

Opening Remarks, by UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell

63rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-63)

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Friends,

As you gather for the 63rd session of the IPCC, I want to reiterate a simple but powerful truth: climate action works.

Global cooperation under the Paris Agreement, informed by the IPCC, has already bent the curve. Without it, we would be heading towards a much more difficult world.

Now, the task before us is to accelerate the implementation of climate policies and plans.

Countries have been preparing and submitting the third generation of Nationally Determined Contributions as well as National Adaptation Plans. These serve as blueprints for stronger economies, more resilient societies, and a safer planet.

To succeed, these plans – and their implementation, review, and regular updates – must be rooted in science.

That is why the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is so vital.

Science has always been the foundation of our climate process, and it must remain our Southern Cross.

The approved outlines of the next assessment cycle give us confidence that governments will receive comprehensive reports – on science, on adaptation, and on mitigation – to guide their decisions.

Each assessment will provide critical information on enablers such as finance and technology, as well as considerations of equity and justice.

Taken together, the reports will be indispensable, and I will continue to urge all countries to agree on timelines that ensure all three assessments inform the second Global Stocktake.

Because the Stocktake is not just a technical exercise. It is a crucial moment for the world to recognize the state of play, reaffirm its commitment to Paris, and respond with action and support at the pace and scale that science demands. We expect those responses to be reflected in the fourth generation of Nationally Determined Contributions.

At the same time, we recognize the important role of the IPCC in advancing methodological work on climate science.

We look forward to the Technical Guidelines on Impacts and Adaptation, which will complement the UNFCCC's work on the global goal on adaptation, as well as the newly adopted guidelines on National Adaptation Plans.

We also await with interest the outcome of your considerations regarding the outline for the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage.

So let us be clear-eyed.

Paris is working – but progress remains uneven. We stand at a critical inflexion point, with the science of climate change increasingly questioned – at best – or, at worst, outright rejected.

Yet climate multilateralism continues to deliver progress. With the IPCC's authoritative voice as our guide, and with unity of purpose, we can keep stepping it up.

The road ahead is challenging – but also full of opportunity. It's time to deliver.

Thank you.