

Speaking notes for DSG

41st Session of the IPCC: Nairobi, 24 February 2015 (Honourable Minister, Executive Director of UNEP, IPCC Secretary, on behalf of the WMO Secretary General Michel Jarraud and my own)

- 2015 is an important for agreement on global policies ranging from Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development to a global climate policy agreement to which processes the WMO/UNEP co-sponsored IPCC and its co-sponsors are expected to contribute
- In Nairobi this week the Panel will consider the recommendations of the task group on the future work of the IPCC, and take the relevant decisions on the size, structure and compositions of the IPCC Bureau
- And towards the end of the year the Panel will elect a new Bureau, including a Chair and the co-chairs of the Working Groups and Task Force
- In that context, let me note that this is the last Plenary of the IPCC to be attended by Renate Christ as Secretary of the IPCC
- I'd like to thank her for her many years of tireless service to the IPCC, in the most rewarding and also challenging periods of its history.
- For the WMO, preparations are in hand for the World Meteorological Congress in May and June where we will take major decisions on our strategy for the next four years
- Among topics to be discussed by the Congress is a recommendation by the Commission on Climatology to standardise the baseline for the 30-year averages for temperatures, precipitation and other variables known as the climate normal. The proposal is for all countries to use the period 1981-2010 as a baseline and then update this baseline every 10 years, while maintaining 1961-1990 as a basis for monitoring and assessing long-term variability
- Decisions will also be taken on the World Climate Program activities including those of World Climate Research Program, the Global Climate Observing System, PROVIA with which you have had a dialogue on the outcomes of AR5, the identified research and observations gaps and how these programs should respond including their co-sponsors
- Not least among the priorities for research focus is the continued need for regional scale knowledge. Africa is making strides working closely with the WCRP CORDEX experiment and the recently created program Climate Research for Development (CR4D). This effort holds great promise for better understanding of the present and future climate in what everybody agrees is a climate vulnerable continent. This should also auger well for significantly improved climate knowledge products such as the recently released WMO The Climate in Africa 2013 - a first peer reviewed publication on the observed state of the Climate in Africa
- You might also be aware that seventeenth WMO congress will also discuss geongearing or climate engineering and make decisions on how to advance

a research, monitoring and decision framework working closely with other UN family entities to ensure a coherent approach to this issue

- It's perhaps also worth highlighting the research agenda being driven by close collaboration between the WCRP and the World Weather Research Program on polar predictability, sub-seasonal to seasonal scale predictions and High Impact Weather among others
- This is very much in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the UN-led initiative spearheaded by the WMO to guide the development and application of science-based climate information and services in support of decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors
- The initial priority areas of GFCS are Agriculture and Food Security; Disaster Risk Reduction; and Water Services, and the forthcoming World Meteorological Congress will consider a proposal to include Energy as an additional priority sector
- By promoting science-based decision-making, the GFCS is empowering governments, communities and companies to build climate resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and adapt to impacts
- Besides all these important internal activities, which will require the attention of the IPCC in future years the immediacy of the three processes I already mentioned required our continued and concerted effort of outreach to policy-makers and the general populace
- WMO would like to congratulate the IPCC on the concerted outreach efforts which have spanned the globe from universities and academic institutions, to television audiences, and indeed not least policy makers themselves in their processes especially the UNFCCC through the SBSTA and the Structured Expert Dialogues in Lima and Geneva more recently
- At the COP20 negotiations in Lima in December it was gratifying to hear how often AR5 was cited and see it referred to so clearly in the closing, let's work towards this being the case in Paris in December, in New York in September and in Sendai in March
- Thanks to UNEP, the co-sponsor of the IPCC together with WMO, for their help with this meeting, and best wishes for a productive meeting