

Statement by Jian Liu, Director, United Nations Environment Programme
to the 49th Session of the IPCC,
Kyoto, Japan 8 May 2019

Distinguished dignitaries;

H.E. Mr Yoshiaki Harada, Minister of the Environment, Japan (by video)

Mr Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto City

Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC

Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC

Florin Vladu, Manager UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate Change)

Distinguished delegates, dear friends

It is a pleasure to be here today to represent the United Nations Environment Programme at another crucial juncture in the work of the IPCC as you will consider the adoption and acceptance of the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories.

We will spend the next days in a both stunningly beautiful venue which and one which is also steeped in climate change history. Many of us were here in 1997 for the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Government of Japan for its gracious and generous hosting of this meeting.

Last year's IPCC Plenary in Incheon and the historic approval of the 1.5 report ushered in a time of unprecedented activity for the IPCC and the global climate change agenda.

Shortly after Incheon meeting, UNEP's Emissions Gap report was published telling us that even with the pledges made under the Paris Agreement, global temperatures could still rise by up to 3.4°C this century, forcing people to adapt to extreme new weather patterns.

Decision-makers then came together for COP-24 in Katowice in December and in March this year the world's environmental leaders gathered for the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

At UNEA, the Global Environment Outlook was published - the most comprehensive and rigorous assessment on the state of the environment - warning that damage to the planet is so dire that people's health will be increasingly threatened unless urgent action is taken.

The recently published **WMO** Statement on the **State of the Global Climate** in **2018** highlights record sea level rise, as well as exceptionally high land and ocean temperatures over the past four years.

On 23 September, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene the UN Climate Action Summit, calling on all leaders to bring to

the table **concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050.**

Let me note with much respectful astonishment that in addition to all these activities, the IPCC is set to consider the Refinement of the Methodology Report, as well as the special report on *Climate Change and Land* and the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*.

It needs to be stated again – IPCC’s challenges and achievements in this cycle are unprecedented.

IPCC continues to be the science – policy backbone of efforts to tackle global climate change.

The absolute focus of this meeting will be consideration of the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories.

But you will also discuss other issues of importance, not only to the IPCC but the global community as a whole, including the report from the IPCC Task Group for Gender. **The message from the top is very clear – we will not achieve peace or any of the UN’s development goals for 2030 without the full and equal participation of women.**

I wish you all a good meeting with ambitious and groundbreaking outcome.

The world expects and requires no less of IPCC.