



Statement by Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

7 July 2021

Colleagues;

We stand at the midpoint in a crucial year that will define the coming decade — both with respect to climate action and achieving the SDGs.

The symbiotic relationship between the SDGs and climate change is also a dynamic one. Each are deeply intertwined, each impacting the other with respect to progress or delay.

The good news is that international efforts to address climate change have been infused with a new sense of momentum this year.

We cannot, however, deny the obvious: nations remain far behind.

The Paris Agreement has yet to be moved from adoption to full implementation.

And UN Climate Change's recent Synthesis Report, showing the combined results of national climate action plans — or NDCs — submitted by December 2020 reveal that nations remain *very* far from the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C.

Success in Glasgow at COP26 is crucial. It's nothing less than a credibility test for the global fight against the climate emergency.

At COP26, nations must complete outstanding work, fulfil past pledges, and achieve a fair and balanced outcome that address the concerns and needs of all nations.

None of this will be easy, but it's absolutely necessary.

Today, by addressing one crisis, we can address another.

The rollout of trillions of dollars to address post-COVID recovery is an opportunity to accelerate the transition away from fossil-fuel and high-emissions-based economies towards economies that are low carbon, sustainable and resilient.

We will achieve it only if nations are in it *together*: regardless of development stage, economic strength, population or geography. That's the very definition of multilateralism.

But we need more than that, as outlined in SDG 17. Boosting partnerships is what we refer to as “inclusive multilateralism” — ensuring that no voice is left behind.

More voices means more climate solutions, more dynamic and robust NDCs and more ambitious climate action which — as we've seen — get us closer to achieving the SDGs.

A rising tide, as they say, raises all boats.

Colleagues, we must rise to the challenge of our times. We call upon all of you to help us achieve success in Glasgow this November.

Only through our combined efforts will we achieve our mutual goals: address climate change, achieve the SDGs and build a cleaner, greener and more sustainable planet for all people.

Thank you.