

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

44th Session of the IPCC
Statement of IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee
UNCC, Bangkok, 17 October 2016

Before we start our meeting, I request you to rise and stand in silence for one minute to show our respect and condolences at the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand.

Thank you.

Besides our condolences, I would like to express our gratitude to the Thai authorities for all their assistance to bring about this meeting at this time of sadness and loss.

Your Excellency General Surasak Karnjanarat, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Ms Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

Ms Jacqueline McGlade, representative of UN Environment joining us remotely

Mr Florin Vladu, representing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC

Distinguished government representatives, Members of the IPCC Bureau, Friends

Welcome to Bangkok for this Session of the IPCC.

It's barely a year since we elected a new Bureau, and already our work is advancing fast on the products of the Sixth Assessment Cycle.

We have a packed agenda this week, but I would like to single out two items – the outline of 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; and the outline of the Methodology Report or Reports to refine the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

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With these two reports the IPCC will be providing valuable up-to-date information to policymakers that will enable them to understand and respond to the threat of climate change.

Both of these reports are highly policy-relevant. The report on 1.5°C responds to a request from COP21 related to the Paris Agreement, and is to be delivered in 2018 in time for the facilitative dialogue on the global stocktake later that year. It will provide a picture not only of the impacts of the more ambitious aspirational target reached in Paris, but explore the different routes that policymakers could take to get there.

The proposed refinement to the IPCC's greenhouse gas inventories guidelines, will provide critical methodologies for governments to measure their sources and sinks of emissions and thus to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

I would like to thank the IPCC Bureau members and the experts who took part in the scoping meetings for these two reports for producing their draft outlines, as well as the scientific steering committees and technical support units for their hard work of preparation. They have come up with solid results for your consideration. I commend their work to you and urge you to agree the scope and outlines they have prepared for you.

With these outlines, you will be firing the starting gun for the first products of this cycle, allowing us to launch the call for nominations for authors for these two reports already next month.

I would also like to thank the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for hosting us in these beautiful surroundings.

It's particularly appropriate that we are meeting in Asia, where so many millions have been lifted out of poverty through development. Countries in Asia are continuing to invest in energy capacity as part of this development. The IPCC's findings make it very clear that as the countries make these plans they should avoid locking in high-carbon infrastructure that could put the 2°C goal out of reach. The findings of the Fifth Assessment Report on the carbon budget can be an important resource to planners and policymakers in the region in this regard.

The last few weeks have demonstrated the increasing dynamism of international policymaking on climate change. After a wave of ratifications by nations big and small, the UN Secretary-General announced two weeks ago that the Paris Agreement will enter into force on November 4 – less than 11 months after it was concluded. The next day, agreement was reached on a global carbon offsetting scheme for the aviation industry to address the growth in its CO₂ emissions. And this

weekend governments in Kigali amended the Montreal Protocol to phase out hydrofluorocarbons, which some say could avoid as much as half a degree of future global warming. Dear Colleagues and Friends, policymakers have shown they are ready to act; now it's up to the IPCC to give them the robust scientific information that they need to do so. I wish you a successful and productive meeting here in Bangkok. I declare the 44th Session of the IPCC open.

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