

# The Environmental Integrity Group

March 2021

Her Excellency  
H.E Ms. Patricia Espinosa  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
United Nations Regional Information Centre  
UN Campus  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
D-53113 Bonn, Germany

Excellency,

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) comprising Georgia, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, supported by New Zealand and Norway would like to express its deepest gratitude to you for your efforts to guide our work forward on climate change despite the COVID-19 epidemic.

Amidst this unprecedented and immediate challenge, the world needs ambitious decisions on climate change that deliver safety and prosperity for all in the long run. We remain fully committed to the UNFCCC process, however, we also remain concerned with the slow pace of progress in our deliberations towards COP26. We have to make sure that we not only deliver in Glasgow, but that we avoid delay in our process, and avoid placing undue burden on COP27.

EIG fully supports the proposal by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, as well as the approach taken by the COP, CMP, and CMA Bureau, to bring the UNFCCC process back on track by the end of 2021. This implies that the agenda for COP 26 in Glasgow will include the issues that were not concluded in Madrid, as well as mandates for 2020 and 2021. To support this approach, it is crucial that the agenda of the SBs also allow us to treat all mandates for 2020 and 2021. Although the Rules of Procedures are not formally adopted, they are applied at each session, with the exception of the rule on voting. In line with Rule 12 of the draft rules of procedures of the UNFCCC, we request that the provisional SB 52 agenda that was issued in April 2020 be complemented accordingly with the items mandated for SB 53, 54, and 55. This will give assurance that no agenda item is left behind.

We are pleased to share in the annex our proposed additions to the SBSTA and SBI agendas, which reflect, in an objective and technical manner, the mandates that would have been listed on the agendas in the absence of any COP postponement.

According to the mentioned Rule 12, this proposal means that the Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include the mandated items for SB 53, 54, and 55 in a supplementary provisional agenda for SB 52.

The EIG, supported by New Zealand and Norway, seizes this opportunity to reiterate our support for virtual meetings. The full inclusivity, participation, and representation of all delegations must be ensured in this process, including through the effective management of time zone differences, which can place a special strain on the resources of small delegations. We further support virtual decision making in areas where no complex negotiations are needed, and on issues to be procedurally transmitted to the higher bodies for their formal adoption.

We trust that this way forward will set up our work under the UNFCCC to proceed in an efficient and optimal manner. We reiterate our full dedication to an ambitious outcome at COP 26. Our members stand ready to support you as UNFCCC Executive Secretary in the preparations of this successful conference.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group  
Franz Perrez

Ambassador  
Head of the International Affairs Division  
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Supported by

New Zealand

Mrs Kay Harrison  
Head of Delegation

Norway

Mr Henrik Eriksen  
Head of Delegation