

Remarks on behalf of COP25 Presidency

Thank you very much Marianne and Tosi.

I would like to start by recognizing your leadership during these three challenging weeks. Of course, any progress during an SB session is due to Parties, and their ability to identify areas of common understanding. However, the clarity you have provided on how to make the most of this session has really made a difference, to facilitate our collective work.

I would also like to recognize the work of the Secretariat, which we can testify has left no stone unturned to make sure that this session is a success. I would like to convey our appreciation to Patricia Espinosa and through her, to all the members of the Secretariat for their efforts.

This virtual session is the first time we meet since Madrid. 18 months have passed with a climate crisis that has continue unfolding. The concentration of GHG have not stopped growing, as the global average is now at 416 ppm. The COVID – 19 pandemic and the economic crisis associated has led to a situation even more pressing, especially for developing countries.

However, here we are after three weeks of productive discussions. Let me say that as Presidency of COP25, we feel encouraged to see the commitment of Parties to engage in substantive discussions in these challenging circumstances. This includes the difficulties associated with connectivity, different time zones and disruption of the regular work.

The unusual timings of the meetings and in some cases quarantine measures, also meant that very often delegates had to participate from homes. I think it is only fair to recognize this effort and also acknowledge and thank the support of families.

This resilience is remarkable. However, it is important to be unequivocal in the fact that all of us, Parties, Secretariat, Presiding Officers, observers, we all realize that we must to go back to in-person meetings as soon as conditions allow it.

By adapting to the current circumstances, you, Parties, have shown clearly that we have no time to lose. These three weeks are a testimony of this. Following the leadership and guidance from SB Chairs and with the support of the Secretariat, we have been able to cover a lot of ground in crucial items of our agenda.

The progress will have different formulations depending on the issue, and that is normal. The nature of the items differs case by case, and our call is to take every opportunity to advance our conversations and move closer to agreements.

The climate crisis is upon us, and we must accelerate our work, building on the good exchanges we have developed these three weeks.

The second half of the year will be very busy. We will continue making consultations with Parties, in a joint effort with the UK as incoming presidency. Only a few days from now we will continue the monthly meetings at the HODs level. And we will continue developing spaces for Parties to interact across the issues.

We are encouraged to hear from Parties that more work is needed before Glasgow in technical issues, as well as the recognition of the importance of political guidance from Ministers and Heads of Government as we get closer to COP26.

We would like to commend the UK for their leadership as hosts of the COP. President designate Alok Sharma has set clear priorities, as an invitation to be ambitious in mitigation, adaptation and also in finance, and keep the 1,5 degree goal within reach.

Science is providing consistent evidence that we are still off track in our efforts. Climate action is urgently needed, and the UNFCCC process is the primary space to agree on a common pathway. This is why it is so important that all legitimate divergences among Parties can be resolved through open and transparent negotiations, with a practical sense to identify solutions.

The success in Glasgow is the success of all of us, both Parties and observers. But in order to be successful in Glasgow, we must build our way through the SBs.

From this perspective, the informal notes developed by the SB Chairs, with the help of their co-facilitators, are very important tools that Parties can now take home and revisit when we are able to meet again, in the understanding that they have no legal status and should not be considered as final in any way. Hopefully, they will provide inspiration and ideas to move our conversations forward in an efficient and timely manner.

Finally, on behalf of the COP25 Presidency, I would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation to the engagement of Parties and your commitment to continue working during these challenging times.

Although I am convinced that good progress has been made these three weeks, COP26 is only a few months away, and we will need to double our efforts to achieve a successful outcome.

From our part, we remain optimistic from the good exchanges in this SB session, as we are determined to continue doing our utmost to contribute to our collective success.

Thank you