Africa and with other partners around the globe, the EU will also build on the outcomes of the Energy Transition Councils and the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy.
7. Climate diplomacy remains a core component of EU foreign and security policy and is an increasingly important, joint priority on the EU's and its Member States' dialogues and cooperation with third countries and regions [as illustrated by the recent EU-AU Summit on 17-18 February, this Council's meeting with the Gulf Cooperation Council] and other bilateral and multilateral partnerships initiated by the EU as well as its Member States. The increasing importance of climate change in our relations with partners is also showcased by forward-looking joint initiatives in which climate plays a central role such as in the Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit of December 2021, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, which pave the way for our cooperation. The EU will support ambitions of Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries in tackling environmental and climate challenges and their alignment with the EU acquis. As such, climate action is a central part of the EU external policy toolbox and strongly linked with the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as will be illustrated, amongst others, by the upcoming UN Stockholm +50 Conference.

8. The Council recognises that the direct and indirect effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation represent risks to the realisation of human rights, human and state security, undermining global peace and stability and often accelerating or deepening existing vulnerabilities and instability. The Council welcomes the increased focus by the United Nations Security Council and other UN bodies on the climate, peace and security nexus. Whilst vetoed, the broad support by 113 countries for the thematic UNSC Resolution of December 2021 on security implications of climate change was a clear indication that the importance of this concept, to which the EU remains committed, is widely acknowledged. In this context, the Council welcomes the EU Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security, establishing a framework to address the climate, peace and security nexus in EU external action and calls for its robust implementation. The Council invites the EEAS to strengthen the operationalization of the Concept on EU Peace Mediation to support the resolution of climate-induced conflicts. It also welcomes increased joint work on these issues between the EU, UN system, OSCE and NATO.
9. The Council invites the High Representative, in close cooperation with the Commission and EU Member States, to continue and scale up an active Climate Diplomacy and cooperation with partners in the run up to the COP27, to set more ambitious targets, strengthen mitigation and adaptation actions globally and map a clear pathway with concrete implementing policies to translate articulations of intent, as expressed in Glasgow, into concrete action in 2022, demonstrating that the green transition can offer new jobs, economic and social opportunities in line with a climate neutral pathway. In this context, the EU will continue to work towards establishing further green partnerships and alliances.
10. The Council reiterates the need for human rights to be integrated systematically into climate action and energy diplomacy. In this context, the EU will continue to uphold, promote and protect gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. The EU will also continue to support meaningful youth engagement and involvement in decision-making on processes with implications on climate change, amongst others through the support to the Youth4Climate initiative.

11. The Council recognizes that the lack of at-scale finance for resilient and just energy transitions in middle and low-income countries remains a barrier for green and sustainable development. In this light, the EU will continue, amongst others through the Global Gateway, to provide a sustainable, green and positive offer to partners for the development of trusted climate resilient energy, transport and digital infrastructure, whilst at the same time contributing to a predictable investment environment and international stability.
12. In a Team Europe spirit, EU Delegations, jointly with EU Member States, will work together and regularly engage with governments, business and civil society including youth representatives in partner countries, on climate, biodiversity, water management and environmental plans and actions and to explore the scope for further cooperation.
13. These diplomatic efforts should also encourage partner countries and regions to implement sectoral climate policies to be complemented by national carbon pricing policies and international carbon markets, following the completion of the Katowice rule-book of the Paris Agreement, whilst acknowledging ongoing negotiations at international level on specific economic sectors. The EU considers the development of carbon markets to be a cost-effective tool to curb emissions. The carbon border adjustment mechanism, as currently under consideration by EU co-legislators, aims to ensure the environmental integrity of climate policies and avoid carbon leakage, in a WTO-compatible way.
14. The Council welcomes G7 and G20 acknowledgment that continued global investment in unabated coal power generation is incompatible with keeping 1.5°C within reach. The commitment to end new international public support for unabated thermal coal power generation by the end of 2021 was a necessary first step and the EU will support the German G7 and Indonesian G20 chairs to continue efforts and further engagement. This is particularly important against the backdrop of the International Energy Agency's forecast that overall coal demand could reach new all-time highs in 2022 and remain at that level for the following two years. More action in this and related areas is urgently needed to fulfil the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

15. The Council welcomes the Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa and looks forward to the operationalisation of this partnership in 2022. It invites the High Representative and the Commission, as well as Member States, the EIB, Multilateral Development Banks and other partners, in coalitions of support, to explore, before COP27, opportunities for further Partnerships, and to engage with countries heavily reliant on coal-fired power or coal mining in order to give effect to its phase-out and support partners in their sustainable development. The Council proposes to build on ongoing initiatives and experiences with the Coal Regions in Transition Initiative in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, and to further develop cooperation aimed at a just and sustainable development transition with partners, in particular in the EU's Neighbourhood.
16. The Council also calls on the High Representative and the Commission to intensify work and international outreach on ending environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies along a clear timeline, with the aim of setting milestones for their phase-out, including through the WTO and in the context of the fossil fuel subsidies reform dialogue in the OECD. The EU also supports the modernisation of the OECD arrangements on officially supported export credits.
17. The Council welcomes the goal of the Global Methane Pledge, co-convened by the EU and the US, to deliver a global 30% methane emissions reduction by 2030 from 2020 levels, and commends the more than 100 Parties who have committed to its goals. It encourages the High Representative and the Commission to pursue the operational follow-up, together with other relevant parties, and further expand its support base. In this context, the Council supports the further strengthening of the International Methane Emissions Observatory.
18. The Council recognises the importance of strengthening international cooperative action on technology development and transfer, such as within the framework of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council and the EU-US Energy Council. The Council encourages impact oriented engagement of countries in Mission Innovation and other actions that allow the wide deployment of innovative technologies.

