Check against delivery

Video message of WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas at opening of IPCC session on the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report

Dear participants of the IPCC meeting. Thanks for the opportunity to address you. I'm sorry that I cannot join you physically because we have other meetings going on elsewhere at the same time. But I'm very grateful for the work that you have done for the most recent set of IPCC reports and the special reports like 1.5 degree report and also these three pieces of the Sixth Assessment Report.

They have all been gaining a lot of attention among the decision makers. The IPCC has been a great success story of science communication. Thanks to the IPCC, we have started seeing
progress in climate mitigation, and also to a certain degree in climate adaptation.

The scientific information, plus the fact that we have started seeing the impacts of climate change, has triggered for example the Paris Agreement and also all the follow-up COP meetings. We saw fairly good progress at Glasgow COP two years ago, where the G7 countries and European Union countries made commitments to keep us at the 1.5 degrees of warming which was very much recommended by the IPCC, 1.5 Degree report.

And now you are about to finalize the Synthesis report. It's the summary for policymakers which I will personally introduce to Secretary Gutierrez who is very much interested in in the scientific facts. And we have added science to communicate those.

He sees climate mitigation and adaptation as his highest priority, and that's a good.
thing from our side.

I would like to thank all of you for the for the hard work for those reports, which are clearly having a clear message for the decision makers. We need to speed up our climate actions. At the moment, we are heading towards two high numbers of warming and various impacts of climate change are already very visible worldwide.

It's important that we communicate again the results of this report and to give a boost to the forthcoming COP meetings.

I have personally had the chance to do I have met all the Incoming COP 28 president, and next week I will have a second opportunity to discuss the agenda of the of the COP 28 with them with the government of the United Arab Emirates. They seem to have the appetite to go to see progress In mitigation. And that's, of course, very much our desire.

We are also dealing with adaptation. And one of the powerful ways to adapt to climate change is to invest in early warning services. And the last the COP 27 was strongly endorsing the Initiative called Early Warning Services For All, where we plan to improve the basic service skills of 100 countries that don't have proper Early warning services.

And as part of that program, we have also investment program for the basic observing systems of meteorology and hydrology called SOFF, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility. And we already have Investments in 26 countries.
The plan is to improve the basic observing systems in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific islands, especially.

Your report is demonstrating that the we don't have enough data from from those regions to say whether we have seen changes in, for example, flooding events or drought events. And that kind of investment is needed to gain this baseline.

Then we have another major initiative at WMO. We are going to have a new way of monitoring greenhouse gas budgets - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. By combining the classic global atmosphere watch ground-based data with satellite data, which are now provided by Japan, China, USA and also a couple of European players. And we also have modeling and simulation tools to simulate what's happening in the real atmosphere.

Your reports have already shown that we have big uncertainties In sinks and sources of carbon from the biosphere and from forests, farmlands and we don't fully understand the reasons for the methane concentration Increase.

Those are scientific questions that we could be good to solve by having this new system of greenhouse gas budget monitoring.

Our third initiative was very much promoted by our scientific advisory panel and also by the World Climate Research Program, namely, there's a there's a need to go to kilometer scale climate modelling to better describe the cloud physics and potential of weather extremes in the future. And also, we have big uncertainties related to the melting speed of Antarctic glaciers. Also there, there would be a need for higher resolution of coupled ocean glacier modelling to see what is the actual risk are related to Antarctic glacier melting.

So those are the issues from our side.

But but I'm again very grateful for the hard work that both the lead authors and you you who are hosting these technical support units and who have been supporting the work of of these current the current round of of reports. And we are looking forward to the next round of reports. And at least from our side there would be a need to have a report on geoengineering, which is one of the hot topics and which also carries many risks, and should be evaluated by the by the science community.

And then also these tipping point issue is a also a hot topic in climate science and also in the minds of many human beings. It will be important to review how realistic these tipping. points are and how much they are risk analysis and how much they are based on hard science.

And also, for example, how the models see those those risks evolving in the future.

But those are some ideas that of course. You will decide which are going to be the main reports during the coming years.

We are very grateful that we can be can be the co-host of of IPCC together with the UNEP. and we have also allocated plenty of our resources to support the work of the IPCC. And we are looking forward to the to the outcome of this meeting.