

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

IPCC AR6 Working Group I press conference 9 August 2021

Opening remarks by IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee

Firstly, I would like to recall that today is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

IPCC assessments draw on and respect indigenous knowledge all over the world.

We recognize that traditional agricultural practices can be resilient to climate and non-climate stressors, and indigenous knowledge systems and practices allow local people to adapt to many climatic changes.

I would also like to inform you that this report is dedicated to the memory of Sir John Houghton, one of the key figures in the creation of the IPCC in 1988, who served as Chair and as Co-Chair of Working Group I, and who died in April last year.

And the Interactive Atlas, one of the innovative aspects of this report, is dedicated to the memory of Gemma Teresa Narisma, one of its coordinating lead authors, who sadly passed away in March this year.

The report that we are presenting today is the result of an unprecedented effort by the IPCC community.

On top of the intense efforts required for any IPCC report, we have faced the challenge of completing the assessment in a pandemic which obliged us to shoulder not only extra work, but develop new ways of working to get the job done.

This was an unprecedented effort, but we finished on time, with greater participation than usual, and have delivered a strong and clear scientific assessment of climate change.

Many thanks to the IPCC authors who took on this responsibility to deliver the report, and to the Working Group I Bureau, Technical Support Unit and the IPCC Secretariat who made this possible.

Let me also thank the governments of France and China for their generous support of the TSU, and of Spain for its support of the Interactive Atlas.

And thanks to our member governments who provided us with the necessary guidance so that we could hold a virtual approval session, and then participated in the meeting in a spirit of cooperation and collegiality to approve the report.

IPCC reports are intended to serve policymakers, and it is particularly rewarding to see the wealth of policy-relevant information in this report, for instance the regional focus and regional data, that will support policymakers in their risk assessments.

This focus on regional information, with new chapters and the Interactive Atlas, is one of the many innovative aspects of the report. Others include dedicated chapters on human influence on climate, and on the interaction of a changing climate with extreme weather events.

This report will serve as a timely new evidence base for negotiators at the COP26 negotiations starting in less than 3 months.

It will be a valuable toolbox for negotiators as they consider the level of ambition at COP26, and, together with the rest of the Sixth Assessment Report, as they prepare for the Global Stocktake.

This report, *Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis*, expands our knowledge of attribution of climate change, including the human contribution to extreme weather events. And it provides us with an improved understanding of climate change, including warming, past, present and future.

It tells us that it is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change, and making extreme weather events more frequent and severe.

It shows that climate change is affecting every region on our planet.

And it explains that strong, rapid and sustained reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions would be required to limit global warming.