

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**53<sup>rd</sup> (bis) Session of the IPCC, 22-26 March 2021**

**Opening Statement by IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee**

Distinguished Government Representatives, Dear Colleagues

Welcome to this 53<sup>rd</sup> (bis) Session of the IPCC.

This is the second time the Panel has met in a remote format, following the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session earlier this year dedicated to the Budget.

This form of working imposes extra demands on all of us.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for all the work they have done to ensure that this meeting can take place efficiently and inclusively, and drawing on the experiences and feedback from our unprecedented virtual and hybrid meetings of the past 12 months. Last week we completed the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Bureau in virtual format and we are preparing for a further meeting of the Bureau in two weeks dedicated to planning for the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of Working Group I.

And I would like to thank the Panel for your flexibility and open-mindedness that allows us to continue the work of the IPCC in these challenging circumstances.

Inclusivity underpins the work of the IPCC. The Secretariat has worked hard to provide the technical infrastructure and support so that you can all participate in this meeting.

Inclusivity is not only a question of technology. I commend the Secretariat for planning the sessions of this meeting to share the burden of unsocial working hours among the different time zones.

We have a packed agenda over the next three days.

One of the most important items will be the strategic planning schedule. The Secretariat's proposals have been thoroughly reviewed by the Bureau last week and the document now reflects the Bureau's comments.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for all their work in compiling the two documents for this agenda item, including the INF note on the implications of COVID-19, and also thank the ExCom and TSUs for their invaluable contributions to that work.

This has provided us with a sound overview of the options for conducting our work under the current circumstances, and the various practical implications.

We will also be addressing the review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work, and hearing a series of progress reports on the full range of IPCC activities.

I take this opportunity to thank the Working Group and TFI co-Chairs, respective TSUs and in particular the authors who volunteer their time and expertise for their great efforts to deliver under the current challenging circumstances.

I wish you fruitful and productive discussions and declare the 53<sup>rd</sup> (bis) Session of the IPCC open.

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