

Topic A. Introduction and improvements of Nationally Determined Contribution

EU and its 28 member states are fully committed to the negotiating process in Paris Conference, in order to adopt an applicable agreement with all parties in line with the below 2°C objective. EU is acting jointly to reduce significantly the amount of CO₂ as well as all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. The EU participated in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and has binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By 2020, the EU aims to achieve a reduction of 20% below 1990 levels. On current figures the EU has already more than achieved its goals for 2020, having reduced its GHG emissions by 23% between 1990 and 2014. The main instrument for achieving emissions reductions is the EU emissions trading system (ETS), also with renewable energy resources and energy efficiency. Climate legislation in the EU includes ecodesign and energy labeling, CO₂ limits for vehicles, and the Renewable energy directive.

Moreover, the EU and member states are committed to a binding target of an at least 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, as set out in the conclusion by the European Council of October 2014. One possible proposal is that the EU parliament should engaged in a structured dialogue with civil society that will play an essential role in building a low-carbon economy. Also, climate fund revenues can be collected from taxes on aviation and shipping emissions. There are still challenges left, such as assessing the cost of actions and gaining international support needed, as well as addressing equity issues while developing NDCs. These issues can be related to The Green Climate Fund which is also the topic of discussion.

Topic B. North-South relations – Funding (Green Climate Fund)

The EU and its member states fully recognize the significant amount of financial resources needed to aid developing countries deal with climate change, as well as to finance developing countries with environmental technology and projects aimed to enhance energy efficiency. Accordingly, the EU is calling for emerging economies to also contribute in line with their responsibilities and capabilities. The EU is the world's largest contributor of climate finance to developing countries and increasingly integrates climate change into its development strategy. In particular, EU member states have pledged nearly half of worldwide pledges gathered by the Green Climate Fund. It's the world's leading aid donor, with collective development assistance accounting for 0.51% of EU GNI in 2016. It is scaling up climate finance to help the most vulnerable countries mitigate and adapt to climate change.

With this objective in mind, the EU is determined to use at least 20% of its budget on climate action and at least 2billion euros per year in supporting activities of developing countries. The funding will come from a wide variety of sources – public and private, bilateral and multilateral, and alternative sources of finance – in order to achieve meaningful mitigation and transparent implementation by developing countries. The main channel for EU support is the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus(GCCA+). Founded since 2008, GCCA+ has invested close to 450million euros in more than 60 regional actions. It is engaged to foster policy dialogue and cooperation on climate change between EU and developing countries, especially on least developing countries and small island developing states, as they are most vulnerable to climate change.