

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**COP-21
OPENING STATEMENT AT HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
CHAIR OF IPCC
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015**

Your Excellency Mr Laurent Fabius, Chair of COP-21,

Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary-General,

Your Excellency Mr Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly,

[Your Excellency Mr Barnabas Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland, If on podium]

[Your Excellency Mr Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, If on podium]

[Your Excellency Mr Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tonga, If on podium]

Ms Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to address you today at the opening of the High Level Segment of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

The IPCC was established by UNEP and WMO in 1988 “to provide internationally co-ordinated scientific assessments of the magnitude, timing and potential environmental and socio-economic impact of climate change and realistic response strategies”.

Our message today is clear:

- The climate is already changing and we know it’s due to human activity.
- If we carry on like this, we risk increasingly severe and irreversible impacts: Rising seas, increasingly severe droughts and floods, food and water shortages, increased immigration from climate refugees, to name just a few.
- We know how to tackle climate change and we have the means – economic, technological and institutional. But the longer we wait the harder and more expensive it will be to overcome. If we act now, we will be able to create opportunities for a new economy and better environment now and for the future.

By the end of this year we may already have reached a temperature increase of 1 Degree Celsius. Whatever text you agree here in Paris, please be ambitious and start real action immediately! Climate change is already affecting the most vulnerable.

Science has shown that there is a problem, and science is also providing the solutions. We are moving from defining the issue to identifying solutions.

Addressing climate change should be seen as an opportunity to share a new economy which is sustainable and climate resilient, built on new and innovative technologies.

The IPCC can help by delivering scientific knowledge that will support:

1. Solutions
2. Opportunities
3. Transformation; and
4. Sustainable Development,

and can deliver these platforms of scientific findings for you to act on.

The IPCC is eager to engage with all stakeholders. While our major stakeholder is the policy and decision makers from the governments of the world, here assembled, we are committed to reach out to other groups that would benefit from access to robust and comprehensive science, including, but not limited to, the business sector and the general public.

The IPCC is just commencing its sixth scientific assessment cycle and therefore now is the ideal time for your direction and guidance.

Mr Chair,

The IPCC stands ready to continue providing policy relevant, scientifically sound and timely information to decision makers to implement the Paris outcomes.

Thank you and my sincere wishes for a successful outcome.