



**Speech by HE Dr Marcus Cornaro
EU Ambassador to South Africa
At the SA national Talanoa Dialogue
23 August 2018, Midrand Conference Centre, Gauteng**

Check against delivery

Delighted to be among friends and partners – as Minister Molewa just said, following the EU Talanoa Dialogue, we have now another occasion to stand behind our international rules-based system and join forces in furthering our climate action!

Climate change is a shared challenge and a shared responsibility. The landmark Paris Agreement on climate change is a key achievement of multilateralism while it also has a strong South African gene from COP17 in Durban. It is an unprecedented partnership between nearly 200 countries, supported by cities, companies and communities across the world, to address a problem that threatens us all.

Three years after Paris, Talanoa Dialogues around the world are a credibility test for the international community taking stock of work towards implementation. They will culminate at COP24 hosted by Poland in Katowice in December 2018. Today, I would like to speak about: partnership, ambition, commitment and solidarity.

Partnerships are crucial for living up to the enormous challenge of fighting and reversing the disastrous effects of climate change and environmental degradation. SA is among EU's strongest partners in the multilateral effort to implement the Paris Agreement.

Today marks an important day in South Africa's contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue. I am privileged to represent the EU at your national dialogue and delighted to be supporting it, together with Germany's BMU and GIZ. By the same token, South Africa participated via its Ambassador to the EU His Excellency Baso Sangqu at the EU regional Talanoa Dialogue which took place in Brussels on 13 June 2018. This is partnership in action. Our bilateral Forum on environment, climate change, sustainable development and water keeps this partnership strong.

This year, we have launched a bilateral partnership project to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement in South Africa on top of the EU MS' support. Under this bilateral project, we have enabled the Talanoa Dialogue today.

Turning to ambition, the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of 1.5°C due in October will feed the discussions around adequacy of global ambition. We need to raise ambition. The EU has the world's most ambitious climate policies – we have committed to cut our emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and have already proposed a more ambitious target of renewables making up 32% (instead of originally agreed 27%) of the EU energy mix by 2030 and an equally ambitious energy efficiency programme.

But our multilateral approach is under severe challenge in an unprecedented way. In June this year, the EU hosted the second Ministerial on Climate Action (known as the MoCA) in Brussels together with Canada and China. We were joined by representatives of 36 governments from many of the world's largest economies, including HE Minister Molewa. We saw Ministers re-confirm their strong commitment to the Paris Agreement,

to concluding negotiations on the Paris Agreement Work Programme this year and indeed to accelerating the pace of negotiations, particularly as we approach the additional Bangkok session of the UNFCCC which will take place in early September.

And our climate ambition does not stop at 2030: we have a long-term objective to transform Europe into a truly low-carbon society, and help meet the Paris Agreement goals. We have begun preparatory work for an EU long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We aim to present our proposal in November, before the COP24 climate summit in Katowice in December, where the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue will take place.

One thing is clear: if we want to pursue efforts to achieve a well below 2°C and possibly below 1.5°C temperature change as agreed in the Paris Agreement, we will need to look at higher reductions in emissions. Our strategy will be to look at ambitious options, including net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050, as well as milestones and pathways to meet these options.

On commitment, we have agreed to modernise the EU Emissions Trading System post-2020. We expect the carbon price to increase even further in the coming years and become a strong driver of clean investments. We also agreed the 2030 targets for reducing emissions in sectors not covered by the Emissions Trading System, including transport, buildings and agriculture. As already mentioned, stronger EU 2030 targets on energy efficiency and renewable energy are also being decided this year.

This commitment is shared by the EU investors which are active outside the Union. Because in the EU, we have shown that clean energy can accelerate economic growth – greenhouse gas emissions in the EU were reduced by 23% between 1990 and 2016, while the economy grew by 53% over the same period! New, innovative technologies, renewables, green and circular economy bring about the change we need via sustainable growth and development.

One specific example is the involvement of European companies and Development Finance Institutions in South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme and their positive contribution to localisation and employment in the sector.

Another interesting example is the EU's 100 million Euro contribution to the EU-funded Infrastructure Investment Programme, managed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa which funds many environment and climate-relevant projects.

And last but not least important – solidarity. The EU and its Member States are the world's biggest climate finance donors and provided, together with the EIB, a total of 20.2 billion EUR in 2016 (reported in 2017) to support climate action in partner countries. This represents a 15% increase compared to the previous year or about a 50% increase from 2012 and with extra focus on adaptation action in most vulnerable countries. This also represents more than a half of global public climate finance.

On the High Level Dialogue on Climate Finance, donor countries should anticipate and prepare ahead a coordinated approach and an updated narrative on how we are meeting the USD 100 billion/year goal by 2020. Sustained contributions to the Green Climate Fund and to the Adaptation Fund will be very important signals of our continued commitment. However, we also need to ensure that we can discuss openly on how best to attract private sector investment into low-carbon investments and into

adaptation/resilience. The NDCs will not be met with public finance alone, let alone the Paris Agreement long-term goals.

The EU will continue to provide substantial climate funding to support climate action in partner countries. The commitment to make 20% of all EU expenditures 'climate-relevant' for the period 2014-2020 applies also to the development cooperation instrument and the European Development Fund. The European Investment Bank (EIB) has a 35 % climate target for its EU-external lending. For the next EU budget (2021-2027), the European Commission proposes that at least 25% are dedicated to climate change purposes.

In June this year during the global Adaptation Futures conference in Cape Town, we had a great opportunity to showcase our own climate action as the EU and MS but also – our development, scientific, research and innovation cooperation and climate action funding on global, African and South Africa level. To this end, the EU's Rand 1.16 trillion Horizon 2020 programme – which provides a platform to tackle global societal challenges through research and innovation – is open to the world, providing support to partners outside the EU, including South Africa.

The EU enjoys an extensive scientific cooperation with South African institutions, including the South Africa's National Space Agency (SANSa), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the South Africa Weather Service (SAWS), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory, as well as universities (e.g. Universities of KwaZulu-Natal, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, and Cape Town). Collaboration activities are ongoing in several areas that are relevant to climate and the environment, including space applications, soil, and renewable energy.

Let me conclude: South Africa can continue to count on the EU for global leadership and bilateral and multilateral support in the fight against climate change. The EU and its Member States will continue to work with international partners and remain determined to keep up the momentum and global ownership of the Paris Agreement. We will not give up! Our bilateral Forum on climate change, environment, sustainable development and water will go from strength to strength. I wish South Africa good luck with the Climate Change Bill. Let me also wish you a successful 'Talanoa Dialogue' here today.
