

25 February 2021

To the attention of the members of the Bureau of the COP, CMP, and CMA
Secretariat 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

Excellencies,

We present our compliments to the members of the Bureau of the COP, CMP, and CMA. As countries committed to an ambitious and effective climate change regime, we salute your determination to lead us forward in these times of crisis amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, we would like to express our concern with the current pace of progress in our deliberations. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us both of the importance of listening to science and of our capacity to come together as an international community in the face of humanity's greatest challenges. The world is looking to us to come to COP26 ready to adopt the decisions needed to fully operationalize all aspects of the Paris Agreement. With COP26 only a few months away, we have to make the most of the coming months.

We give full support for the way forward proposed by the COP25 and COP26 Presidencies. Similarly, we thank the SBSTA and SBI Co-Chairs for their hard work over the past months, and recommend that they further convene informal consultations for all delegations over the coming months. In view of the urgency at hand, these informal consultations and exchanges should prioritize the areas of negotiations that are due to conclude at COP26. We further request that the progress of these deliberations be captured in written form. The past months have shown that we have a number of tools at our disposal to advance in our work: we can convene informal consultations and exchanges in addition to more formal meetings, make calls for submissions by parties to seek their views on specific areas of the negotiations, compile these views in informal non-papers, while capturing progress of our deliberations in written form to bring us to a successful conclusion in Glasgow.

Recognizing that informal deliberations alone will not be sufficient, it is imperative that a meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies takes place in June 2021, if necessary, in virtual format, and that the work of the SBs continues in autumn 2021 ahead of COP26. We hope to receive further information on these sessions in the coming weeks. We reiterate our readiness and flexibility to engage in maximizing progress, also in a virtual format.

Whilst virtual deliberations are never the preferred option, they are our only option to reach successful conclusions of our negotiations in Glasgow. In doing so, we must do all we can to uphold the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and representation. We thank the Secretariat for its dedication to working directly with delegations to facilitate virtual participation for all, through the use of UN regional and local offices or embassies. We should take advantage of the range of options available to make our virtual deliberations a success for all. This includes leaving time between negotiations to allow for group coordination, and holding virtual deliberations over a variety of time zones, to avoid favoring one regional group over the other. We thank all groups and delegations for their flexibility in this global health crisis and look forward to pursuing our work efficiently over the coming months.

We trust that this way forward will give us a chance to make COP26 a success. We reiterate our full dedication to an ambitious outcome at COP26, and we stand ready to support you as members of the Bureau in the preparations of this successful conference.

Sincerely,

Australia

Mr Jamie Isbister
Ambassador for the Environment,
Australia

Colombia

Ms Laura Juliana Arciniegas Rojas
Head of Delegation

Costa Rica

Ms Ana Villalobos,
Head of Delegation
Ms Patricia Campos,
Director for Climate Change, Ministry
of Environment and Energy

Ghana

Dr Antwi-Boasiako Amoah
Deputy Director, Climate Change
Environmental Protection Agency
Ghana

Lebanon

Mr Vahakn Kabakian
Head of Delegation

Mexico

Ms Camila Zepeda
Head of Delegation

Norway

Mr Henrik Eriksen
Head of Delegation

Panama

Ms Ligia Castro de Doens
Head of Delegation
National Climate Change Director

Portugal and the European
Commission on behalf of the
European Union and its Member
States

Eduardo Santos,
Head of Delegation Portugal,
Presidency of the European Council
Jacob Werksman,
Head of Delegation of the European
Union to the UNFCCC

Switzerland

Mr Franz Perrez
Head of Delegation