

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

COP28, SBSTA Opening Plenary, 30 November 2023
Remarks by IPCC Secretary Abdalah Mokssit

Thank you...
Distinguished Delegates,

I am deeply honoured to address the opening plenary of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We are thankful to our UAE hosts and UNFCCC Secretariat for the warm welcome and excellent organization of the COP28 in Dubai.

Echoing the words of the new IPCC Chair Jim Skea at the COP28 opening ceremony I would like to stress that the IPCC and the scientific community is poised to support your work in shaping policies and climate action based on the best available and most up-to-date science.

The IPCC has completed the sixth assessment cycle in July this year. It has been the busiest in IPCC history with a record number of reports - three Special Reports, a Methodology Report, three Working Group contributions and the Synthesis Report. Allow me to stress our achievements in the last cycle: we have delivered robust and comprehensive scientific assessments across climate dimensions. Our reports highlighted climate change effects on regions, ecosystems, and sectors, urging prompt action. There has been an increased focus on regional assessments and regional analyses for tailored adaptation strategies.

IPCC has also brought to the spotlight the immediate and ambitious mitigation measures to curb emissions and highlighted synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and adaptation. We have assessed the social dimensions of climate change, including equity, justice, and the differential impacts on various communities and vulnerable populations and different social groups.

IPCC incrementally sounded the alarm and kept the policymakers and UNFCCC negotiators informed about the urgency of climate action. We have also improved engagement, gender and regional representation, delivered effective communication, collaboration among stakeholders and increased participation of women and developing country scientists.

We are now in IPCC's Seventh Assessment cycle. I am happy to inform you that during its first meeting just two weeks ago, the newly elected IPCC Bureau opened discussions about the cycle's planning, including the reports intended for this assessment phase. Six weeks from now the Panel will meet to finalize decisions regarding the cycle's structure and the types of reports and materials to be developed. These discussions will be guided by the lessons learnt from the Sixth Assessment cycle and three priorities envisioned by the IPCC Chair, Prof. Jim Skea:

The first is promoting inclusiveness and diversity and emphasizing gender and regional diversity within the IPCC.

This also means the inclusion of new scientists and researchers from developing nations in the IPCC's work during the seventh assessment cycle. In parallel, the IPCC will continue to contribute to Research and Systemic Observation by identifying gaps in research, bringing new data, diversity of

knowledge and methodologies. In doing so, we will also contribute to the shaping of the next generation of NDCs.

The second is to ensure the policy relevance of IPCC and be able to inform UNFCCC processes, particularly the second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

And, our third priority will be to make effective use of the best available science, producing outputs that reflect the most current and robust scientific knowledge and deliver timely and actionable information to the policymakers.

Lastly, this year again, the IPCC - together with WMO and partners - is also running a pavilion called "Science for Climate Action" with a rich program of scientific events in Zone B7, Building 88, Pavilion No. 115. We believe our programme and presence will assist many of you with the knowledge required to inform your negotiations and decisions during this Conference of Parties. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you there.

Thank you.
ENDS