



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 18 March 2024
(OR. en)**

7865/24

**COPS 128
CFSP/PESC 398
CLIMA 127
DEVGEN 35
ENV 316
ONU 35
RELEX 339
CONUN 59
ENER 142
SUSTDEV 42**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Council Conclusions on Green Diplomacy

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on Green Diplomacy as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 18 March 2024.

Council Conclusions on EU Green Diplomacy

EU diplomacy promoting the just and inclusive green transition and supporting the implementation of global commitments

1. The Council reiterates the gravity of the accelerating, deepening and mutually reinforcing triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, posing a global and existential threat and aggravating existing security concerns. The Council firmly believes that this crisis must be addressed in a comprehensive and integrated way through enhanced multilateralism and global action and as a core component of EU foreign and security policy.
2. The Council reaffirms the EU's strong commitment to work closely with partners to accelerate the global just and inclusive green transition. The Council emphasises the key role of EU green diplomacy in anchoring and consolidating global commitments and promoting their implementation, including those captured in the outcome of the first Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement, agreed in Dubai at the 28th UN Climate Conference, and in the Global Biodiversity Framework. In this context, the EU and its Member States will continue to strengthen collaboration with partners in developing and implementing ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that effectively address the commitments taken in the GST, including 'transitioning away from fossil fuels'. In addition, the EU and its Member States will work with partners to develop and submit National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as well as relevant targets, updated and developed ahead of the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference. The Council urges G20 members to take leadership in this regard, as they represent around 80% of global emissions and have a key role in tackling the world's environmental and climate challenges. The Council strongly underlines the need for immediate, urgent, accelerated action, as underlined by the reports of the IPCC, IPBES and IRP ¹ and reaffirms the importance of a science-driven global transition to climate neutrality that is just, inclusive, sustainable, in harmony with nature, and in line with the commitments, policies, principles and values of the EU. The Council calls for enhanced cooperation with partners at all levels, and jointly with businesses and industries, to fully benefit from the opportunities the green transition offers to all including strengthened

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Resource Panel

competitiveness, job creation and growth and draws attention to the enabling role of free, open and fair trade.

3. The Council expresses severe concern over the harm to the climate and environment, in addition to the immense human suffering, caused by ongoing armed conflicts worldwide and the risk they pose for effective global action to address the triple planetary crisis.
4. The Council condemns Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, and reaffirms its unwavering support to Ukraine and its people. It has inflicted massive environmental damage, nuclear safety risks, and precipitated energy and food insecurity globally. The Council underlines the need to assess the damage and is committed to address it in the context of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. The Council also calls on the international community to hold Russia accountable.
5. The Council calls on all partners to address disinformation and misinformation aimed at creating and disseminating of false or manipulated information related to climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, pollution and their consequences and points out the importance of science and education.
6. Human rights, democracy and the rule of law remain the EU's common compass and core values including in our green diplomacy. Access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. Specific emphasis should be given to the rights of children and youth, as they play an inextricable role in future challenges and solutions as agents of change. The EU will also continue to uphold, promote and protect gender equality, the full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls, and their empowerment. The Council underlines the importance of enhancing the voice and full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and young generations in decision making at all levels aimed to improve climate, energy, environment and water policies. The Council also stresses the importance of cooperation with and protection of civil society, environmental human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities, and their empowerment.

7. The Council calls for a coordinated approach to tackle climate change, land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss and underlines the critical role of oceans and ecosystems and the importance of Nature Based Solutions. In this context, the Council calls for enhanced collaboration between Convention secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and invites Parties to enhance cooperation between the national focal points, as appropriate to promote stronger synergies at international and national levels.
8. The Council looks forward to the adoption of an action-oriented Pact at the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024. The Pact should reaffirm the commitment to reform the multilateral system and enable the UN to address present and future global challenges, and deliver on its main commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The Pact should also address interlinkages between climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, development needs, human rights and peace and security.
9. The Council invites partners to work closely with the EU to accelerate and benefit from the green transition and supports the implementation of global commitments through frameworks such as Green Alliances, Green Partnerships, Green Agendas, high-level dialogues, trade agreements and other important formats for cooperation, such as the Samoa Agreement. The Council reiterates the importance of the Just Energy Transition Partnerships and remains committed to their further operationalization with the support of the relevant partners. The EU will continue to work closely with partners in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans, Africa and worldwide, in particular with the most vulnerable, including least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and partner countries that have put forward ambitious plans, through the NDICI Global Europe and Team Europe initiatives and under the Global Gateway Strategy, amongst others. The Council underlines the importance of the role of and collaboration with the private sector and businesses in these efforts.