19. The Council notes with regret that the collective commitment by developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020 was not met. The EU strongly supports the roadmap outlined in the COP26 Climate Finance Delivery Plan and urges all other concerned developed country Parties to contribute to reach the \$100 billion mobilisation goal in 2022, but certainly no later than 2023.
20. The Council notes that the EU and its Member States are the largest contributor of public climate finance with the contribution having more than doubled since 2013, amounting to €23.39 billion in international public climate finance committed by the EU and its Member States in the year 2020. The EU and its Member States will continue their efforts to scale up climate financing. In this vein, the Council notes with satisfaction that, on top of the 30% spending target laid down in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (2021-2027), the Commission committed an additional 4 billion euro for climate finance until 2027, which equates to a 35% climate finance spending target. This represents an unprecedented effort from the EU to tackle climate change.
21. The EU also calls on other Parties in a position to do so, to increase climate finance. The EU also looks forward to progressing the deliberations on the New Collective Quantified Goal post 2025 underpinned by the need to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards climate neutral and resilient development. The EU urgently invites all Parties, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization, consistent with the Paris Agreement mitigation and adaptation goals. At the same time, the Council calls for increased transparency and a more systematic monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the uses of climate finance. The EU also underlines the need to enhance access to climate finance from international funds, and cut red tape, to address the needs of communities and countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

22. The MDBs and International Finance Institutions (IFIs) play a catalytic role in mobilizing the private sector and shifting the global financial flows towards sustainable and green investments. The Council urges a further greening and alignment with the Paris Agreement and the 1.5°C target of MDB's and IFI's agendas and portfolios, mainstreaming the Paris Agreement climate goals into all operations, and underlines the importance of supporting this goal through the boards in a coordinated manner. It also encourages relevant multilateral institutions to consider how climate vulnerabilities should be reflected in the provision and mobilisation of concessional financial resources and other forms of support. The EU welcomes the steps taken by Central Banks to support the greening of the financial system and encourages further efforts, also from national export credit agencies. In this context, it welcomes the work of the European Investment Bank, as a frontrunner, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank Group and other development and finance institutions. The Council also explicitly encourages philanthropies and private financial actors to support ambitious climate action in third countries.
23. The Council calls on the High Representative and the Commission to support the global uptake of sustainable finance standards and promote coherence with sustainable finance practices, sustainability-related disclosures, and the EU Guidance for climate-proofing of infrastructure projects, particularly by strengthening international cooperation through the International Platform for Sustainable Finance and other relevant initiatives such as the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.
24. The Council welcomes the increased attention paid to adaptation to climate change and the increased sense of urgency of scaling up implementation, monitoring and support for resilience and adaptation. The EU welcomes the Glasgow goal of at least doubling collective provision of climate finance for adaptation by 2025 from 2019 levels. The EU will lead the way, as expressed in its Adaptation Communication, and urges others to join these efforts. The EU also encourages others to submit Adaptation Communications ahead of COP27 and welcomes initiatives to increase adaptation finance, such as the informal Champions Group of Adaptation Finance.

25. The EU and its Member States recognize the importance of achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, welcomes the launch of the two-year Glasgow – Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation, and will actively contribute to its implementation with a view to improving adaptation action and contributing to sustainable development.
26. The EU looks forward to engaging proactively in the Glasgow Dialogue to discuss the arrangements for funding of activities to avert, minimise and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, underlining the intrinsic link with the broader sustainable development agenda and humanitarian assistance, and expresses its commitment to work towards a successful conclusion of the Dialogue. The EU welcomes further initiatives to strengthen and expand early warning systems, contingency planning as well as climate risk finance and insurance in order to ensure systematic, coherent and sustained protection of poor and vulnerable people and countries.
27. The Council recognises that coping with loss and damage as a result of climate change will become increasingly relevant all over the globe, including in the EU, and acknowledges that many vulnerable countries are already being exposed to the adverse effects of climate change and have the least means to deal with the impacts. The EU reiterates the urgency of scaling up action and support for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage and will continue its support to the further operationalization of the Santiago Network to enhance international cooperation. The EU urges all relevant partners from all regions to contribute to the effective implementation of the Network as agreed at COP26. The Council underlines the urgent need for concrete measures on the ground, in the first place by scaling up finance for adaptation, resilience and to increase international efforts and improved coherence and coordination between relevant international organisations and other partners, including through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

28. When taking climate action, the Council emphasizes the crucial importance of the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and all ecosystems, including forests and oceans, and highlights the critical role of nature-based solutions, also in light of the upcoming UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15. The Council further recognises the critical role that the ocean has in mitigating and adapting to climate change and underlines the importance of the multilateral discussions taking place in 2022, including the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.
29. In this context, the Council also highlights the importance of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, supported by 141 signatories, including the EU and its Member States, and underpinned by the Global Forest Finance Pledge, to halt deforestation, reverse forest loss and land degradation by no later than 2030 and calls on the High Representative and the Commission, together with all other signatories, to follow up on its implementation, amongst others by promoting EU Forest Partnerships and by developing and promoting international deforestation free value chains.
30. As energy policy is closely related to the global challenges in the fight against climate change, the Council looks forward to a new Communication on International Energy Engagement Strategy from the High Representative and the Commission.
31. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to strengthen EU Climate Diplomacy together with Member States, in a Team Europe spirit, through further coordination and information exchange and the strengthening of the EU Green Diplomacy Network and the Energy Diplomacy Expert Group. The Council will work, jointly with the High Representative and the Commission on follow-up and monitoring, through regular stocktaking, joint analyses and actions on the implementation of these conclusions to enhance the impact of our Climate Diplomacy.