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MEDIA ADVISORY

19 October 2016

Webcast of IPCC press conference

BANGKOK, Oct 19 – The 44th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is currently considering the outline of the Special Report on impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related greenhouse gas emission pathways in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. It is also considering an outline of the Methodology Report to update and refine the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. A press conference to discuss the results of the meeting will be held on **20 October 2016 at 19.30 Bangkok time** (14.30 CEST, 12.30 GMT, 08.30 EDT, 21.30 JST) at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

The press conference will be webcast live and can be accessed through the IPCC YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/l-nGPzDZzb0> and the IPCC home page, www.ipcc.ch.

IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee, the Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee responsible for scoping the Special Report on 1.5°C, Thelma Krug, Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Co-Chair Kiyoto Tanabe, and Secretary of the IPCC Abdalah Mokssit, will take part in the press conference.

Media following the press conference by webcast can submit questions by emailing them to: ipcc-questions@wmo.int

For further information, contact:

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Notes for editors

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What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a snapshot of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the Panel are its 195 member governments. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. The word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this. It is not a United Nations agency, but is sponsored by two UN organizations – WMO and UNEP.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes, although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something.

Sixth Assessment Cycle

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 43rd Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and AR6.

The first of these special reports is the Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SR1.5). This report, which is being prepared in response to an invitation from the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC in December 2015, will be delivered in 2018. A scoping meeting to draft the outline of the report took place in August 2016.

The Methodology Report(s) to refine the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* will be delivered in 2019. A scoping meeting to draft the outline was held in August 2016.

In 2019 the IPCC will also finalize two Special Reports: on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere; and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The AR6 Synthesis Report will be finalized in the first half of 2022.