10. In line with their respective EU paths, the Council invites the Commission to strengthen support to and cooperation with the candidates for EU accession to accelerate their alignment with and implementation of the EU acquis on energy, environment, and climate, including in the context of the Energy Community, and to facilitate their just and inclusive green transition.
11. The Council thanks the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai and welcomes the adoption of the UAE consensus. The EU looks forward to working with all partners, including with the troika of the current Presidency, the United Arab Emirates, and incoming COP Presidencies of Azerbaijan and Brazil towards successful and ambitious outcomes of COP29 and COP30.
12. The Council expresses great concern that, despite overall progress made at multilateral level and concrete steps and actions taken at national level, Parties of the Paris Agreement are collectively still not on track towards achieving its purpose and its long-term goals, as acknowledged in the first Global Stocktake (GST).

13. In this context, the Council calls on all partners to follow up on the implementation of the outcome of the first Global Stocktake (GST) as important guidance for enhanced action in this critical decade, as well as for the preparation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to be submitted nine to twelve months ahead of COP30 in November 2025², reflecting the highest possible ambition as well as seeking synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Increased ambition in this critical decade and beyond requires reaching global emission reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, compared to 2019 levels. The Council encourages G20 members to take the lead in implementing the outcome of the first GST, including the transition away from fossil fuels, and invites all partners to work with the EU and its Member States on more ambitious NDCs. The EU is committed to also work with partner countries, development partners, international organisations and organisations such as the NDC Partnership, to develop and implement ambitious NDCs with a 2035 target. The EU recalls the COP28 call to all parties to include, in their NDCs, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and be aligned with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The Council calls also on partner countries to present or update their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies towards reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.
14. The Council reaffirms that the EU is committed to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and aims to achieve negative emissions thereafter, and that it has set an intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. The EU is taking determined and decisive action to deliver on these legally binding targets enshrined in European Climate Law, and offers to share experience, lessons-learnt, best practices, and the innovative solutions developed by EU policy, research, industry and business with partners globally, supporting the development and implementation of more ambitious NDCs.

² *Decision of the 5th CMA, Outcome of the 1st GST, paragraph 166, advance unedited version*
[CMA4_AUV_TEMPLATE \(unfccc.int\)](#).

15. The Council takes note of the publication of the Commission's Communication on Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and its recommendations. It informs the discussion of the EU NDC to be submitted well ahead of COP30. This sends a powerful signal to markets and investors, and to other international partners to increase their own ambition, and to set the world on a trajectory that is compatible with the 1.5°C temperature goal.
16. The Council invites partners to work with the EU on developing a global approach on carbon pricing, as the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce emissions and stimulate green investments, and encourages and supports other jurisdictions to introduce or improve their own carbon pricing mechanism, amongst others by aligning carbon markets with the Call to Action for Paris Aligned Carbon Markets. In line with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, aiming at reducing the risk of carbon leakage in a WTO compatible way, the Council calls for enhanced international cooperation and outreach to partners to lower carbon emissions in production processes.
17. The Council also urgently calls upon the Commission and Member States to work with partners and within International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to agree on ambitious measures addressing the emissions of international transport including shipping and aviation, and to work on achieving climate neutrality in the buildings sector by 2050. The Council also calls on the EU and its Member States to promote ambitious global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol, as well as a substantial reduction of other F-gases such as SF6 within the next ten years.

