CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Opening remarks to IPCC side event
By Hoesung Lee, IPCC Chair
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The IPCC – the UN Climate Science body – is currently engaged in the most ambitious work programme in its history of nearly 30 years.

That includes the Special Report on 1.5ºC that Parties to this Convention requested at COP21.

Authors are now working on the second order draft of that report, reflecting more than 12,000 comments received on the first draft.
It will be delivered in October, a key input into the Talanoa Dialogue, and we look forward to detailed discussions at COP24 next year.
I can't pre-judge what will be in the final report, but allow me to address some of the ideas you hear in the corridors here: that technology solutions will be privileged, or a given goal is already out of reach.

Solutions are the lodestar running through all the reports we are now preparing.
Yes, technology is part of that.
But look at the agreed outline of the 1.5ºC report.
As with all the assessments in this cycle, sustainable development provides the context.

Our Fifth Assessment Report showed that there are profound uncertainties around socio-economic factors, related to technology development and deployment, economic growth and governance.

There is thus little basis for taking an optimistic or pessimistic view about the feasibility of a particular temperature goal.
What is relevant is to make explicit the assumptions behind mitigation pathways associated with temperature goals and evaluate those assumptions.
The cost of mitigation is seen as the cost of reducing emissions from a baseline of rising energy consumption to a carbon-neutral level.

But the assumption that energy consumption and emissions will continue to rise needs to be tested.
A continued rise in emissions would lead to damaging climate change, whose impacts on the economy would reduce energy consumption, invalidating those very baseline assumptions.
The picture is further complicated by the effect of falling alternative energy costs, increased energy efficiency, and economic incentives to develop new green technologies.
A lower emissions baseline implies a narrower emissions gap.

IPCC Secretariat
c/o WMO · 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix · C.P: 2300 · CH-1211 Geneva 2 · Switzerland
telephone +41 22 730 8208 / 54 / 84 · fax +41 22 730 8025 / 13 · email IPCC-Sec@wmo.int · www.ipcc.ch

In fact the existence of an emissions gap implies the existence of a potential market for carbon-neutral technologies.
Thus tackling climate change provides economic opportunities.
The main goal of the Sixth Assessment Report is to present a clear link between climatic policy and economic development.

Of course, the energy transition implied by the Paris Agreement targets has many challenges.
I just want to show that things are not always as clear as our assumptions suggest.

Besides the 1.5ºC report, we are working on two other special reports – on ocean and the cryosphere, and on land use, an update to our greenhouse gas inventory guidelines, and the three working group contributions and Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report.
In total eight critical reports in five years.

We do this through your voluntary support.
Firstly, scientists volunteering their time and expertise to work as IPCC authors.
And even more scientists playing the vital role of expert reviewers.
You will hear more later about this and other ways the scientific community can work with us.

And we also rely on voluntary financial contributions from our member governments.
I've described our ambitious work programme.

Even with the voluntary contribution of scientists, our reports still cost something – holding meetings and supporting the participation of experts and government representatives from developing countries.
For instance the 1.5ºC report will cost nearly $1.5 million.

Our annual budget of $5-8 million represents incredible value given the deliverables.
You will benefit from our work.
Please help us to help you.
Encourage your governments to support the IPCC.

Thank you for your attention.