

Check against delivery

**Opening Statement by Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, to SBSTA, COP 21
Tuesday, 1 December 2015**

Chair, Excellencies, Delegates

It is a great honour for me as Chair of the IPCC to address you this morning.

As we start this critically important conference, let us recall the key findings of the IPCC in its last assessment:

- We know the climate is changing and we know why: human activity such as burning fossil fuel and deforestation.
- The climate is already changing, and with it weather patterns, our oceans and the rest of nature. If we carry on like this, we risk severe and irreversible impacts on food supplies, jobs and homes – all that we hold dear.
- We know how to tackle climate change and we have the means – economic, technological and institutional. But the longer we leave it, the harder it will be.

These findings, reflecting the work of hundreds of IPCC authors, and through them the entire world scientific community, should underpin all our deliberations this week.

We know that the costs of inaction are great. And we also know that tackling climate change brings many co-benefits, including for public health.

Let me add as an economist that the low-carbon stable-climate world we can build will be very different to today's economy. This will be a world of new business opportunities to share.

Science is the foundation of this Convention. That is why the IPCC has a special responsibility to cooperate with the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

For instance, the IPCC leadership and authors worked intensively with SBSTA and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on the Structured Expert Dialogue. I believe this has helped provide negotiators with an in-depth understanding of the scientific issues.

We have also worked with SBSTA on the Research Dialogue. This is particularly important for the future work of the IPCC. In the Sixth Assessment cycle we will seek to fill gaps in our regional knowledge to make our findings more immediately relevant to all our members. That is why we want to enhance the involvement of scientists from developing countries in our future reports.

I look forward to continuing the IPCC's close cooperation with SBSTA.

Let me close by mentioning two other priorities for the IPCC.

Christiana Figueres told us "Thanks for the Summary for Policymakers. Now how about a Summary for the Citizens of the World?" Climate change affects everyone and we know we must improve the way we communicate. We are working on meeting Christiana's challenge and a communications framework will be built around the sixth assessment report, not just considered at its completion.

Lastly, there will always be more to know about climate change. But increasingly we must look at the possible solutions for dealing with it. The IPCC must provide policymakers with options to make informed choices. That goes for businesses and individuals too. A greater focus on solutions and opportunities will be all the more important after this conference concludes.

I wish you all the best for a successful conference.