STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Draft APA 1-3 opening statement

Bonn, 8 May 2017

Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

The APA has a key role to play in delivering on the Paris work programme by 2018 as agreed in Marrakech. We are happy with the constructive spirit with which we have worked so far, both in session and between sessions. The workshops and roundtables in particular are proving to be very useful in advancing our technical understanding. We look forward to intensive and productive time here in Bonn.

We as Parties have a very challenging task ahead. We should remain focused, constructive, and true to the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement.

We look to the continued leadership of APA Co-Chairs and co-facilitators to guide and structure our work. We also commend them for liaising closely with COP Presidencies and the chairs of the subsidiary and constituted bodies to help ensure a coherent process and outcomes.

It is essential that we make good progress here under each agenda item. We need to start moving beyond conceptual discussions and towards specific solutions. We think we should work intensely in Bonn towards leaving COP23 with elements of draft text on all issues. To achieve this, we should remember each item is different and has to be treated in a tailored way.

Under APA3 on mitigation, it is important that we give sufficient space to accounting, accompanying information, and features. This will enable us to engage in the focussed discussions needed to produce the guidance that will assist Parties in preparing their next NDCs. We have had good exchanges at the roundtable on 6 May and hope to make good use of the better understandings gained there to focus our ongoing work.

Under APA4 on adaptation communications, we should build on the good discussions from the workshop we had on 6 May and continue developing further our shared understanding on the purpose and the common elements for the guidance of the adaptation communications.

Under APA5 on transparency, it is essential that our technical discussions accelerate, and we believe this session must bring agreement on a draft structure and components of the common modalities, procedures and guidelines. We will be greatly helped by the outcomes of the March workshop.

Under APA6 on the global stocktake, we need to deepen our understanding of commonalities and divergences among Parties, and perhaps start discussing on the basis of a high level elements text that co-facilitators could suggest.

Under APA7 on the Article 15 Committee, we have a lot to discuss based on the rich submissions Parties have made, and more technical work is necessary on specifics of modalities and procedures.

Under APA8, we wish to make headway on the discussions on the Adaptation Fund. In line with Decision 1/CP.22, discussions need to focus on governance and institutional arrangements, safeguards and operating modalities for the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement.

We have a lot on our table, a clear mandate, and an important deadline in 2018. We will put all of our efforts into that mandate, and continue to believe work on any additional items should not be our priority.

We look forward to good cooperation with all Parties and hope to leave this session with solid progress on substance and a clear way forward on the way to COP23, in the same way as the APA concluded in Marrakech.

Thank you co-Chairs.