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## **MESSAGE TO PARTIES, OBSERVER STATES AND OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Outcomes of the meeting of the Bureau on 25 August 2020**

I would like to inform Parties and observers States to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and observer organizations that the Bureau of the COP, the CMP and the CMA met on Tuesday, 25 August 2020, to provide guidance for the intergovernmental process and the secretariat in the light of the circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its meetings on 28 May and 22 June 2020, the Bureau decided to postpone to 2021 the negotiating sessions that were scheduled to be held in 2020. In doing so, the Bureau acknowledged the need to explore ways of still making progress and delivering the mandated work, given the urgency of the climate crisis and the uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve.

To enable work mandated for 2020 and 2021 to be delivered at COP 26 in November 2021, with a view to bringing the UNFCCC process back on track by the end of 2021, to the extent possible, the Bureau confirmed the application of and requested the secretariat to proceed in operationalizing the following criteria:

1. Maintaining the original timelines for mandates and submission deadlines to the extent possible, and informally advancing work mandated to be initiated in 2020, particularly if it was mandated to conclude in 2020 or 2021;
2. Maintaining the mandated number of meetings and delivering reports of the constituted bodies as originally planned in 2020 and 2021. In this regard, meetings of the constituted bodies originally mandated to be held “in conjunction with a session” can now be held virtually in the absence of a session;
3. Extending the current membership of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement bodies as needed until successors can be appointed or elected;
4. Holding events in 2020 that were scheduled to be held in 2020, to the extent possible.

**Distribution:** To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as United Nations organizations and admitted observer organizations.



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In the coming weeks, the COP 25 Presidency, incoming COP 26 Presidency and Chairs of the subsidiary bodies will jointly conduct consultations with Parties on whether to hold three sessional periods in 2021 to absorb the full workload of the four sessions of the subsidiary bodies originally scheduled to take place during the current biennium – that is, organizing the work of SB 52–55 across three sessions in 2021. Joint consultations will also be held on the overall plan towards COP 26. Further consultations will be conducted separately on substantive issues under their respective purview.

Following the COP 25 President's request to prepare a calendar of activities for 2020 and 2021, the secretariat developed Climate Hub 360. The Bureau welcomed Climate Hub 360 as a valuable tool towards ensuring a successful and ambitious COP 26. The secretariat is currently addressing feedback received from the Bureau on the prototype and an announcement will be made on the UNFCCC website in the coming weeks to officially launch Climate Hub 360.

The Bureau expressed its support for the organization of a series of online events in November under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. The events will be convened in collaboration with the COP 25 Presidency and incoming COP 26 Presidency and with the support of the secretariat.

Further information on the events will be made available in due course.

As always, the secretariat trusts that it can continue to count on your support in these challenging times and assures you of its commitment to continuing to provide you with high-quality support.

Yours sincerely,

*(signed by)*

Patricia Espinosa