

Report to the
Fifth Conference of the Parties of the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
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Mr. Chairman, excellencies, distinguished delegates, it is a pleasure and honor for me to address you today. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change values its close collaboration with the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies, and prides itself on being responsive to addressing your needs. The current IPCC work program has been designed to provide the scientific and technical information that is needed to implement the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

As you debate the weighty issues associated with effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, let me remind you that it is not a question of whether the Earth's climate will change, but rather *when, where and by how much*. It is undisputed that the last decade has been the warmest this century, indeed the warmest for hundreds of years, and many parts of the world have suffered major heat-waves, floods, droughts and extreme weather events leading to significant economic losses and loss of life. While individual events cannot be directly linked to human-induced climate change, the frequency and magnitude of these types of events are expected to increase in a warmer world.

I would also like to remind you of some of the adverse impacts of changes in climate that are projected to occur in different parts of the world:

- First, arid and semi-arid land areas in Africa, the Middle East and Southern Europe become even more water stressed than they are today;
- Second, agricultural production in Africa and Latin America decreases;
- Third, the incidence of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, increases in tropical countries;
- Fourth, tens of millions of people will be displaced by rising sea levels in Small Island States and low-lying deltaic areas; and
- Fifth, major changes in the structure and functioning of critical ecological systems, particularly coral reefs and forests.

These adverse impacts will severely undermine the goal of sustainable development in many parts of the world, with developing countries, and the poor in developing countries, being most vulnerable.

In Kyoto, governments decided that actions were needed to limit greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized countries. It is clear that there are numerous domestic policies, practices and technologies in Annex I countries, and subject to further elaboration, the flexible market instruments, that can be used to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases in a wide range of economic sectors in a cost-effective manner. Now is the time for the ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol if the commitment targets are to be realized.

While the Kyoto Protocol will not stabilize the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, it is widely recognized that it is an important first step towards achieving the goal of Article 2 of the Convention. However realizing the ultimate goal of Article 2 will require, amongst other actions, enhanced public and private sector investments in energy research and development.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to bring to your attention what I believe is a potentially serious weakness in the approach that the international community is taking in addressing the global environmental issues of climate change, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, stratospheric ozone depletion, water resource degradation and

forest loss. The basic problem is that the scientific and policy communities have tended to treat these "global" environmental issues in isolation. This is a fundamental mistake because they are highly coupled. For example, changes in the Earth's climate can significantly affect the structure, functioning and geographic boundaries of ecological systems, leading to changes in genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Changes in the structure and functioning of ecological systems will in turn affect the Earth's climate by modifying the Earth's albedo and the biogeochemical cycling of a number of key greenhouse gases. Therefore, until these issues are addressed in a more integrated manner it will be difficult to formulate and implement an optimal set of policies, practices and technologies, and develop the most effective financing mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman, in the remainder of my presentation today I would like to briefly update you on the status on the work of the IPCC and on the potentially dire situation of the IPCC budget.

First, the Special Report on aviation and the global atmosphere has been approved. One of the primary conclusions was that aircraft emit gases and particles directly into the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere where they have an impact on atmospheric composition and contribute to climate change. The best estimate of the radiative forcing by aircraft in 1992 -- a measure of climate change -- is about 3.5% of the total radiative forcing by all human activities, projected to rise to between 3.5 and 15%, with a best estimate of 5%, by 2050 relative to the mid-range IPCC IS92a scenario. Further, the IPCC concluded that there is a range of options to reduce aviation emissions, including changes in aircraft and engine technology, fuel, operational practices, and regulatory and economic measures.

Second, the Special Report on technology transfer examines the flows of knowledge, experience and equipment among governments, private sector entities, financial institutions, NGOs, and research and education institutions, and the different roles that each of these stakeholders can play in facilitating the transfer of technologies to address climate change in the context of sustainable development. The draft Report concludes that the current efforts and established processes will not be sufficient to meet this challenge. It is clear that enhanced capacity is required in developing countries and that additional government actions can create the enabling environment for private sector technology transfers within and across national boundaries.

Third, the Special Report on emissions scenarios examines a wide range of plausible futures for greenhouse gas and aerosol precursor emissions over the next 100 years. The methodology for developing these new scenarios recognizes that there are interactions among the key determinants of population growth, economic growth, energy demand, energy prices and the level of research and development. The new scenarios do not include any additional climate policies but some do assume sulfur policies in a number of developing countries. The Report provisionally concludes that there is a very wide range of plausible emissions scenarios.

Fourth, the Special Report on land-use, land-use change, and forestry addresses a number of issues where the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will need to make key decisions before the relevant Articles of the Protocol can be implemented, particularly with respect to definitions, the accounting system, a monitoring and reporting system, and inventory guidelines. In addition, the Report provides an assessment of the experience to date of land use, land use change and forestry projects (largely AIJ projects), the future potential to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases through Articles 3.3, 3.4, 6 and 12, and a framework for evaluating the sustainable development implications of such activities.

Fifth, the philosophy and scope of the Third Assessment Report will:

- emphasize cross-sectoral issues, adaptation and the regional dimensions of climate change;
- place the issue of climate change more centrally within the concept of sustainable development; and
- identify the synergies and trade-offs between local, regional and global environmental issues, in particular the inter-linkages between climate change, biodiversity, water resources and land degradation.

Lastly. Mr. Chairman, I need to bring to the delegates attention the dire financial situation of the IPCC. This arises because the IPCC is responding to the large number of SBSTA requests for Special Reports coincident with the preparation of the TAR, and the increased participation of experts from developing countries. Unfortunately in spite of numerous requests for adequate budgetary support there are many OECD countries who are contributing little to nothing. This lack of financial commitment is rather disturbing given the incredible effort of the experts who give so freely of their time to assist the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. It is even more remarkable given the numerous interventions by Parties applauding the work of the IPCC and requesting the IPCC to undertake even more studies to support the negotiations. If the IPCC is to continue to serve the needs of the Parties additional governments will have to contribute to the IPCC Trust Fund, and some of those who routinely contribute will have

to increase their contributions. Additionally, the work program as defined by the GEF Council could be amended so that the GEF could be viewed as a source of potential funding. This would appear to be quite appropriate given the emphasis that IPCC is placing on capacity building – a high priority of the Parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. I appeal to each government representative at this meeting to help resolve this untenable budgetary situation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for allowing me to address you today and remind you that the climate of Planet Earth and the welfare of future generations is in your hands.
