

**NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY MINISTER HERRERA AT
UNFCCC COP 23 IN BONN (Presided by FIJI)**

Salutations,

Nibula

I feel particularly honoured to participate at this COP here in Bonn, which for the very first time is being held under the Presidency of Fiji, a small island developing State. I also wish to thank the German authorities for their impeccable organization. This formidable partnership between Germany and Fiji, highlights the achievements of cooperation between UNFCCC State Parties, notwithstanding their diversity.

I congratulate Fiji for its strong determination to lead this multilateral process. Each Presidency brings its own legacy to the COP and faced with the imminent threat of the effects of climate change to its vulnerable shores and scarce territory, Fiji's legacy highlights the determination for no further procrastination. Malta fully endorses this approach.

The best way of showing solidarity with individuals and countries who have borne the brunt of recent extreme weather events is to strengthen our resolve to work incessantly with our partners to ensure that COP 23, as the interim COP, fulfills a number of deliverables.

The ***Talanoa*** Dialogue has been providing space for both Parties and non Party stakeholders to show case progress, share best practices and step up action.

It is crucial to ensure the continuous development of the GCAA in catalyzing climate action and for multi stake holder action to engage actively within this forum.

I must, also highlight that Malta fully welcomes the Oceans Pathway Initiative which the Fijian Presidency has prioritized for this COP under the Global Climate Action Agenda.

Work to enhance pre-2020 action remains a priority for the EU and its Member States, as does fulfilling our own commitment to comply with pre-2020 obligations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. It is with this in mind that I am pleased to announce that Malta will be

depositing its instrument of ratification of the Doha Amendment imminently together with the EU and other Member States.

Malta has experienced the decoupling of economic and emissions growth. Malta's determination to switch to a low carbon economy is characterized by a vision, based on the long-term, socio-economic, and environmental benefits of GHG emissions reduction.

Malta's opportunities emerging within the Energy Sector are being fully capitalized to reduce emissions, particularly given the energy generation sector is by far Malta's highest contributor to national GHG emissions. Low emission policies and measures in other sectors include the introduction of autogas, the promotion of biodiesel use; other reforms in the transport sector, modernization of agricultural holdings, implementation of a nitrates action programme, and the setting up of biological and wastewater treatment plants which look at a long-term sustainable process towards 2050 that responds to climate mitigation efforts.

Regarding Climate Finance, Malta is proud to recall that as part of its climate finance commitment, it is contributing to climate empowerment in developing countries. It provides technical support as

capacity building in human resources to States most vulnerable to climate change—by continuing to offer nationals from these States, fully funded scholarships in specialized studies related to climate action at the University of Malta.

In Paris we have set clear milestones for COP 24, prior to that however we must ensure a successful COP 23 in order to achieve the expected results at COP 24. We must continue to work hard with the private sector, businesses and civil society. We just cannot set the clock back.

Our determination to address GHG emissions and reduce them, are met with innumerable challenges. In our endeavours, however we are definitely committed to exploring the benefits of a low carbon economy with the aspiration to look as far into the future as 2050 in our strategic planning. In the end, it is ensuring the wellbeing of our people that is at stake.. It also consolidates our commitment, notwithstanding our small size, to address a global challenge that is a common concern of humankind.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair