

Thank you Chair,

We appreciate all the efforts to prepare the draft Terms of Reference for this session. We will engage constructively in the discussions in the coming weeks and I hope that – by the end of these weeks – we will have Terms of Reference that has consensus support.

We fully align with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States. We also support the remarks made by Canada, on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Those comments actually raised many of the issues that I was going to bring up and I will try not to repeat them.

I do however wish to stress a few points.

First, we still are of the view that it is important to not limit the flexibility of the future negotiations by being too prescriptive on substantive matters.

Second, the future negotiations should be based on a thorough analysis of what actions and initiatives that would have the most impact for domestic resource mobilization, while ensuring coherence and complementarity with ongoing work in other fora. This would not only help ensuring the relevance of those negotiations and a future convention, but also that resources of all involved are used in an efficient manner. We believe that other international fora, such as the IMF and World Bank, could provide important input in this respect.

Third, it is important to ensure that all Member States has i) the same information, ii) at the same time and iii) in a timely manner in order to be able to properly prepare and participate constructively in the upcoming negotiations. The different perspectives and interests of Member States should be given due consideration in order to provide a balanced outcome that can be widely implemented.

Thank you