



РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОКОЛНАТА СРЕДА И ВОДИТЕ

**Official address by Minister Petar Dimitrov on the occasion of the
Official opening of the 61st session of the Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change**

Dear Mr Terziev,
Dear Mr Anastassov,
Dear Mrs Miteva,
Dear Mr Skea,
Dear Mr Al Mandous,
Dear Mr Mokssit,
Distinguished guests and Delegates

It is an honour for Bulgaria to host the 61st Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The ambition of our governments, though frequently changing recently, has been clear - to turn our country into a hub for environmental and climate science and to base our policies on science. The Ministry of Environment and Water is the government entity that is the biggest consumer of scientific research. Part of the Ministry is the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. The data and analysis they produce serve as the basis for our decisions. That is why, in addition to hosting this session, we are organising a number of side events on climate change, the risks it generates, mitigation approaches, and the measures we need to take to adapt to the extreme weather events that come upon us.



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Yesterday, jointly with the Bulgarian Academy of Science, we concluded the conference on Climate Risks in the Black Sea Region. We were honoured to have Sir Jim Skea deliver the opening keynote speech, delineating the way forward and the efforts required to bring scientists, governments, and citizens together. I very much hope that the Black Sea region, with its unique characteristics, will become the subject of even more in-depth research, so that we can extract an even clearer picture of the climate scenarios we need to be prepared for.

During your Session you will discuss the interconnections between cities, environmental components, and climate. In our satellite programme, we hold a number of conferences on the topics of urban environment, the role of cities and the need for them to adapt to a changing climate. We pay particular attention to the issue of rivers and water bodies in urban environments. Our cities need to change and adapt, and I sincerely hope that in the future we will be able to work together to help city governments develop and implement science-based policies for cities, the climate, and the people.

I hope that the results of your work, as well as Bulgaria's modest contribution, will be clearly heard at the upcoming COP29 conference, which is to take place at the end of the year in Azerbaijan.

I wish you fruitful work and I look forward to your future reports with trust and hope.