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Scoping Meeting for the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report

Singapore, 21 October 2019

Statement by IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee at the opening session

It is a very great pleasure for me to welcome you to this Scoping Meeting for the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report.

Let me start by thanking Minister Masagos for Singapore's generous hosting of this meeting as well as the hosting of the IPCC Bureau Session that follows later in the week.

Singapore is an active partner and contributor to international climate science and diplomacy.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Minister Masagos at several key occasions over the years.

I remember the first meeting with you at the Paris COP in 2015.

There you said how the IPCC's reports had helped you to take strategic decisions on the capacity expansion of water reservoirs for Singapore, which lacks any significant, accessible natural aquifers.

You highlighted specifically that the IPCC's integrated focus on socioeconomic and natural parameters helped you greatly in framing the national policies for environment and water resources.

Thank you, Minister Masagos, for the confidence and trust in our work.

We sincerely hope that our new synthesis report, the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which we are here to design, will help you and your colleagues

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around the world to find the best solutions for the rapid transition we need for climate stabilization.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this scoping meeting the IPCC has reached the halfway mark of this assessment cycle.

We have completed the three special reports and methodology report, which achieved an extraordinary resonance all over the world.

This reminds us that the audience for IPCC reports extends beyond governments, policymakers and the scientific community to other stakeholders: to decision-makers in cities, business and industry, indeed civil society as a whole, young people, and the public at large.

Currently our work is accelerating on the Working Group contributions to AR6.

The Synthesis Report you will outline this week will pull all these products together.

We will make this Synthesis Report not only a value-added document for policymakers, providing the best available science, as did all previous synthesis reports, but also a more useful resource for policy leaders around the globe.

Through this Synthesis Report we will help mend the disconnect between the scientific understanding of climate change on the one hand, and the realities of climate action on the other.

And this Synthesis Report will provide policymakers with the most up-to-date scientific knowledge on climate change as they prepare for the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement in 2023.

This puts a great responsibility on all of us at this meeting.

We will work together to shape a document which may be the most policy-relevant in the IPCC's history. And we will do it in a constructive, respectful and inclusive fashion.

We are in this together to make it happen, with you the experts, the Bureau members including myself, the IPCC vice-chairs, the co-chairs of the Working Groups and Taskforce on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and the IPCC Secretariat and the Working Group Technical Support Units.

Before closing, let me point out that there was a tremendous investment in the preparation of this scoping meeting by the Scientific Steering Committee and the Secretariat with the support of the Working Group Technical Support Units.

I am truly grateful to the colleagues in the Scientific Steering Committee, the Secretariat and Technical Support Units for their great contributions.

And of course, we again express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Singapore, the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources for making all this possible.

I look forward to a constructive and fruitful three days with you to launch our work on the Synthesis Report.

Thank you for your attention.

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