18. Acknowledging the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Methane Pledge, the Council recalls the need for concrete measures to tackle rising methane emissions. The EU will continue to call on partners who have not yet done so to join the Pledge and to include concrete methane reduction measures in their NDCs. The Council stresses the importance of targeted actions in all relevant sectors and underlines the short-term opportunities in the energy sector to address methane leaks, venting and flaring and calls for strengthening engagement with partner countries in support of the work of the International Methane Emissions Observatory. In this context, the Council underlines the importance of creating conditions, including through effective trading schemes to reduce methane emissions, such as ‘You Collect/We Buy’, in cooperation with producing countries.³
19. Building on the GST call to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science, the Council underlines the need for action based on its Conclusions from October 2023. In this context, the EU and its Member States are determined to engage with partner countries to promote an energy sector predominantly free of fossil fuels well ahead of 2050 in line with the mid-century climate neutrality goal, and work towards implementation, through accelerated action in this critical decade, additional sectorial milestones and ambition, aiming to achieve a fully or predominantly decarbonised global power system in the 2030s, calling for leaving no room for new coal power. In this regard, the Council highlights the importance for effective cooperation with partner countries including through multilateral initiatives such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance. The Council recalls the need for phasing out as soon as possible fossil fuel subsidies which do not address energy poverty or just transition.

³ Council conclusions of October 2023 on 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).

20. The Council welcomes partners who joined the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, and encourages all partners to integrate the GST global goals of tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030 into the NDCs and their implementation. The Council calls on EU diplomacy to continue to promote an accelerated uptake and system integration of renewable energy and the energy efficiency first approach, as among the most market ready and available at scale mitigation technologies, the development of conducive policy and the alignment of financial flows, in particular in support of developing countries. In this regard, the Council notes the importance of electricity interconnections with partner countries, including with the Western Balkans, Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. The Council calls on EU diplomacy to continue to promote the deployment of safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies.
21. The Council acknowledges the need for rules based, transparent, and undistorted global hydrogen markets based on reliable standards and certification schemes, and the deployment of necessary infrastructure, while conscious of water and environmental stress. The Council underlines that emission abatement technologies which do not significantly harm the environment, exist at a 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 emission and 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.
22. Given that some partner countries opt for nuclear energy, the Council reiterates the necessity to continue to promote and support the highest nuclear safety, environmental and transparency standards, regionally, in the immediate vicinity of EU borders, and globally.

23. The Council calls for strengthened foresight to assess and for proactive policy to rapidly address the changing geopolitical dynamics of the global energy transition, and engagement with partners in light of the anticipated decline of fossil fuel demand in the EU, in the EU's proximity and globally.
24. The Council welcomes the effective diversification efforts, inter alia through the EU Energy Platform and AggregateEU that contributed to phasing out EU energy dependency on Russia. To ensure energy security and affordability throughout the transition to climate neutrality, the Council calls upon the High Representative and the Commission to continue to support these diversification efforts, in line with the Versailles Declaration, in close engagement with partner countries. The Council emphasises the importance of strengthening transparent, rules-based and liquid markets, and interconnections with third countries, while acknowledging the need to avoid creating fossil fuel lock-ins ensuring a 1.5°C aligned energy planning, the potential for re-purposing and future-proofing infrastructure. The Council notes with concern the increasing cyber and physical threats to critical energy infrastructure, and stresses the importance of bolstering resilient energy systems, including through cooperation with global partners. EU Diplomacy will continue to support ongoing efforts by affected Member States and Ukraine to diversify nuclear fuel supplies, as appropriate.
25. The Council is committed to the full and effective implementation of sanctions against Russia, including in the energy sector, and the prevention of their circumvention, and calls on partners to enhance cooperation on the enforcement of the oil price cap policy.
26. The Council is committed to continue supporting Ukraine in cooperation with partners, including with equipment necessary to repair, restore, and defend its energy system, and to build a more resilient, decentralized and sustainable energy sector closely integrated with the EU.

