



## EUROPEAN UNION

# Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting Vienna, 19 - 20 October 2020

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## EU Closing Statement

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We would like to again thank the Office of the Coordinator and the Albanian Chairmanship for organising this meeting. It was a valuable occasion to take stock of the implementation of our commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation.

We would like to thank all the panellists for sharing with us their experience and expertise. The shared examples and best practices should not merely remain as subjects of this forum. We hope that discussions during this implementation meeting will spill over to subsequent dialogues regarding new national and local initiatives.

The presentations underlined our shared goals and illustrated the potential of our common actions in the field of disaster risk reduction and management, as well as in addressing the underlying risk factors and root causes of disasters including environmental degradation and the changing climate. Some of the speakers clearly demonstrated the potential of civil society and community-based organisations in enhancing the effectiveness of our early warning, disaster preparedness and disaster risk management systems.

In view of the current health crisis, our discussions displayed the need for an inclusive approach, which takes into account groups in vulnerable situations that are disproportionately affected by disasters. As noted during session III, “no one is safe until everyone is safe”.

Our dialogue, including during the side event on “*Inclusive responses to economic and environmental challenges: working with and for youth to promote sustainable peace and security*” further highlighted the need of a whole-of-society participatory

approach that integrates gender, age, disability and culture, and promotes women and youth leadership in this context.

As mentioned during the past two days, it is necessary to deploy systemic solutions as a response to the current systemic challenges in order to build and earn the trust of stakeholders. Focusing on prevention and monitoring, on making policy decisions based on science and communicating them clearly to the public were rightly pointed out as the key elements in our future steps towards enhanced disaster risk reduction and management.

We trust that the discussions, carried out in a spirit of turning challenges into opportunities for cooperation, have stressed the urgency of addressing climate change and provided the incoming Swedish Chairpersonship with useful food for thought for next year.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

*\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process*