



Frans Timmermans,
Executive Vice-President
of the European Commission



Patrick Gomes,
Secretary-General,
ACP Group of States



Krista Mikkonen,
Minister of the Environment
and Climate Change, Finland

Brussels, 26 November 2019

**Subject: Invitation to an ACP/EU Ministerial working lunch
13 December 2019, 12:30-14:30, EU pavilion, COP25**

Honourable Minister,

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement provides a political framework under which countries in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and European States are seeking concrete solutions to the most pressing challenges of our times, such as the existential threat of climate change.

Building on our long standing cooperation for sustainable development, our coordinated approach that helped deliver the Paris Agreement in 2015, and our Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change of 2018, we believe our governments can work further together to fulfil our shared climate goals.

For that reason, we would like to invite you to an ACP/EU Ministerial working lunch on Friday 13 December, 2019. This will be an important occasion to identify our shared priorities in addressing climate change, to better understand and support each other as we are entering into “the year of climate ambition” from COP25 (2019) to COP26 (2020).

We would be grateful if you could confirm your participation at your earliest convenience, preferably by 11 December 2019.

For registration and any other information, our contact persons are:

- For ACP States: Ms Pendo Maro (pendomaro@acp.int),
- For EU Member States: Ms Natacha Leclef (clima-u47-ares@ec.europa.eu).

We are looking forward to working with you towards the global success of the Madrid conference and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Vice-President
of the European Commission

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and Climate Change, Finland

Attachment: Concept note of the Ministerial lunch

Concept note for the ACP-EU Ministerial working lunch

Venue and logistics

- Venue: EU pavillon, COP25 Conference centre, IFEMA - Feria de Madrid
- Time: Friday 13 December 2019 - 12:30-14:30
- Participation: restricted to Minister+1 per country
- Language regime: English/French interpretation made available

Objectives

The working lunch will provide an opportunity for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the EU to identify shared priorities in addressing climate change, and to better understand and support each other as we are entering into “the year of climate ambition” from COP25 to COP26.

This working lunch builds on the long standing cooperation between the ACP Group of States and the EU for sustainable development, the coordinated approach that helped deliver the Paris Agreement in 2015, and the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change of 2018.

Main themes

A. Opportunities and barriers to revising climate plans in 2020 in line with scientific knowledge and the 2°C/1.5°C goal.

By 2020, the Paris Agreement asks Parties to communicate or update their NDCs and submit mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

According to the latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report, the world is heading for a 3.2°C temperature rise on current unconditional pledges. Therefore, governments need not only to honor their national contributions, but also to substantially increase their ambition. At the same time, they must develop credible pathways of how they intend to achieve climate neutrality. Developing long-term strategies requires a holistic view of the economy and the necessary modelling capacity, which can be particularly challenging for developing countries. On the other side, the decarbonisation of the economy also offers a variety of opportunities.

B. Powering development with clean and resilient energy investment.

Channeling investments towards clean and sustainable energy enables to address the double challenge of providing access to energy and addressing climate change. In doing so, it is also important to consider that climate change may affect the energy systems in various ways – from decreasing water availability for power production to infrastructure risks from extreme weather events.

C. Harnessing our green and blue economies towards our climate goals.

Environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and climate change pose a serious threat to the attainment of sustainable development and place at risk the lives, the quality of life and livelihoods of current and future generations. At the same time, natural resources and environmental good and services, if appropriately managed, offer countless opportunities for sustainable growth. This topic will explore how developing national and international blue and green economies can contribute to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Agenda

12:30 – 13:00 Buffet lunch

13:00 – 14:30 Ministerial meeting

- Introductory remarks from hosts
- Views from regional and subregional group representatives
- Further comments from other Ministers
- General discussion

Input papers

- [ACP issue paper on COP25](#), 19 November 2019
- [EU Council Conclusions on preparations for COP25](#), 9 October 2019
- [EU Council Conclusions on climate finance](#), 8 November 2019
- [Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change](#), 1 June 2018.