27. In order to ensure energy security and reduce strategic dependencies in the decades ahead, the Council emphasises the need to strengthen and diversify global supply chains of critical raw materials necessary for the energy transition in line with the Critical Raw Materials Act, ensuring high environmental and social standards and taking full account of its geopolitical dimension.
28. The Council recalls the urgent need to deliver on energy poverty and universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 7, including through gender-responsive finance models to combat gendered effects of energy poverty and to enhance women's access to clean energy jobs. The Council calls for a particular focus on deployment of renewable energy access and rural electrification through decentralised energy systems, and the challenge of clean cooking, including in displacement settings. In this regard, the Council calls on partners to increase their efforts and contributions, in support of the most vulnerable that are most in need.
29. Tackling the triple planetary crisis requires mobilisation of more finance, the bulk of which will have to come from private sources. In this context, the Council reiterates the urgency of making finance flows consistent with the pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development in this decade as a critical enabler of the global effort to mobilise finance at scale and to deepen global sustainable finance and capital markets in this respect.

30. The Council reiterates the importance and urgency of accelerating reform of the international financial architecture and takes note of initiatives such as the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact and the Bridgetown Agenda 2.0. The EU and its Member States call on Multilateral Development Banks, their shareholders and the private sector, to scale up the provision and mobilisation of climate finance significantly and expeditiously and increase its reach in particular to the poorest and most vulnerable communities and countries, including fragile and conflict affected areas, that are often faced in parallel with high debts and lacking fiscal space. The Council emphasises that no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and fighting for the planet. The EU encourages financial institutions to increase their support in particular for adaptation and resilience building initiatives, whilst achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation.
31. The EU and its Member States look forward to engaging with international partners towards the setting of the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance at COP29, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries, with public finance as an important component, and better targeted, in particular to the most vulnerable countries and communities, while at the same time underlining its key role in leveraging private investments. There is also a need to strengthen the enabling environment for investments, encouraging more climate ambition and catalysing private investment and domestic resource mobilisation in all countries.
32. The Council reaffirms the need for a broader base of contributors as a prerequisite for setting an ambitious NCQG and calls on all countries according to their financial capabilities, including emerging economies, to contribute to the new goal. Recognising that needs are substantial and conventional sources of public finance alone cannot provide the quantum necessary for the new goal, the Council calls for additional, new and innovative sources of finance from a wide variety of sources, including from the fossil fuel sector and other high-emission sectors, to be identified and utilised to provide climate finance, including to support the poorest and most climate vulnerable countries and communities, in mitigating and building resilience against climate change. The Council looks forward to the work of the Taskforce on International Taxation and to its first assessments on options to be presented at COP29.

33. In 2022, the EU and its Member States contributed €28.5 billion to international public climate finance, with more than half addressing climate adaptation or cross cutting action involving both mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and mobilised an additional amount of €12 billion of private finance, contributing significantly to the USD 100 billion goal on climate finance.
34. Given the already severe consequences of climate change, the Council expresses its determination to work with partners to develop National Adaptation Plans in order to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability, notably with the most vulnerable countries including LDCs and SIDS using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, where possible. The Council welcomes the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience at COP28, and its agreed targets. The Council calls for enhanced coordination and collaboration between existing structures and climate adaptation processes within and outside the UNFCCC, in order to increase support for, and enhance implementation of, adaptation and resilience building initiatives, particularly in fragile and conflict affected areas and recalls the importance of supporting the UN Secretary General’s Early Warnings for All initiative. The Council also reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Council encourages cooperation on enhancing resilience and managing climate risk exposure.
35. The Council strongly underlines the urgent need to scale up global action and support from all sources in averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and welcomes the COP28 decision operationalising the new funding arrangements including a fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to loss and damage. The Council welcomes the pledges made for the initial capitalisation of the fund and for the existing funding arrangements, including significant pledges from the EU and EUMS and the UAE, and calls for a swift start of the fund.

