

**Key Note Speech for**  
**Deputy Director General, Marjeta Jager**  
**at the**  
**Special meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable**  
**Development on COP 22 Outcomes and Roadmap to**  
**COP 23**  
**ACP House, Brussels 14th March, 2017**

*(After COP21 / 22)*

It is a great opportunity to address you today, soon after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the successful COP22 in Marrakesh and the launch of the Joint Communication Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries at the end of last year. Climate change is one of the strategic priorities of this proposed partnership.

Climate change threatens to offset economic and social progress, jeopardises peace and stability, increases exposure and vulnerability to disaster risks, impeding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a multiplying factor of social and political fragility, climate change is also one of the root causes of population displacement.

*(Policy Developments – and EU-ACP commitment)*

The recent Commission Communications on the new European Consensus on Development and the renewed partnership with ACP countries highlight linkages and synergies between the Paris

Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. These are important and mutually reinforcing agreements together constituting the new development framework up to 2030.

That the EU and ACP countries have a strong relationship based on shared principles and common objectives was evident during the negotiations of the Paris Climate Change Agreement where we showed how building strategic alliances could be powerful. Together we are and will continue to be a High Ambition Coalition.

The EU and its Member States continues to be the biggest contributors of climate finance to developing countries. We have made a commitment: at least 20% of the overall EU budget will be spent on climate action by 2020 – as much as EUR 180 billion – on climate change-related actions. Total contributions from the EU and its Member States to help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and cope with the impacts of climate change amounted to EUR 17.6 billion in 2015, a significant increase compared to 2014.

We have also stepped up our climate change mainstreaming efforts, and we constantly seek to improve performance against our targets.

*(Agriculture, Food – Forest)*

These efforts have been particularly successful in our cooperation in food and nutrition security and agriculture: the share of climate-

relevant actions in the sector jumped from 13% in the 2007–2013 programming cycle to 29% in 2014–2015.

We are trying to make all EU funds allocated to the agricultural sector ( roughly amounting to EUR 1.2 billion a year ) climate-relevant. Some new initiatives designed to boost innovation in agriculture in collaboration with EU Member States will also contribute to this endeavor.

The EU is committed to taking advantage of the potential that agriculture has for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and we aim to integrate this sector into our support for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); 126 developing countries listed in their NDCs agriculture as a priority for adaptation, and 78 did it for mitigation.

Implementation of mitigation commitments in the land and forest sectors, included in more than 100 NDCs, is also an EU priority. Forests, and related land use change, are a key factor in climate change mitigation. Deforestation is the second leading contributor of carbon emissions worldwide.

The continued loss of forest cover (13 million ha lost every year), degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity also has a critical impact in terms of adaptation capacity to climate change, as it reduces the provision of ecosystem services, such as food and water, as well as resilience against disasters. It affects individual livelihoods and national growth in many ACP countries.

Illegal logging is a major source of forest degradation. The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan is addressing this issue with an ambitious multi-dimensional approach. The EU is committed to pursue FLEGT objectives, and encourages relevant ACP countries to step up their engagement in the VPAs that we have signed or are negotiating.

*(Renewable Energy)*

Another concrete outcome of COP22 was the impetus given to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI): an African-led inclusive effort under the mandate of the African Union. Since its launch at COP21, the EU has committed EUR 1.5 billion to support the generation of 5GW of clean energy and provide access to 30 million people.

Last week in Conakry, the first 19 projects, with a total expected generation capacity of 1.7 GW were approved. The majority of these investments will focus on renewable energy generation in Guinea, Nigeria, Benin, Niger, Chad, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, as well as at regional level (Central Africa and Indian Ocean Islands).

*(Resilience – disaster risk reduction)*

Funding for Climate Change, the Environment and Resilience under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF intra-ACP strategy increased 50% compared with the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF amounting to EUR 475 million in the period 2014-2020 for activities related to these sectors. This is in line with our shared objective of building resilience at all levels.

One of the programmes currently being prepared for an amount of EUR 85 million, to be adopted before the end of the year, will support ACP countries in the translation of climate data into user-friendly information in order to trigger action and respond timely and effectively to climate-related risks. Climate services have a wide range of applications, including early warning systems for natural disasters or integration of climate factors into agriculture planning strategies.

Such accurate risk information and improved decision support systems will also be the basis for designing the EUR 100 million disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF. Our experience confirms that addressing underlying risk factors through risk-informed public and private investments are more cost-effective than relying on post-disaster response and recovery.

Synergies between climate change and disaster risk reduction are not only natural but essential to building resilience, reducing vulnerability and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Building resilience will be at the core of two events the EU is supporting this year;

1. the Intra-ACP Group of States Forum back-to-back with the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 22-26 May in Cancun. This high-level forum will highlight progress and lessons learned in the implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes financed by the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF and propose relevant recommendations, particularly important for the programming of the next generation of these programmes foreseen in 2018.

2. the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the World Reconstruction Conference on 6-8 June in Brussels. The conference will aim to strengthen the discourse on recovery in a changing world, with a focus on promoting interventions and practices leading to resilient recovery. The ACP-EU NDRR program, a joint initiative of the ACP Secretariat and the EU under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), will facilitate the participation of a large number of ACP delegates to this conference.

### *(Private Sector Engagement)*

Private sector engagement lies at the heart of our development agenda. On one side the private sector is not only pivotal for creating inclusive sustainable growth and jobs, but also for boosting the transformation to a low carbon future across partner countries. On the other hand, it plays a critical role in integrating risk prevention and reduction measures in investment and accounting.

Enabling the environment for private sector engagement, and leveraging additional funds through innovative financial instruments will be crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The EU External Investment Plan, in particular, will be central in supporting the preparation and financing of bankable climate relevant development projects.

### *(Fiji presiding COP23)*

This year the COP 23 will be presided for the very first time by a Pacific island state: Fiji. This speaks to the key role that these states have played in the climate negotiations in the last decades,

and particularly in the Paris Agreement, as well as the capacity developed throughout the last years to respond to climate change in this region.

The EU is fully aware of the climate challenges facing the Pacific region and to respond to these we are supporting 7 important projects in the Pacific region (in Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu) through the GCCA initiative. We are also at the moment designing a new 15 M EUR programme to continue supporting Pacific countries to respond to the impacts of climate change.

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We have achieved many things together, not only at the political level but also in the field, but we need to continue to do more and better. We count on ACP countries as one of our key partner to get the world into a more sustainable path, and in particular full implementation of the Paris Agreement in 2020. The EU stands ready to support Fiji in making COP23 a great success and all ACP countries in their efforts to achieve their climate and sustainable development commitments.