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The European Union and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries call for increased ambition and long-term vision in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Ministers from the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, together making up more than half of the signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change, today met at COP25 in Madrid to discuss joint action to enhance global climate ambition.

The EU and the ACP Group of States are deeply concerned about the latest scientific reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which provide further proof of the extreme urgency of strengthening the global response to climate change.

Both groups call for increased ambition at global level to close the gap between the commitments taken so far and what would be necessary to meet the long-term global temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. They also call on countries to engage in long-term planning to help successfully translate increased ambition into concrete policy measures.

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans **Timmermans** said: *“The European Union is on a decisive path towards climate neutrality. We believe that a deep and socially just transformation of our economy is both necessary and economically beneficial. Solidarity is at the heart of the European Green Deal, both at home in Europe and with our partners around the world. With the European Green Deal we are presenting a roadmap for action which we hope can serve as an inspiration for our international partners too.”*

ACP Secretary General Patrick **Gomes** said: *“The latest climate science confirms that the impacts of climate change are an increasing threat to all ACP countries that have the least capacities to adapt. The ACP Group acknowledges that the scale of the effort required to fight global climate change remains insufficient and calls for strengthening the global response to climate change in the context of sustainable development.”*

Finnish Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Krista **Mikkonen** said: *“A coherent and clear vision of how to reach climate neutrality by 2050 must guide our decision-making in the short-term. We are now living the defining years. The pace of emission reductions must be significantly accelerated. The EU will continue to show leadership in updating our NDC. We will also continue to work with other major economies to increase ambition.”*

The EU and the ACP Group of States stress the need to further increase ambition ahead of next year’s COP26 in Glasgow. All Parties are expected to communicate mid-century long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and update their nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement in 2020.

Both groups emphasise the economic and societal opportunities arising from the transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient economies.

Background

The EU and the ACP Group are long-standing partners in international climate cooperation and will continue to work together and mobilise further investment. EU funding for cooperation with ACP countries on climate change amounted to €1.7 billion from 2014 to 2018. This includes action to strengthen the resilience and adaptation capacities of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – a joint initiative of the EU and the ACP Group of States funded by the 11th European Development Fund which is worth €70 million.

Other examples of EU-ACP cooperation include the Climate Services Programme (€85 million) – an initiative to strengthen the capacities of regional hydro-meteorological organisations to access and use climate information and services for policy decision-making, and an upcoming programme on disaster risk reduction (€100 million) to be launched in 2020 as a follow up to the ongoing programme worth €180 million.