

**Opening remarks by Türkiye's Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change Fatma Varank.  
Sixtieth Session of the IPCC,**

16 January 2023

Istanbul, Türkiye

Honorable delegates, esteemed authors and bureau members,

- On behalf of myself and my nation, I extend you my regards and welcome you all.
- I would like to express my pleasure to be hosting the 60th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the first meeting of the 7th Assessment Cycle, on the centennial anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.
- Climate change, which has become a global crisis, is one of the most important and common issues of humanity and its solution requires the fair and sincere efforts and cooperation of the international community.
- The IPCC studies are of great importance in our world's struggle against climate change as they reveal the current situation and future scenarios.

As a matter of fact, we see this very clearly with the strong references to IPCC findings in the Global Stocktake, which is the most important part of the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- These findings have once again demonstrated the importance of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- It was an important message for us that the 4°C global temperature increase expected in the findings before the adoption of the Paris Agreement could be in the range of 2.1-2.8°C with the implementation of the Agreement.

On the other hand, achieving 1.5°C requires an ambitious global effort.

In addition, IPCC reports clearly emphasize that limiting the temperature increase alone will not be sufficient in combating climate change and that adaptation and loss and damage measures need to be increased.

Distinguished delegates

➤ According to data from the World Meteorological Organization, the global average temperature for the period up to October 2023 has increased by a record-breaking 1.4 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrialization period, making 2023 the hottest year on record.

In addition, the period between 2015 and 2023 was the 9 hottest years in history.

➤ The IPCC report published in 2022 indicates that our region is facing higher temperatures, less precipitation and rising sea levels.

➤ Located in the Mediterranean Basin, one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, Türkiye is already experiencing the 1.5°C temperature increase and its negative impacts.

➤ Our country is struggling with disasters, the frequency and severity of which are increasing day by day due to climate change.

➤ Floods and floods, especially in the Black Sea region, forest fires in the Mediterranean region, and drought in Central Anatolia and Southeastern Anatolia are the main disasters associated with climate change in our country.

➤ The floods in our country in September last year again demonstrate how serious, resolute and sensitive policies are required to combat climate change.

➤ Due to the Daniel storm, which also affected our country, the precipitation expected to fall in a month was realized in one day.

As a result, floods in Kırklareli and Istanbul caused serious losses and damages.

Distinguished delegates

➤ Our country continues to fulfill its responsibility in the combat against climate change in the most resolute manner.

➤ The 2053 net zero emission target announced by our President and the will to become a party to the Paris Agreement has been an important milestone for our country.

While announcing this goal, which he described as a historic step, our President described this new path, which will lead to comprehensive changes in a wide range of areas from investment to production, exports to employment, as "one of the sharpest choices Türkiye has made in its development moves in the Republican era".

➤ We doubled our emission reduction target by 2030.

➤ We are spreading this target across the economy and taking decisive climate action in the energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, building, waste and forestry sectors.

In this context, we launched the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan covering the years 2024-2030.

In addition, we prepared the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, which covers 11 topics ranging from cities to health, agriculture to disasters, and set our roadmap for 2030.

➤ We also attach importance to increasing the adaptation capacities of cities to climate change and ensuring climate-resilient and sustainable urbanization in balance with nature.

➤ As a country, we act with the vision of "Sustainable Environment, Cities Keeping Our Civilization Alive" in the urban transformation process and in the construction and reconstruction works after the earthquake we experienced on 6 February 2023.

➤ In our fight against climate change, we prioritize the needs of local communities and require the preparation of Local Climate Change Action Plans in 81 provinces.

➤ We initiated studies on Türkiye's Climate Model and Vulnerability-Risk analysis until 2100.

➤ These results, which will reveal our country's situation for the next 80 years against hazards such as drought, wind, extreme weather events, will provide a scientific basis for decision-makers in every sector and field, from local zoning plans, infrastructure investments, facility location choices to all investment plans.

➤ Within the scope of Climate Change Grant Programs, we provide grants to local stakeholders such as public institutions, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and universities in the field of climate change.

Dear participants

➤ As you know, with its candidacy to host COP31 to be held in 2026, Türkiye has aspired to a Presidency that prioritizes all fragile geographies, especially the Mediterranean Basin, and disseminates actions focused on green transformation.

In this context, the scientific studies and important outputs of the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Cycle will make a unique contribution to humanity's access to the most up-to-date and reliable information it will need.

➤ I would like to emphasize that we would like to see more young authors in the Seventh Assessment Cycle and that we will take the necessary steps on behalf of our country in this regard.

➤ Young generations taking action on both theoretical and practical scales will be an important step in the fight against climate change.

➤ However, we believe that women authors should be more involved in the 7th Assessment Cycle.

I would also like to state that we are proud to support this process with our female scientist who is the Co-Chair of the 3rd Working Group.

Dear participants,

➤ Combating climate change requires international cooperation in all its dimensions.

In particular, data sharing and dissemination of scientific knowledge will make us more resilient to climate change.

➤ In regions where scientific study data is lacking, the 7th Assessment Cycle will make sustainable development goals more achievable as it will enable a more accurate risk analysis.

➤ Given that most of the 4.4 billion people living in cities, which constitute around 55% of the world's population, are particularly exposed to extreme heat, and that this proportion will increase to 68% by 2050, we realize the importance of resilient and livable cities more closely.

It is precisely at this point that I believe the IPCC's Special Report on Cities will be a decisive guide for sustainable and climate-resilient cities.

Distinguished delegates

➤ I hope that the 60th Session, held in Istanbul, the crossroads of world civilizations, will be an important note in history in the fight against climate change, and I take this opportunity to greet you with respect.