

**Check against delivery.**

**Statement by IPCC Chair, Hoesung Lee, during the opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
6 November 2017**

Just over a week ago the call for nominations for authors for the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report ended. I can inform you today that we received over 7,500 nominations. This tremendous response banishes any fears of "assessment fatigue" in the scientific community. These nominations show that we can draw on a superb range of talent and expertise for the IPCC's work, as implementation of the Paris Agreement begins.

The author teams selected from these lists will build an assessment around the outlines agreed for the three Working Group contributions in September.

Working Group I will cover observations of the changing state of the climate system, an assessment of human influence, near-term predictability and scenario-based projections of future changes.

It will assess how the climate system responds to perturbations, including the global cycles of energy, water and carbon, short-lived climate forcers, and sea level change. The Working Group I report will emphasize climate information relevant for regional impact and risk assessment, including extreme events.

Working Group II will assess the impacts of climate change, from a world-wide to a regional view of ecosystems and biodiversity, and of humans and their diverse societies, cultures, and settlements.

It will consider their vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of these natural and human systems to adapt to climate change, now and in the future, and so reduce climate-associated risks.

The Working Group II report will also present options for creating a sustainable future for all through an equitable and integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation efforts at all scales.

Working Group III builds on the Fifth Assessment Report through three innovations.

It will strengthen links between long-term global perspectives such as the long-term temperature goal and more immediate policy and investment needs. Separate but linked chapters on long-term and short-medium term futures support this approach. It will draw on a wider range of scientific disciplines shedding light on human behaviour and its link to climate change. It will set climate mitigation firmly in the context of sustainable development through introductory and synthesis chapters framing the report.

Meanwhile work continues apace on the Special Report on *Global Warming of 1.5°C*.

You invited the IPCC to prepare this report two years ago at COP21.

This special report, produced by all three IPCC working groups, assesses how the rise in global temperatures could be limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; the impacts of a 1.5 °C world compared with higher levels of warming; and the enabling conditions of meeting this target in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

The first order draft cited approximately 3,000 publications, two thirds of which have been published since the Fifth Assessment Report. The draft received 12,895 review comments from 489 expert reviewers in 61 countries. Authors are currently preparing the second order draft, which will go under government and expert review next January and February. The approval session is scheduled to take place in the first week of October 2018 in the Republic of Korea, in good time for the facilitative dialogue at COP24 next year.

The authors of our other special reports, on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and Climate Change and Land, have also started work. We will deliver these two reports in 2019.

2019 will also see the refinement to our methodologies on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

This will base measurements of emissions and removals on the most up-to-date science, underpinning confidence in the Paris Agreement.

Next year we will hold an expert meeting on short-lived climate forcers, which will support the work on inventories and the broader assessment.

We will integrate all these products in the Synthesis Report, to be released in 2022, following the three working group reports the year before, in time for the first Global Stocktake in 2023. The Panel will consider how we can align our work with the Stocktake at its next Session.

Distinguished delegates!

Over the past week we have heard from the World Meteorological Organization and U.N. Environment about the serious trends in temperatures and emissions. These timely reports underline the need for urgent action.

The IPCC assessments I have described will give policymakers the scientific information they need to take sound decisions and act.

We are now in the most ambitious work programme the IPCC has ever undertaken, delivering one or more policy-relevant products to you almost every year for the next five years.

You have heard the enthusiastic response of the scientific community to the IPCC's call. Scientists give their time and expertise generously to the IPCC. Producing our reports also has a financial cost. We rely on voluntary contributions from governments, and we gratefully acknowledge the developed and developing countries already supporting us.

Let me close with a plea:

Help us to help you respond to the challenges of climate change. Please urge your governments to fund the IPCC.

With your support and the demonstrated commitment of the scientific community, the IPCC is working hard to provide the scientific knowledge you need to develop sound responses and solutions to the challenge of climate change.

Thank you.

-Ends-

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