

**WMO STATEMENT AT THE OPENING PLENARY
OF THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE IPCC**

by

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**Mr Rachmat Witoelar, Executive Chair National Council on Climate Change, Indonesia,
Dr Sri Woro Harijono, PR of Indonesia with WMO,
Mr A.A. Gde Agune, Mayor the Regent of Badung,
Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC,
Prof Joseph Alcamo, Representative of the Executive Director of UNEP,
Representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC),
Distinguished National IPCC Representatives,
Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations System and Partner Organizations,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Mr M. Jarraud, WMO Secretary-General, it is a pleasure to address the thirty first session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was co-established in 1988 by WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and which is now entering its twenty second year of successful history.

I wish to express WMO's appreciation to Indonesia, for hosting this session of the Panel, thereby demonstrating once more your country's commitment to collaborate with the efforts undertaken by WMO and the world scientific community, to meet the challenges faced by society on account of climate change and its impacts.

I would have preferred to only acknowledge Indonesia's key commitments and efforts since 1950 to contribute to WMO's mission. However, at this particularly painful moment for many of your fellow citizens, I would also like to convey WMO's and my own sympathies and

sadness for the recent devastating earthquake in Sumatra. It is Indonesia fate that your country is located within the “ring of fire” and so effective early warning and disasters response systems will always be a national priority.

I wish to greet Dr Rajendra Pachauri and all the delegates at this particularly important session which, as I understand, marks the launching of the Fifth Assessment Report. WMO closely accompanied the work of the IPCC during the Fourth Assessment Period, which received the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize and led to an unprecedented increase in the awareness of decision makers and the general public on the climate change issue and the need for countries to act collectively and individually in urgency.

The key IPCC messages have been widely publicized with the support of many nations and the United Nations, including the personal involvement of the UN Secretary-General, and they served as the basis for a powerful international mobilization, leading to the “Bali Action Plan” adopted by the UN Climate Change Conference at this same location nearly two years ago and now to the Copenhagen Conference.

As the specialized agency of the United Nations System with a mandate in weather, climate and water, and as IPCC co-founder and co-sponsor, WMO has been the principal provider of the scientific and technical information that underpins IPCC assessments, through the long-term and user-driven operational systems developed by WMO and its Members. WMO Programmes and the WMO co-sponsored Programmes such as the World Weather Watch Programme (WWW), the World Climate Programme (WCP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) provide the framework for the scientific research assessed in the context of the IPCC reports.

I also wish to seize the opportunity to thank the IPCC and Dr Pachauri for their recent key contributions to the success of the World Climate Conference Three (WCC-3), held in Geneva only two months ago. The WCC-3 was an outstanding occasion for all IPCC experts to interact with numerous colleagues worldwide.

The WCC-3 Conference High-level Segment, which counted with the presence of 12 Heads of State and Governments, adopted by acclamation a Declaration including the decision to establish a task force of high-level independent advisors to propose Global Framework for Climate Services specifics, so I am certain that IPCC experts will have a key role in the new process being set in motion as a consequence of the WCC-3 and the resulting Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) will contribute to strengthen science-based climate predictions and information services and to further raise climate sciences in the perspective of policy-makers and the public.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am fully confident that during its Fifth Assessment Cycle, the IPCC will continue to meet societal expectations by responding to a number of crucial questions for which precise answers are still pending. In particular, some key issues will be the effects of climate change at the regional or national levels and how they will affect the development of nations concerned. Another vital issue will be to achieve a better understanding of how impact-relevant climate events relate to climate change, in order to better respond to the needs of societies in a number of climate-sensitive activities and sectors.

In addition, I wish to recall the interest already expressed by the WMO Executive Council in terms of the IPCC special report on managing the risks of extreme events, which is now in preparation and will significantly contribute to climate change adaptation as well as to WMO's permanent efforts to support developing countries, in particular the Least-developed Countries (LDCs), since they are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts and to natural disasters.

Therefore, as you go about your important task of settling the AR5 scope, I am certain that you will allow sufficient space for the key issue of disaster risk reduction. Indeed, as many in the developing world are now realizing, disaster risk reduction is the one of most cost-effective strategy for climate change adaptation, so WMO is confident that, as a cross-cutting theme, it will continue to emerge strongly, through the AR5 particularly WG I and WG II reports and WG III as well.

Finally, I wish to reiterate WMO's appreciation for the hard and productive work of all IPCC experts as well as WMO's determination to continue supporting the Panel through its programmes and by facilitating the involvement of scientists from both developed and developing countries, in all domains where the best expertise is required to meet the climate change challenge.

I would like to again congratulate Indonesia for hosting this key session and to wish you a very successful meeting in Bali.

Thank you.
