

Check against delivery

Opening remarks by the IPCC Secretary Abdalah Mokssit at the IPCC Workshop on the Use of Scenarios in AR6 and Subsequent Assessments

25 April 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Dr Phirun Saiyasitpanich,

Deputy Secretary-General of ONEP, Jiravat Ratisoontorn,

Dear colleagues, IPCC Bureau Members and Authors, ladies and gentlemen,

I'm honoured and delighted to address this distinguished gathering on behalf of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Hoesung Lee.

Opening this Workshop on the Use of Scenarios in the Sixth Assessment Report and Subsequent Assessments I would first like to thank the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) for hosting this event in Bangkok.

I also wish to welcome all of you attending this important scientific workshop following the approval of the Synthesis Report just five weeks ago. Its release marked the culmination and the completion of the Sixth Assessment Report. The Synthesis Report joins the row of IPCC's fundamental and comprehensive documents aimed at shaping climate action in the remainder of this critical decade. For present and future policymakers, it is a must-read for addressing the climate change challenge. As was the case with other IPCC reports released during this cycle, the Synthesis Report will directly feed into ongoing policy debates and will substantially contribute to talks at COP28 and the first Global Stocktake taking place this year.

I am pleased to see here many of those who made an invaluable contribution to this cycle which we are about to close in July with IPCC elections. It is heartening and encouraging to see that we brought together here more than 100 participants from diverse scenario domains such as modelers, builders and users from three Working Groups as well as governments and other stakeholders. We were particularly happy to support the participation of around 50 delegates from developing countries.

The IPCC at its 54th (bis) Session accepted the proposal to hold this workshop. Your work here in the next three days will be of lasting relevance to the future IPCC cycles, your legacy to future IPCC authors and the assessments they will produce

Scenarios play a critical role in climate research and like for the climate research, IPCC does not produce its own scenarios. Scenario development which is independently led by the scientific community marks an important feature of the IPCC in line with its neutrality in assessing climate research.

Scenarios facilitate consistent assessment across the IPCC's three working groups. Like for the previous cycles, they have played a critical role in delivering the Assessment Reports from three Working Groups, three special reports - Global Warming of 1.5C, Climate Change and Land Report, and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate and the Synthesis Report. Unlike previous cycles, the combination of the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) with Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP) allowed for more systematic assessment of the future greenhouse gas emissions and their uncertainties in the sixth assessment cycle.

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

This workshop is one of the last important meetings in this cycle and will help us prepare better for the future work of the IPCC as it will shed light on the areas for improvement and innovation including the RCP-SSP framework.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire Bureau and all colleagues from the Working Groups and their Technical Support Units (TSUs) for the preparation of this event. The Bureau also convened a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) to guide the process and help ensure regional and gender balance. This workshop is once again a demonstration of the strong cross-working group collaboration, the strongest in the 35 years of IPCC.

We at the Secretariat are grateful to all for your individual contributions to the preparations of this workshop and we remain ready and happy to support you.

Last but not least, I am pleased to inform you that the SBSTA of the UNFCCC has approved our application for a side event aiming to sharing the outcome of this workshop during the 58th session of the Subsidiary Body of the UNFCCC, to be held in Bonn from 5-15 June. The Secretariat stand ready to facilitate and support this event.

I wish you fruitful discussions and a successful outcome of the workshop.

Thank you.