36. The EU and its Member States highlight their commitment to be at the forefront of the collective efforts to scale up adaptation finance provision and mobilisation to developing countries with a specific focus on countries and communities that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change such as LDCs, SIDS, and fragile and conflict-affected states. In this vein, the Council calls on all partners, from all regions, according to their financial capabilities and including those beyond the traditional base of providers of development finance, to expand their support to climate adaptation and to the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including to the fund. Given the magnitude of the challenges, the Council also emphasises the need to identify new and innovative sources of funding.
37. The Council also stresses the importance of protecting cultural heritage against the devastating effects of climate change and extreme weather events.
38. Building on the findings of the Global Resource Outlook 2024 by the UNEP International Resource Panel, and as a follow to the GST, the Council stresses the opportunities of the circular economy and sustainable circular bio-economy to achieve sustainable consumption and production, facilitate resource efficiency, reduce generation of waste, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental pollution and negative impacts on biodiversity. In efforts to fast-track the transition, the Council calls for a high-level UN Conference on SDG12 and invites partners to join the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resources Efficiency.
39. In the global fight against pollution, the Council calls for joint efforts to conclude, by 2024, the negotiations of an ambitious International Legally Binding Instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on full lifecycle approach, and sending a clear signal on the reduction of production of primary plastics polymers. The Council further underlines the need for constructive and active engagement with partners in this regard. The Council also supports full and rapid implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and calls for a timely establishment of a Science Policy Panel to contribute further to a sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

40. Reiterating its strong commitment to implementing the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the Council urges Parties to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and submit national targets aligned with the GBF to the CBD Secretariat well in time for COP 16 in October 2024.
41. The Council underlines that CBD COP16 must strengthen momentum for implementation of the GBF, and complete work on outstanding issues, notably resource mobilisation, the multilateral mechanism for sharing the benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) and on the monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms.
42. The Council reiterates its commitment to step up funding for global biodiversity and the urgency to align relevant fiscal and financial flows with the GBF goals and targets. The Council therefore calls on all relevant actors, including multilateral development banks, their shareholders and the private sector to scale up biodiversity finance by exploring all sources including innovative financing instruments, maximised synergies with climate finance and enhanced international coordination for the alignment of standards for sustainable finance tools, such as taxonomies. The EU committed to double its external funding for biodiversity to €7 billion for the period 2021-2027 and a number of EU Member States took similar commitments. The Council encourages all relevant actors to support and contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund established under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and calls on all countries to identify by 2025, and then phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way.
43. The Council highlights the importance of achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 and welcomes COP16 to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Saudi Arabia as the moment for accelerating national and global action on land restoration, soil health, drought resilience and green transition.

44. The Council recognizes that the stability of the global water cycle is a global concern that underpins the achievement of all SDGs. The Council acknowledges the role of aquatic ecosystems, notably wetlands, in climate and biodiversity actions. In this context, and given the global water crisis, the Council reiterates the importance of a strategic EU approach to water resilience and security and underlines the need for enhanced diplomacy in this regard. The Council encourages joint efforts towards an effective multilateral governance including through the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water, enhanced integration of water-related priorities in relevant multilateral processes and a regular intergovernmental dialogue on water with further UN Water Conferences to be organised in 2026 and 2028 and the One Water Summit to be held in New York in 2024. The Council welcomes the Water Action Agenda as a key outcome of the 2023 UN Water Conference and the adoption of a resolution on water at the 6th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and calls for their swift implementation. The Council supports the upcoming UN Water-led system-wide strategy on water and sanitation to enhance political momentum to deliver on SDG6. The Council also encourages continued globalisation of the UN Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes that can be conducive to global stability, peace and security.
45. The Council welcomes the COP28 emphasis on the need for more investment, action and support to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, including through strengthened sustainable forest management and sustainable agriculture and food systems. The EU is doing its part and will engage in dialogue and cooperation with partners, including through an EU strategic framework for engagement, through the framework of country packages for forests, nature and climate, and under the dedicated Team Europe Initiative towards a global transition to deforestation-free value chains.

