



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

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Statement on behalf of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

At the Opening Ceremony of the 40th Session of the IPCC

Copenhagen, 27-31 October 2015

Excellencies,

Co-Chairs,

Esteemed Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, I am pleased to address the Opening of the 40th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This event marks another pivotal moment in the fight against climate change as we prepare to adopt the *Synthesis of the 5th Assessment Report (AR5) and Summary for Policy Makers*, which will provide the scientific foundations for policy response and will shine light on how to meet the climate challenge. This is happening just weeks ahead of the convening of the UN Climate Conference in Lima where negotiators will endeavor to broker what will hopefully be a break-through climate agreement in 2015.

We commend the IPCC for the extraordinary efforts undertaken to deliver this up-to-date, definitive and comprehensive assessment of the impacts and risks of climate change and the opportunities for response.

AR5 provides conclusive scientific evidence that human activities continue to cause unprecedented changes in the Earth's climate with the conclusion that we need to elevate the level of political commitment and action if we are to efficiently manage the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Building on AR5 scenarios, UNEP's soon-to-be launched 2014 *Emissions Gap Report* finds that to stay within the 2°C limit, carbon neutrality must be achieved between 2055 and 2070 and that total greenhouse gas emissions must shrink to net zero between 2080 and 2100. This year's edition focuses on the global carbon emissions budget for staying within the 2°C limit while updating the near-term emissions gap situation.

Inaction now in curbing greenhouse gas emissions will require costlier interventions later to keep global temperature rise below 2°C this century. Adaptation costs for Africa alone could reach \$50 billion per year by 2050 – almost half the value of the global Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The proposed Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals underscore the multiple synergies between development goals and climate change mitigation.

For example, efforts to eradicate energy poverty and promote universal access to cleaner forms of energy, if fully realized, would go a long way toward bringing the world back on a path that is consistent with the Climate Convention’s temperature target.

UNEP’s work on ecosystems-based adaptation shows that the response to climate change is not only a challenge and a cost, but is also an opportunity to move towards a more inclusive green economy in which measures which may have immediate benefits in terms of reducing emissions also translate into multiple benefits in public health, energy efficiency, food security and the ability to invest in mitigation measures while adapting to climate impacts and building long-term resilience.

Linking development with climate mitigation also helps developing countries “lock-in” energy efficient, low-emissions infrastructure for the coming decades.

Emissions reduction potentials in 2030 amount to no less than 29 GtCO₂e, with the largest potential in the power generation sector and energy efficiency.

However, there are barriers that need to be overcome before emissions reduction options achieve full potential, most notable among those is the lack of adequate, large-scale financial incentives.

There is evidence, nonetheless, that significant public and private investments are beginning to flow into energy efficiency with up to US \$365 billion in 2012 and renewable energy with US \$254 billion the same year.

At the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit there was no shortage of goodwill and action to back it from the investment sector.

The global financial sector pledged billions of dollars’ worth of voluntary action. More than 340 of the world’s top institutional investors, managing US\$24 trillion, urged Heads of State to provide stable, reliable and economically meaningful carbon pricing that helps redirect investment as well as develop plans to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels.

Leading investors working with UNEP’s Finance Initiative pledged to reduce the carbon footprint of their investment portfolios by US \$100 billion and to measure and disclose the carbon footprint of a total of half a trillion US\$ within the same time frame.

It is clear public finance is pivotal to redirect investment into a low-carbon future. It is also clear that capital markets, which control trillions of dollars, could be directed towards a green economy to close

the funding gap for low-carbon energy and transport infrastructure, particularly in developing and emerging economies.

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Any climate agreement will need to be backed by innovative action and supportive voluntary initiatives.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) led the first global effort to treat short-lived climate pollutants as an urgent and collective challenge. It started with 7 partners in 2012 and today it has 80. With its rapid growth, this global effort to reduce emissions of black carbon, methane and many hydrofluorocarbons has already touched numerous sectors of society in the effort to slow the rate of near-term global warming and protect human health and the environment.

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) represents another building block in a low-carbon future by accelerating the use of existing and new technologies that can improve the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in developing countries who are dealing with the impacts of climate change on a daily basis.

In the forestry-agriculture-climate change nexus, last year's Warsaw Framework for REDD+ — backed by pledges of US \$280 million — included a significant set of decisions on ways to help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the degradation of forests, which account for around one fifth of all human-generated emissions.

This year, at the Climate Summit, governments pledged to restore over 30 million hectares of degraded forest and committed to more than double the 150 million hectare forest restoration target of the Bonn Challenge – which could add approximately US \$85 billion to national and local economies and remove an additional one billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year.

Agriculture is another critical sector, as direct emissions are currently responsible for 11 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions – even more if its indirect emissions are taken into account. UNEP's International Resource Panel's assessment of global land use shows that changes in land use and land cover due to expansion of global cropland is accelerating climate change through the release of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases including nitrous oxide. However, this trend can be reversed through sustainable consumption and production actions such as adopting best management practices in agricultural production and implementation of policy instruments that addresses food waste and consumption.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In a few weeks, governments will meet in Lima to set the foundations for a new climate agreement, armed with the findings of the IPCC report, which leave little doubt that the cost of inaction is unsurmountable in terms of lives and livelihoods.

From UNEP we extend our support to the work of the IPCC as your assessments continue to inform, guide and provide the strong scientific foundation for political – and voluntary – action on climate change.

On behalf of UNEP, I wish you a very successful session and may your voice be heard loud and clear as you speak to the world at this critical moment in time.

Thank you.