

**Opening Comments for Mr Lluís Navarro, Head of Cooperation, EU  
Delegation to Rwanda**

**Talking Points:**

*Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen....*

*It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this third regional conference of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Flagship Initiative.*

*Our focus for the next four days, **Africa – Harnessing Growth and Protecting the Gains**, couldn't be more timely or appropriate.*

*Climate change is one of the most important threats facing current and future generations.*

- *Just over one year ago, the International Panel on Climate Change released its most diabolical warning yet:
  - *the climate is changing with unprecedented speed*
  - *impacts are already clearly manifesting*
  - *and the world is falling dangerously short of the scale of action needed to avert dangerous and irreversible impacts.**
- *Climate change is radically different from other threats we have faced individually, and collectively as humans.*
- *It is not one country or region under siege. Rather, the threat is global and cannot be solved without the collective and concerted action of all countries.*
- *Without action, climate change impacts threaten to erode and destroy the benefits of development attained over decades of investment and effort.*
- *One of the realities of climate change is that its negative impacts disproportionately affect the world's poorest countries and communities, not least in Africa. Many of these countries are represented today in this room.*
- *I wanted to begin with this stark reality check. Because it is this reality – and the European Union's recognition that **'we are all in this***

*together', that has inspired the work of the GCCA+ since it was established in 2007.*

- *When the GCCA+ was first established, the focus was first and foremost on the **ALLIANCE itself**, on the intention to build a bridge with the world's most acutely vulnerable countries, that is, the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).*
- *The EU recognised that this bridge needed to be built on concrete action: at a time before 'climate finance' was a cornerstone of the multilateral discussion, the GCCA brought €340 million to the table. The GCCA resources focused on building climate resilience in these countries, including building national institutions and strategies to support strong, country-driven action.*
- *Building on concrete actions, the GCCA+ also created a platform for political and policy dialogue:*
  - *In the context of the United Nations climate negotiations, the Alliance drew together roughly 125 countries out of the 197 Parties to the UNFCCC. 125 countries that had a shared interest in pushing for stronger global action.*

### ***The GCCA+ bore its first fruit in the 2010's, and supported countries getting ready for the Paris Agreement***

- *In December 2015 for the first time all parties committed to reduce emissions and set a goal to hold global temperature rise below 2°Celsius*
  - *The EU joined forces with SIDS and others to call for an even more stringent target – the 1.5°Celsius aspirational goal – in order to give the most vulnerable countries a better chance of a prosperous future.*
- *Importantly, this global consensus emerged just months after Agenda 2030, with its 17 goals for sustainable development. Agenda 2030 is focused on eradicating poverty by 2030. But it also aims to ensure development gains are **shared** among all of the world's citizens, that these gains are **climate resilient**; and that **growth does no more harm** to the fragile ecosystems on which we depend for food and fuel.*

- *The linkages between climate action and Agenda 2030 are manifested in the Nationally Determined Contributions – NDCs- the self-determined blueprints for climate action that all countries put forward under the Paris Agreement.*
- *The GCCA+ is increasingly using NDCs as entry points for new partnerships with countries, thereby working to support country-owned priorities and strategies.*

***The EU and Africa are long-term allies in the fight against climate change.***

***At home,***

- *The EU is leading by example, taking powerful action backed by ambitious policies set in binding legislation.*
- ***What does this mean in reality?***

*By 2030 we will:*

- *deliver emissions reductions 40% below 1990 levels*
- *ensure at least 32% of energy production comes from renewable sources*
- *increase energy efficiency by at least 32.5%*

***At the global level,***

- *the European Union is the world's largest contributor to public climate finance for developing countries, delivering €20.4 billion in 2017*
- *It remains also the world's largest contributor to official development assistance, delivering €74.4 billion in 2018.*
- *The GCCA+ is one of the EU's most significant contributions to climate change action in LDCs and SIDS.*
  - *In the spirit of the Paris Agreement's call for implementation, the GCCA+ focuses on concrete action.*

- *At the end of 2018, the GCCA+ had:*
  - *delivered 77 programs*
  - *reached 37 LDCs and 39 SIDS*
- *By the end of 2020, it will have delivered around **€750 million in climate finance** being one of the most significant sources of climate finance for the LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa.*
- *Europe has also recognised that a diverse and rich group of stakeholders including states, organisations, citizens, the private sector, must play a role at:*
  - *The Covenant of Mayors of Europe, for example, draw together 6700 municipalities in recognition that climate action takes place in local contexts. The initiative has been so successful in Europe that we have sponsored the establishment of the Covenant of Mayors of Sub-Saharan Africa.*
  - *We will hear from representatives of the Covenant of Mayors of Sub-Saharan Africa on Day 2 of the conference.*

### ***Here in Rwanda,***

- *From 2010-17, the GCCA delivered €9.5 million in budget support, together with a number of other donors, to pay for comprehensive reforms of Rwanda's land titling system – a program that has become a gold standard for land reforms in other countries.*
- *Land as property and a productive resource plays a key role in the wealth of nations. The ability of a farmer to securitise a loan, or to rent land, or for the government to enforce protected areas, for instance cannot be achieved in the absence of an effective system of land registration and titling.*
- *Registration also encourages climate-smart investments by farmers who increase their efforts to invest and look after their land. It protects land against erosion, mitigates against land conflicts, and helps avoid deforestation. Importantly also, of the 11 million parcels of land registered so far in Rwanda, the majority have been registered to women.*
- *In addition to that, the GCCA+ will continue supporting Rwanda through an upcoming € 5 million programme. This new GCCA+*

*programme will increase the use of improved / clean cooking stoves by the Rwandan population through the local production and dissemination of efficient cooking devices and the production of sustainable local biomass fuel. This programme is aligned with the Nationally Determined Contributions' priorities. It will also give to Rwandan users, mainly women, the opportunity to adopt more affordable cooking technologies that are also better adapted to their needs.*

### **Going forward,**

- *The European Commission is currently developing the next generation of external financing instruments. To illustrate its continuous commitment to External Action, the European Commission is proposing to create a broad **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)** with a proposed budget of EUR 89.2 billion. At least 25% of these resources will target actions to protect the climate. And the GCCA+ will remain an important centre piece.*
- *What is more, the new leadership of the European Commission, including namely our new President Ursula Von Der Leyen, has made the "European Green Deal" its highest priority. We have the ambition to see Europe become the first climate-neutral continent, transitioning from an Industrial Economy to a Circular Economy promoting the use of clean technologies. In line with European voters' aspiration including its youth, we will deliver real action on Climate Change. Home and abroad.*
- *In this context, the EU will continue to intensify our efforts to enhance adaptation in vulnerable countries, and to support transitions to a global low-carbon economy that benefits all peoples of the earth.*
- *We are committed to further deepen our partnership with our African partners, and strengthen the continent's response to the climate change challenge.*
- ***I would like to share with you now a short film that introduces the GCCA over its first ten years, before welcoming the Honourable Minister, Dr Biruta, to the floor.***
- *.....*
- ***Introduce the minister.***