

Event Name: IPCC-52

Date/Time: 24 February 2020

Location: Paris, France

Expectation: Statement at the opening of the Plenary, four minutes.

Your Excellency Ms. Élisabeth Borne, Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France,

Prof. Hoesung Lee, Chair of IPCC,

Your Excellency Mr. José Cardoso dos Ramos Cassandra,

President of the Autonomous Region of Principe Island

Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé e Príncipe

Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO,

Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, WMO,

MS. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN

Environment Programme,

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 and UNESCO for welcoming us here in Paris.

It is a pleasure to be here and to share **our perspective on 2020**, soon after COP25 in Madrid.

[2020]

2020 is a critical year for addressing climate change, for protecting biodiversity, for the Sustainable Development Goals and for the health, safety and long-term prosperity of humanity.

We have looked to 2020 since the Paris Agreement was adopted **five years ago**:

- It is the year work on one phase—pre-2020 climate action—concludes and the next phase begins.
- It is also the year when nations must submit **new or revised climate action plans (NDCs)** that, in no uncertain terms, must be stronger than they currently are.

There was a sense, **in 2015**, that the positive energy coming out of Paris had finally set the world on the right track. It was a multilateral success story, adopted with unprecedented speed. It was a time of great optimism.

Five years later, the world has changed. Politics and Leadership has changed. Climate change also morphed from a serious challenge to a full-blown emergency – one affecting almost every part of the world.

In just over one year, we have had three IPCC Special Reports – one on achieving the 1.5°C global warming, one on land and one on oceans and the cryosphere.

We learned from those reports that: the oceans are acidifying, the land is under pressure, the soil is degrading, crops are becoming less nutritious, desertification is spreading, the ice caps are melting and sea level is rising, and we are destroying biodiversity.

Climate change is not slowing down, and we are not acting with enough urgency to implement the far-reaching transformation needed to address it. Never has the gap between reality and action been greater.

People are frustrated. We stand at a crossroad. We have the luxury of deciding whether we chose the path of hope or the path of despair.

This brings us to **COP25**, which achieved some positive results:

- **Science and IPCC were very present in Madrid** and the latest scientific findings have been communicated in a way that people understood.
- Parties and non-State actors expressed the need for more climate ambition and agreed to improve the ability of the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change.
- Parties made decisions in areas including technology, oceans and agriculture, gender and capacity building.
- A large group of countries, regions, cities, businesses and investors signaled their intention to achieve net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050, as part of the Climate Ambition Alliance led by Chile.
- Also rallying under the Climate Ambition Alliance, 114 nations signaled their intention to submit an enhanced climate action plan in 2020.

Yet, **we recognize that COP25 did not achieve the results many wanted.**

- We were disappointed about the lack of agreement on the guidelines for the much-needed carbon market.

- Parties must also address the **calls from developing countries for enhanced support in finance, technology and capacity-building.**

We need political-level engagement and a willingness to work together despite differences, to reach agreements towards more ambitious climate action in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.

The Paris Agreement is already operational, with the bulk of operating guidelines in place. To unleash its full potential, Parties must complete their outstanding work and continue working towards enhanced ambition in 2020.

It won't be easy, but it's absolutely necessary.

[IPCC-52 Expectations]

In this context, **there has never been a more urgent need for science to inform climate action.**

Governments are eagerly awaiting for the findings of the Sixth Assessment Report to shed light on the climate

changes we are and will face and, most importantly, on the solutions to address these changes.

The **outline of the Synthesis Report of AR6** you will finalize here will provide the basis for presenting to policy-makers near- and mid-term action for implementing the far-reaching transformation needed to address climate, as well as the long-term climate and development futures.

The Synthesis Report will inform **the second periodic review** of the long-term global goal under the Convention and **the first global stocktake** under the Paris Agreement. To this end, AR6 and its Synthesis Report will provide a key input to the addressing policy relevant questions such as:

- How are we progressing collectively on implementing the Paris Agreement and what options we have to accelerate this progress?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for achieving the long-term global goal?
- What is the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by Parties in order to achieve the long-term global goal?

At this session you will also take a **decision on organization of the future work of IPCC in light of the global stocktake**. While you still have many options to consider, we look forward to your decision that will allow IPCC to provide a timely and substantive product as a input to the second global stocktake.

[Closing]

In closing, I would like to express again our appreciation to IPCC for preparing the Special Reports on Climate Change and Land and on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

We are committed to working with you on enhancing the flow of scientific information into the UNFCCC process. **The review of the principles governing the IPCC work**, which will be initiated here, provides an opportunity to further strengthen our collaboration.

Thank you and I wish you a successful session!
