STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

The first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement

Bonn, 17 May 2016

Madam Executive Secretary,
Dear Co-Chairs, Distinguished Colleagues, Dear Friends,

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

We meet for the first time since COP21. It is worth taking a moment to pause and reflect on what we achieved by working together in a spirit of respect, cooperation and a willingness to find solutions to difficult issues. The Paris Agreement, related decision and over 180 countries coming forward with proposed NDCs together represent a truly historical and ambitious outcome in all areas and provides a solid basis to move to a low emission climate resilient global economy.

However while the Paris outcome is a solid and ambitious basis, it is only a basis. In many ways our work will only start now. It will be critical for all Parties to prepare for the implementation of their NDCs, and also to complete the domestic processes to enable them to join the Paris Agreement. The EU has started its work in both respects. We welcome the fact that 177 countries have signed the Paris Agreement and that 16 countries have already ratified it.

The Secretariat's March list of *Tasks arising from decision 1/CP.21* brings home the enormity of the work programme we agreed in Paris. We need to get down to work urgently, in particular given that we have very little formal time to advance our work before Marrakesh. In that context, the EU would like to echo the distinguished colleague of the G77 + China in his appreciation of the ongoing efforts to resolve outstanding issues regarding the agenda in the spirit of Paris and we look forward to adopting the agenda as soon as possible.

Some elements of the work programme already have expected formal deliverables for COP22. However, as noted in the reflections note, all elements of the work programme should be taken forward in a balanced and coherent way – and we would expect to see progress in all areas seen at COP22. In that context we welcome the notion of the tracking tool raised in the reflections note. We also welcome the proposal to have sessions here in Bonn to take stock of progress being made. The significant and extensive work assigned to the constituted bodies must be both part of the tracking tool and of the stocktaking, in addition to the SBs and APA.

We welcome our new co-Chairs and wish them well in guiding us forward to delivering on what was agreed in Paris. And we look forward to working with our negotiating partners to continue and build on the Spirit of Paris.