46. Acknowledging that agriculture and food systems contribute to, are affected by, and are part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss, the Council underlines the urgent need for a transition towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems and is committed to continued collaboration with partners in this regard.
47. The Council reiterates the important role of ocean-based action including its ‘blue carbon’ function, and that of the marine and coastal biodiversity, in the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and food security. The Council hence underlines the need to deliver on SDG14 and develop a sustainable blue economy. The Council therefore calls for stronger international ocean governance and dialogue and welcomes the 2024 Our Ocean Conference in Greece and the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in France with a commitment to participate at the highest possible level.
48. The Council calls on all members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) for the adoption of new marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean to establish a representative system of Marine Protected Areas as a concrete deliverable, under the 30x30 target of the Kunming-Montreal GBF and implementation of SDGs.
49. Following the adoption of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, which is key for the health of our oceans, the Council notes that the EU and its Member States are committed to its swift ratification and calls on partners to accelerate their ratification process so the agreement can enter into force in time for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.
50. The Council welcomes the Joint Communication on “A new outlook on the climate and security nexus - Addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence” and calls for its full, comprehensive and swift implementation.

51. The Council stresses the importance of a shared and enhanced understanding that climate change and environmental degradation lead to increased instability and conflicts, and vice-versa, as well as to human suffering, resource scarcity including water and food insecurity, internal displacement and forced migration. They also represent a barrier to achieving the SDGs and affect global health. The Council therefore calls for further engagement on these issues in relevant multilateral and international fora while paying specific attention to the disproportionate effects on vulnerable people, as well as women and children, including children in armed conflict.
52. The Council welcomes the Communication's ambition, to reinforce partnerships including with the UN, NATO, African Union, OSCE and other key relevant partners, consistent with the EU's wider multilateral climate change and environment agenda and in line with the EU institutional framework and with full respect to EU decision-making autonomy. The Council also welcomes the Joint Pledges of the 11 members of UN Security Council (UNSC) and the efforts of the UN Group of Friends on Climate and Security to systematically drive forward and address the mutual understanding and commitment within the UNSC on the interlinkages between climate, peace and security.
53. The Council underlines the need to mainstream the climate, peace and security nexus in the EU and EU Member States' external action based on an integrated evidence-based whole-of-government approach, and a strengthened climate and environment informed planning and decision-making by the EU and its Member States, as well as an enhanced focus on conflict-sensitivity in climate action. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to enhance efforts towards better climate preparedness and improved EU capacity to address security-related challenges linked to climate change and environmental degradation in EU external action, including in the context of EU CSDP missions and operations and by making full use of a dedicated training platform.

54. The Council calls for enhanced global cooperation to address international environmental crime, including trafficking in timber, wildlife, minerals, and waste, as one of the most lucrative forms of organized crime, affecting ecosystems as well as security, rule of law, health and livelihoods of people. In this regard, the Council underlines the importance of implementing the revised EU Action plan against wildlife trafficking with its focus on a stronger global partnership between source, consumer and transit countries.
55. The Council highlights the importance of enhancing the efforts to promote the just and inclusive green transition and support the implementation of global commitments, in close cooperation with partner countries. Building on the Team Europe approach, the Council invites the High Representative, the Commission, and all EU Member States, to jointly intensify the EU's green diplomacy as a political priority through increased coordination, information exchange and cooperation through relevant capital-based networks, including the Green Diplomacy Network (GDN) and the Energy Diplomacy Expert Group, dedicated discussions in relevant geographic and thematic Council Working Groups and at local level. In this vein and through these channels, the Council invites EU Member States, the High Representative and the Commission to regularly exchange views on EU green diplomacy. At local level, the Council encourages an even closer coordination and cooperation between EU Member States' Embassies and EU Delegations, in a Team Europe spirit including through exploring informal green diplomacy hubs, working closely with international partners, to maximise the impact of the EU outreach and support. With these Conclusions, the Council underlines the EU's determination to work with partners to anchor and consolidate global commitments, and to translate these into goals, policies and instruments, with more ambitious NDCs as one of the key vehicles to achieve this. The Council will regularly follow up on EU green diplomacy.
