



## **Statement at Opening of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of IPCC**

I congratulate IPCC members for their valuable work in providing the scientific base for policymakers to understand the science of climate change allowing them to make informed decisions to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Thousands of people throughout the world contribute to the research work included in the IPCC reports.

And scientists volunteer their time to assess the incredible number of scientific papers published each year.

The work of Parties, the work of UN Climate Change and, indeed, the entire climate agenda, is ultimately based on the guidance afforded by these specific efforts. You provide an incredible service to our process and to humanity.

Humanity's responsibility however — through governments and in our personal lives — is to act upon this unassailable body of evidence.



Climate change is already destroying lives, dismantling biodiversity and is detrimental to the future of humanity on this planet.

While we have made some progress — including at COP26 in Glasgow — nations remain far behind the needed ambition and stated goals of reducing emissions 45 per cent by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5-degrees.

We have become used to seeing the evidence around us or in the news of the serious impacts caused by climate change, particularly to the most vulnerable.

The Working Group 2 report provides a much-needed assessment of these impacts and the vulnerability of people and planet.

It also provides a comprehensive assessment of adaptation options.

This allows us to not only assess current adaptation efforts but also identify future challenges and opportunities that can inform Parties actions to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The progress we *have* made so far to combat and adapt to climate change is because of the science — because of the IPCC's work and



the dedication of scientists throughout the world.

It is *science* that has provided our common language and it is *science* that must be our common language going forward.

I recognize that over the next two weeks, you have an important job in front of you with respect to the consideration of Working Group II's contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report.

I trust you will make informed decisions that will help provide the needed scientific basis to inform Parties moving forward in 2022 including for the global Stocktake and the global goal on adaptation.

Climate action is achievable, and ambitions can be reached as we continue based on the best available science.

But there is a significant amount of work as we look to COP27 in Sharm Al Sheikh at the end of the year — and beyond.

UN Climate Change will also continue to work with the Parties to ensure the science is communicated and acted upon. It is incumbent upon us in the process to do so.



The rigor and reliability of scientific research are crucial to all those involved in addressing the challenge posed by climate change.

Attempting to alter those findings — to dilute or to weaken the conclusions of science — would be equivalent to deluding ourselves.

We can discuss what actions are appropriate in the face of climate change, but not what facts are acceptable.

I again thank the Working Group II, the IPCC as a whole and all scientists who will participate in the next two weeks.

Thank you.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa