

***Speech by Mauro Petriccione at the Climate Action EU for Talanoa Conference,***

- Ladies and gentlemen, it was a pleasure to participate in this event here today, on the Talanoa Dialogue and the EU's contribution to global climate action and ambition.
- 2018 is a crucial year for international climate negotiations. Talanoa, as well as allowing us to learn from and inspire each other, can also create political momentum for COP24 in December, where it is vital that we make real progress.
- The EU is deeply committed to sustaining its climate leadership. The stakes could not be higher, and taking the necessary action requires similar leadership and openness from all partners, in particular the major emitters.
- In the EU's first Talanoa submission, we have told the story of how we are putting in place policies and legislation covering the whole economy, so that we can deliver on our target to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030 – and help to drive the low-carbon transition.

## ***1. Some thoughts on what we heard during the day***

- Here today, I was very pleased to hear the positive stories from partner countries, stakeholders and EU Member States. The presentations by our Ambassadorial guests and the findings on action in key partner countries, presented by David Turk from the IEA during the second session, were particularly interesting and encouraging.
- This said it is clear that achieving the long-term Paris objectives will require significantly scaled up effort worldwide. Action and engagement by the G20 group is particularly important, as they collectively account for around 80% of global emissions.
- The presentation by Madame Noronha from UN Environment provided us with a stark analysis of the situation in terms of urgency and the need to do more collectively. This is a fact we must accept if we want our discussions in line with reality.

The size and scale of this challenge means we will need to look at how to transform entire economies, in the most sustainable way. A fundamental economic shift is required, that governments and climate negotiators cannot make this happen alone.

- We also heard that the type of transformation we are talking about will require serious societal reflection – dealing with issues such as just transition, sustainable finance instruments and investment models, and structural change are not new challenges but they are challenges that need to be part of an effective policy responses. Not just in the EU, but globally, and we should look to step up our cooperation internationally in this context.
- As evidenced during today's conversation the EU - our policymakers and stakeholders - have decades of experience in implementing climate policies, developing low carbon business models, and engaging stakeholders. We have learned by doing and we should now be ready to avail this knowledge and lessons to our partners to help them accelerate their transitions.

## ***2. How should governments respond to the Talanoa process?***

- We all know that the forthcoming IPCC special report on 1.5 degrees is expected to confirm that the collective NDCs and efforts made so far fall significantly short of what is required in order to meet the 2 degrees objective – let alone 1,5 degrees.
- Therefore, the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue later this year, and subsequent discussions both internationally and

at national level, needs provide a realistic basis for the international community to consider enhanced ambition.

- After the Katowice COP the debate on ambition must be tackled well beyond the climate community, including at the UN Secretary General's Climate summit of 2019.
- Our leaders need to have the courage to consider how we can be brought on track with the Paris vision and objectives. The inspiring examples of solutions and technologies we have heard today should be a pertinent ingredient in that reflection.
- To pave way to leaders discussion and domestic processes, a meaningful political outcome of Talanoa discussions at COP24 in Katowice in December, should be **a commitment by all governments to reflect on their domestic efforts and level of ambition in light of both (i) the Talanoa and (ii) the findings of the IPCC special report on 1,5 degrees.** Future policy work, including the mid-century strategies due by 2020, should factor in the latest scientific evidence and the knowledge of the available solutions.
- We think this is the only logical way for governments to respond to the Talanoa.
- The EU will respond accordingly. Through the Commission proposal for new long-term strategy for reducing emissions, as announced by Commissioner Arias Cañete earlier today,

the EU is starting a broad debate that will look at EU ambition in the longer term.

- However, we see collective and fair action by all Parties, in line with the Paris Agreement, as the only way forward.

### ***3. A word on the Significance of enabling environments***

- As one of the most important take-aways from today's Talanoa I find the fact that our discussions here today confirm that **the 'real economy' – investors, businesses and citizens – must have the right regulatory signals, predictability, enabling environments and also financial incentives and support, so they can play their role in the transition to a low-carbon climate-resilient future.** This message is hugely relevant to all policy-makers round the world.
- Adopting a clear and comprehensive set of governance and transparency rules for implementing Paris is a crucial stepping stone for delivering on our shared commitments. Our objective is to achieve this in Katowice.

- It will also send an important signal to stakeholders and citizens around the world, that we, the international community, are serious about addressing climate change.
- Clear domestic policies and measures, and longer term strategies and incentive structures, chart the governments' direction of travel and provide predictability and certainty to the public and economic actors. However the policies and measures must be developed in cooperation with – and with the support of – the stakeholders. This is the only way us to succeed and develop policies that match reality. It is also why today's Talanoa is so very important.
- Ladies and gentlemen, we have challenging discussions ahead of us in the coming months. We will need the cooperative and inclusive spirit of Talanoa to help us get where we need to go.
- Thank you all for your valuable contributions here today – and I look forward to further fruitful discussions in the coming months and at COP24.