

EIG opening statement for the Opening Session of the Climate Dialogue

24 November 2020

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group comprising Georgia, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

Madam and Mister Chairs,

Dear Colleagues,

The EIG would like to express its solidarity with all those who have been personally hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

If there are lessons to draw from this difficult year, it is that our actions are all interconnected, and that we can, and must work together if we want to face our greatest challenges. As we strive to tackle and recover from the COVID-19 crisis, we must build back better to prevent another looming crisis: climate change.

In just a few weeks, the Paris Agreement will enter in its implementation phase. There are still important decisions to be taken to fully operationalize the agreement. It is our job to use the coming days efficiently to listen to each other and build a common understanding so that we'll come to COP26 next year ready to adopt the required decisions.

We also have to show that we take our promises seriously. The EIG calls on all Parties to communicate this year enhanced NDCs that reflect the highest possible ambition, as well as Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies that are in line with the recommendations of the IPCC to maintain global temperature below 1.5°C.

As we prepare for the future, we must also ramp up our efforts to adapt to climate change. We encourage all Parties to submit adaptation communications.

Let us give ourselves the means of our ambition. We hope for a constructive start to our deliberations next year on a common finance goal. In doing so, we should strive to

make all financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

To realize this vision, the EIG fully supports the solutions-oriented approach put forward by the SB Chairs. We thank the Secretariat for ensuring participation, inclusiveness, and transparency and we thank all the delegations for their flexibility. We are confident that the virtual format can bring us closer in the coming months, in a sustainable manner.

The EIG fully supports capturing the results of our discussions in a written form. The EIG also supports that we plan sufficient time for us to meet and progress next year. We support planning SBs in early 2021, and holding more than one session of the SBs between now and COP26.

These are special times that require us to show solidarity and collaborate closer together. Let us make the most of these important Climate Dialogues.

We wish you all successful exchanges,

Thank you, Madam and Mister Chairs.