

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**Event Name:** IPCC 50**Date/Time:** 2 August 2019**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland**Expectation:** Statement at the opening of the Plenary, four minutes.

Mr. Chair,

Ms. Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General, WMO, Mr. Jian Liu, Director, Science Division, UN Environment, Your Excellency, Mr. Marc Chardonens, Director, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Mr. Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of IPCC, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC secretariat, I would like to thank the IPCC, the WMO and the government of Switzerland for welcoming us here in Geneva.

In this era of implementation of the Paris Agreement, **there has never been a more urgent need for science to inform climate action.**

[The Special Report on Climate Change and Land - Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems]

The **Special Report** on Climate Change and Land will provide policy makers and practitioners with the **best available science on land use** – a crucial element for climate action.

Governments are eagerly awaiting the findings of the report to better understand the **consequences of a warming world on land and people.**

The report will **inform their adaptation and mitigation response options** and will **guide them on enabling these options** and in **acting in the near-term** in the land sector.

[Need for increased ambition]

This report adds to the clear and irrefutable science, which tells us that change is necessary.

For stabilizing global temperatures at 1.5 degrees we need to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, which requires deep transformative policies and measures.

This includes in the **way we produce and use energy**, in the **way we use the land and feed our population**, in the **way we build and manage our cities**, in the **way we make progress in industry**, in the **way we behave and more**.

The **Paris Agreement** reflects the world's collective agreement that change is needed, and remains **the global framework going forward**.

But we've never faced a challenge like climate change. Never has humanity had to achieve so much in so little time.

So, we believe that 2019 is **not about proving change is possible**, it's **about accelerating that change**. And the special report that will be considered for adoption at this session will provide the basis for doing so in the land sector.

The **Secretary General's Climate Action Summit** in September is about accelerating this change and increasing ambition in mitigation, adaptation and finance.

The Summit is the first of **two very important events this year** designed to accelerate change—but they are part of the same process.

The **Summit will feed into the overall climate negotiations process that follows immediately at COP25 in Santiago**. Chile is already calling it the COP of Action.

This is where we will incorporate the results of the Summit.

It's also where we will continue supporting ambitious Long-Term Strategies and, specifically, more ambitious NDCs, which are due by early next year.

As you can see, the Summit and COP25, along with several regional climate weeks and other global events happening this year, are all part of a bigger picture—a larger process—designed to drive the accelerated change we need.

[Collaboration with IPCC]

Looking back on 2019 thus far, we can see that our collaboration has been very effective.

We would like to **thank the IPCC for its participation in the summer session of the subsidiary bodies**, including in the 11th SBSTA Research Dialogue and the SBSTA-IPCC Special Event on 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

The SBSTA Chair hosted an **informal meeting with the science community** on the margins of the SB session, in which input from the IPCC and WMO was much welcomed.

As you may know, the **SBSTA considered the IPCC SR1.5**, and expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the IPCC and the scientific community for responding to the invitation of the COP and providing the report, which reflects the best available science.

The SBSTA provided a safe space for Parties to express views on how to strengthen scientific knowledge on global warming of 1.5 °C and agreed that its work on this matter has been completed.

[Expectations for COP 25]

For the remainder of this year in the UNFCCC process, there are, in addition to **overwhelming need for more climate ambition**, two main items of focus.

The **first** area of focus is completing work on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. We need resolution on Article 6 by the end of 2019. Solid rules for carbon markets are needed and businesses are looking for positive signals from governments that they will do this.

Second, we will focus on **completing the technical items that will enhance and strengthen the climate regime towards implementation**.

This includes, for example, work on transparency and loss and damage. Other technical work remains as well.

While we are looking ahead to Chile and to COP25, we must ensure our remaining pre-2020 work is completed as well.

We look forward to the participation of IPCC at the Climate Change Conference in **Santiago**.

Two **SBSTA-IPCC special events** will be organized to introduce the key findings of the Special Report of Climate Change and Land and on Ocean and Cryosphere to Parties.

The annual **SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group** meeting will also take place in Santiago, and will provide an opportunity, as always, for Presiding officers and secretariats to discuss collaboration and how to continuously and effectively work together at the science-policy interface.

[Closing]

In closing, I would like to express again our appreciation to IPCC for preparing the **Special Report on Climate Change and Land**.

We are committed to working with you on enhancing the flow of scientific information into the UNFCCC process, to shed light on both the climate changes we face and the solution.

Thank you and I wish you a successful session!
