

## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
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### Welcome Address

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Dr Rajendra Pachauri  
State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth  
State Secretary Georg Schütte  
Dr Deon Terblanche  
Dr Jacqueline McGlade  
Distinguished Delegates from 110 Countries  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six years ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change convened in Budapest and decided to initiate its 5th Assessment Cycle, during which a report is to be prepared. This report shall assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the mitigation of climate change.

This report has been delivered to you, the Panel. It is the result of a lot of work by many distinguished scholars from around the world. Since 2011, the author team has produced a succession of draft reports which were thoroughly reviewed by experts and governments. During three extensive review rounds, more than 38,000 comments have been collected. They were all considered by the author team and under the critical eyes of our review editors. Authors and review editors involved in this process invested a lot of time and expertise, and I want to express my sincerest gratitude for their hard and fruitful work.

Moreover, I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the government of Germany for the funding of the Working Group III Technical Support Unit, as well as for organizing this approval session together with IPCC Secretariat.

Distinguished delegates,

the report is long and your governments - as clients with limited time - rightly demand a concise summary. In order to make the complex material more accessible, the 16 chapters, more than 2000 pages including 262 diagrams, were distilled into a Technical Summary, and then condensed by a factor of about 50 relative to the underlying report, into a concise Summary for Policymakers. This plenary is an exercise in clarifying the key findings of this assessment.

It is a Summary for Policymakers written by scientists. In Working Group III, we often used the image of the mapmaker and navigator to illustrate the division of labour between both: the scientist explores different paths to certain goals and characterizes these paths in a map; but it is the policymaker who makes the decision on which path to follow.

The first four chapters of the report help to clarify this division of labour. In chapters 1 to 4, our authors assessed the many different perspectives used in the literature to analyse mitigation. By showing these different perspectives and how and why they differ, these opening chapters help to increase transparency over the many theories, concepts, and methods that are used to measure the landscape of climate change mitigation. This is very important for navigators to know because different methods of measurement lead to different maps.

As a first application of our measurement tools, authors of Chapter 5 looked into the past to draw and understand the paths the world has evolved along and why it did so. Here again, many alternative

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perspectives were used to display humankind's traces in the atmosphere, including cumulative emissions and emissions per geographic and economic regions and per economic sectors and gases. They show that despite mitigation efforts, anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions grew more rapidly from 2000 to 2010 than in each of the previous three decades.

Authors of Chapter 6 then draw very long-term maps into the future, to explore and characterize pathways, including their cost, co-benefits, and risks, that lead up to different levels of atmospheric stabilization. The literature here shows that deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to limit warming to 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels remain possible, yet will entail challenging technological, economic, institutional, and behaviour change. Notably, similar challenges would have to be faced for less ambitious mitigation over a longer period of time.

Stabilizing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at low levels requires mitigation throughout the economy. The literature assessed in chapters 7 to 12 greatly increase the sectoral resolution of mitigation maps. They show in detail the landscape along these pathways and highlight the very diverse aspects of mitigation in energy systems, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture-forestry-and-other-land-use, and human settlements.

Finally, chapters 13 to 16 offer insights on policies and institutions that navigators could use to steer economies along pathways at all levels of governance. The overall conclusion is that ambitious mitigation will require policies sufficiently effective to induce fundamental shifts in investment flows. Moreover, as a global commons problem, effective climate change mitigation requires international cooperation.

Distinguished delegates,

Choices on mitigation can be informed by insights from engineering, natural science, and social sciences, including decision theory. Climate policy not only involves scientific facts but it also raises many issues of ethics, concerned with the development of human wellbeing, with the protection of cultural and natural values, with equity, fairness, justice and rights among countries and individuals. This is why it was the aim of Working Group III within the Fifth Assessment Cycle to deliver robust mitigation maps that inform the navigators about the implications of alternative pathways, each with its own bundle of trade-offs, while clearly marking implied value assumptions and uncertainties involved in the making of maps. The aim was to be policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. Condensing, communicating and clarifying such multi-dimensional findings poses a challenge at least as great as producing them.

The author team and the Technical Support Unit, my Co-Chair colleagues Ramon Pichs-Madruga and Youba Sokona and myself, we are all excited to finally meet you here in Berlin and to complete the task that you have given us six years ago. It is our collective assignment to produce a Summary for Policymakers that presents the findings in the possibly most relevant and simple way.

I wish all of us open and constructive discussions, patience with each other, and strong coffee during our breaks.

Thank you

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