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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Warsaw, 11-22 November 2013) = Information from the COP Presidency

Delegations will find attached an information note on the above, submitted by the COP Presidency, to be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 13 December 2013.

Main outcomes of Warsaw Conference

Information note by COP19/CMP9 Presidency

In Warsaw, the COP19/CMP9 laid the solid foundations for the new, global climate agreement to be adopted in Paris in 2015. Despite difficult negotiations and the deficit of trust in the process in the run-up to Warsaw, the Polish Presidency managed to achieve three key political goals:

- the roadmap, including a timetable for the next steps needed to reach a new global agreement in 2015 in Paris, was agreed and adopted;
- the process of implementation of previous decisions of the Conferences of Parties was significantly advanced and in many important aspects completed;
- trust among Parties within the UNFCCC process, which had frequently suffered from the way the decisions were taken, was significantly restored.

As a result, 38 decisions were adopted on these priorities during the Warsaw Conference.

Laying the foundations for the 2015 Agreement

The Warsaw Conference ensured that the negotiations of the new international agreement are well on track to deliver in Paris at the end of 2015. In Warsaw all Parties agreed to initiate or intensify their domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions. A difficult compromise was struck and the word “commitment” was replaced by the word “contributions” as a common denominator and an effort to keep all Parties at the table.

It has been decided that, as a first step and before contributions are agreed internally and proposed by the Parties, throughout the next year the negotiators will work on identifying the information which must accompany the contributions to be made. This exercise should be completed in Lima in 2014. Then, the Parties are to put forward their contributions together with the necessary accompanying information so as to reach the objective of enhancing transparency and understanding. This phase will begin in the first quarter of 2015 and will last until the COP in Paris. Consequently, Parties ready to put forward their contributions early will do so in the first quarter of 2015. Those not ready to do so will probably present their contributions closer to the 2015 Conference, or even in Paris.

Successful implementation of previous COP decisions

Loss and Damage. This was a crucial decision to those most vulnerable to climate change and adopted after the most difficult negotiations on the last day. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was established as mandated by COP18 in Doha. The most important benefit of the decision adopted in Warsaw is that it is now possible to take the issue of loss and damage forward in a more constructive and less confrontational manner. The Warsaw Mechanism offers a strategic and coordinated response to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change by inter alia identifying gaps in existing approaches, knowledge and experience sharing, and increased cooperation within and outside the UNFCCC.

Finance. The Warsaw Conference approved the Arrangements between the COP and the Green Climate Fund and called for the initial resource mobilisation to be prepared by the next COP in 2014. The Warsaw Conference also established a process to consider initiating the mobilisation of climate finance by 2020 including submissions, workshops and biennial ministerial dialogues. In Warsaw, during the high-level ministerial dialogue on finance, many Parties, including the EU and several Member States, made some specific announcements concerning, for instance, the GCF and the Adaptation Fund which were well received by other Parties. EU Member States provided about 90 % of the USD 100 million needed to support the Adaptation Fund. The Conference also called on the developed Parties, starting from 2013, to provide financial resources starting with the level of resources as provided during the fast-start in order to mobilise further financial resources, both from public and private sources, including innovative sources of financing, towards reaching the USD 100 billion annually by 2020, in the context of significant mitigation measures and transparent implementation.

REDD+. The Warsaw Conference defined and established a system aimed at the protection of rainforests, the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. The REDD+ mechanism (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) addresses the process which contributes every year to around 20 % of global emissions (almost twice the emissions of all EU Member States). The established methodologies for technical assessment of actions, provision of finance, including concrete pledges of a number of developed countries, will help more than 50 countries to address a very important aspect of their development strategies.

MRV. The Warsaw Conference finalised the adoption of the remaining decisions comprising the MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) system. With the final decision on the Consultative Group of Experts, the MRV package has been completed in Warsaw.

Restoring trust in the UNFCCC process

One of the main challenges for the COP19/CMP9 Presidency was restoring Parties' trust in the UNFCCC process. Poland conducted the process in a transparent and inclusive manner. The efforts made in this regard were acknowledged by Parties in their closing statements, including India, Fiji representing the group of G77 and China, as well as the United States and Australia. Warsaw was the first conference since Poznań in 2008 where, at the closing plenary, no Party was left behind or forced to accept a compromise they did not want to. The smooth approval of the agenda (given the difficult discussions on the Russian proposal to include a new item in the Agenda during the session in June 2013) was also recognised by many as a success resulting from the extensive diplomatic efforts of Poland. In collaboration with the incoming Peruvian presidency, Poland conducted extensive consultations on the decision-making process in the UNFCCC which will be continued in 2014 until Lima. This motion was broadly welcomed by Parties.

In order to further increase transparency and to improve the coherence of the process, which will be led by the Peruvian and French presidencies before the final deal is reached, Poland initiated the so-called Troika Approach, an unprecedented notion in the UNFCCC process. Within this concept Poland invited Peru and France to join in the Polish Presidency meetings, to learn and observe so as to ensure a smooth way forward to Paris.