

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

IPCC/SBSTA Opening Plenary (Draft) - Bonn, 6 June 2022

Secretary of the IPCC Abdallah Mokssit

Thank you Chair,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the IPCC family let me join everyone in thanking Patricia and wishing her all the best in the future. As Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC – it is my great pleasure and honour to address the opening of the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for the Scientific and Technological Advice of the UNFCCC on behalf of the IPCC.

The science and the findings of the IPCC reports continue to inform these crucial talks and discussions. During the Sixth Assessment Cycle, the IPCC has delivered an unprecedented number of critically important contributions to the understanding of climate change.

We have completed and published three special reports - Global Warming of 1.5C, then the Climate Change and Land report, and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. We have also released the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

But, most importantly, between August 2021 and April 2022, the IPCC has completed and released three assessment reports produced by its three working groups. The Physical Science Basis report in August 2021 was followed by the one assessing the Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability released in February this year. Lastly, the report on Mitigation of climate change was released in April 2022.

This rich body of scientific work has clearly laid out for policymakers worldwide the most robust and most up-to-date scientific evidence for the understanding of the climate system, impacts of climate change, adaptation, and mitigation.

I would also like to highlight that the three contributions from the Working Groups constitute a significant achievement of the IPCC as they were produced and delivered under incredibly challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. To say it has not been easy it will be an understatement. Delivering the three assessments reports in a virtual format has been hard but possible and very rewarding.

Now, I would like to give you some statistics.

Amongst other achievements, these reports have had unprecedented media and public interest – in month time range starting 15 days before the publication of the reports until the two weeks post the launches, they have hit jointly a total number of over 177,000 articles.

Collectively, through the reports produced by the three Working Groups, some 800 scientists from nearly 70 countries committed their time and expertise for more than three years to review and assess more than 66,000 scientific papers and publications. In this cycle we have also increased the participation of women scientists and scientists from developing countries.

The Co-Chairs of all three Working Groups - Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Panmao Zhai, Debra Roberts, Hans-Otto Poertner, Priyadarshi Shukla and Jim Skea - played a pivotal role in guiding and upholding the highest standards of scientific work, and in shaping their respective reports. We thank them for their dedication and selfless work.

All these contributions have been reviewed and closely scrutinized by governments and experts in several stages. This unique interface between science and policy remains critical for delivery of robust, rigorous, exhaustive and objective assessment reports. We are grateful to the experts and governments for their time and work, for their review and constructive discussions throughout these processes. Looking back at all three reports, the IPCC authors responded to nearly 200,000 comments.

IPCC reports are an important reality check for policymakers and everyone else. They are built on the most up-to-date science, grounded in new findings on the physical state of climate change. It reflects the magnitude of the collective challenge for all nations on this planet.

I am pleased to inform you that the IPCC will be present here in Bonn during the 56th session of the Subsidiary Bodies with a busy schedule of events as mandated by the Conference of the Parties. Starting from today, jointly with the SBSTA the IPCC team will be holding the Special Event on the key findings from the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability which will be followed by a special event on the key findings from the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Mitigation of Climate Change on Wednesday, 8 June. Please join us for those events as we unpack the findings from the recently approved WGII and WGIII reports.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with delegates in the coming days under the Structured Expert Dialogues, Global stocktake Technical Dialogue, Research Dialogue and the Global Goal on Adaptation event.

I am pleased to inform you that a joint UNFCCC IPCC Task Force on Greenhouse Gas Inventories side event will take place on Greenhouse Gas inventory software. Also, we will be present and provide input to quite a few side events which will be taking place here in Bonn. We look forward to engaging with you during the SB sessions.

I take this opportunity to thank my UNFCCC Secretariat colleagues for their support and collaboration. This cooperation is key to the UNFCCC process, and central to the need for strengthening the science-policy interface under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates,

We are working on bringing together all these lines of research and evidence in the Synthesis Report, integrating our understanding of climate change and policy response. This will be the closing chapter and the culmination of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report.

I take this opportunity to inform you that for operational matters the plan to approve the Synthesis Report in late September 2022 is under revision. We are working together with the IPCC Chair, Vice-Chairs and the Head of the Technical Support Unit of the Synthesis Report on a revised schedule to be presented to the Panel. The objective is to complete a high-quality scientific synthesis report as soon as possible so it can inform the Global Stocktake next year.

Today, we know more than ever before how the climate system works. It is essential that this knowledge is genuinely embraced in the ongoing policy debates, talks and negotiations about our future actions as we collectively prepare for more frequent, more intense, new types of extremes and climate conditions.

I wish you a successful conference.

Thank you for your attention.

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