

Session on functions of the Forum

- I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its 28 MS.
- Let me start by stressing the **importance** of discussing the functions of the Forum in serving the Paris Agreement in the context of the **implementation** the Agreement and the needed transition to low- emissions economy that **all Parties** are now part of.
- The EU believes that we should consider the functions of the Forum, as an element of the overall **architecture** of the Agreement, and in particular, in the context of its long-term temperature goal, as stated in the art. 4 of the Agreement.
- Achieving the goals of the Agreement and accelerating the transition to low-emissions economy will require that **all Parties** translate their NDCs into **concrete** actions, by **designing** and **implementing ambitious** mitigation policies and measures.
- Inevitably, the measures necessary to deliver Parties' commitments under the Agreement will have impacts and they can be and **should be designed** in a way that maximises positive impacts and co-benefits, and **minimises** negative ones.

- From this perspective, the Forum in serving the Agreement, could be seen as 'enabler' for action. Therefore, it should **strengthen opportunities** for Parties to **cooperate** and **take forward** discussions on their different national approaches. It should also look at the challenges countries face in the context of the implementation of policies and measures under their respective NDCs, and to **explore** specific interests and concerns that may arise in this process.
- Now, that **all countries** are and will be taking action to implement their climate policies and measures, and many of them are doing so for the first time, we believe that sharing experiences and best practices **is needed more than ever**.
- The EU has more than two decades of experience in designing and implementing climate policies that drive the transition to a low emissions economy, while boosting growth and jobs. We are already sharing our experience and providing capacity building to countries across all regions. We are helping our partners to enhance their domestic technical and analytical capacities necessary to assess socio-economic impacts of the implementation of climate policies.
- And we believe that the forum should continue to be a **useful platform** to discuss those opportunities and challenges, and enhance understanding of available capacity building opportunities.
- Previous discussions on the Forum serving the Paris Agreement, demonstrated a general **understanding amongst Parties** that

the Functions of the forum, as stated in paragraph 34 of Decision 1/CP.21 clearly define the functions of the forum.

- We see this as the appropriate reading and agree with others who have stressed this.
- To conclude, the EU believes that the Forum has evolved in recent years in a way that has made the discussions more relevant **for all Parties**. It is our priority that it continues to be so when also serving the Paris Agreement.
- Thank you for your attention and we are looking forward to discussing those important issues with all of you.