

56th Session of the IPCC and 14th Session of Working Group III

Remarks by [Ligia Noronha](#), Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office, representative of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Hoesung Lee, IPCC Chair

Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, WMO

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

Distinguished delegates, IPCC authors and experts.

I am very pleased and honoured to address you today at the 56th session of the IPCC and 14th session of Working Group III.

For 33 years IPCC has underpinned global climate action. Now, with the finalization of the Working Group III report, the IPCC is on track to complete the current assessment cycle. This is key to ensure that the IPCC provides us with the science we need to inform the first global stock-take of the Paris Agreement and support countries in increasing climate ambition. This success comes despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I congratulate you for your flexibility, commitment and dedication.

I commend all key contributors to the WG III report, specifically:

The 278 authors of the WG III for the services they have lent to the world.

WGIII Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs Jim Skea and Priyadarshi Shukla for their leadership in the successful completion of the WGIII report.

The Chair of IPCC, Hoesung Lee, for his support to the Co-Chairs, WGIII Bureau and authors.

The IPCC secretariat, under the leadership of Abdalah Mokssit, for preparing a virtual session that is inclusive, fair, transparent, equal and acceptable to all delegates.

The government of the UK for hosting the Technical Support Unit and the WGIII approval session.

The WGIII Technical Support Unit for their backing to the WGIII team and excellent collaboration in arranging this session.

And the WMO for their support to the IPCC process, including the preparations of this event

Friends, the earlier reports from WGI and WGII – on the physical science basis and impacts, adaptation and vulnerabilities – highlight the importance of WGIII's work looking at mitigation progress and options.

Your earlier reports showed that the world is already 1.1°C warmer and will reach 1.5°C in around a decade. This warming has already caused dangerous and widespread disruption in

nature. It has affected the lives of billions of people. Every small increase in warming beyond 1.5°C will result in escalating losses and damages.

But avoiding the worst impacts of climate change is possible – if we reduce emissions quickly, build resilience, conserve ecosystems and dramatically increase finance for transformative adaptation.

Yes, progress on adaptation is too slow and uneven. But there are options in every region and every sector to adapt. In particular, nature offers untapped potential to reduce climate risks, deal with the causes of climate change and improve peoples' lives while providing jobs and boosting economies.

Against this backdrop, urgent, accelerated action is required to adapt to climate change while making rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The WGIII report will be a valuable contribution to efforts to do just this, as it will provide us a progress report on efforts to limit global emissions and review available mitigation options across sectors and systems.

As the UNEP 2021 Emissions Gap Report showed, assessments of global mitigation progress and pledges are critical for climate action. Because we know we are off-track for 1.5°C. Because we know we are facing catastrophe. The WGIII report will let policy-makers know about the many solutions and opportunities available to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement and ward off this catastrophe.

You, the IPCC and its many contributors and collaborators, have done your job. Now you need to approve this report and get it out there so that policy-makers can do theirs. I wish you the best of luck for this two week-long session and look forward to seeing the great positive impact your work will bring to the world.

Thank you.