



MINISTÈRE  
DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE,  
DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ  
ET DES NÉGOCIATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES  
SUR LE CLIMAT ET LA NATURE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

## Ouverture du GIEC

### Discours de Madame Monique Barbut

Dear Chair of the IPCC [Dear Jim],

Dear Vice-Chairs of the IPCC,

Ladies and gentlemen,

**I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak before you today.** And I want to express how proud we are to welcome you to our country, and more specifically here in Saint Denis.

**I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make this event possible.** Especially since it is the first time in the history of the IPCC, that the lead authors of the three working groups are gathered in the same place for an entire week.

**Organizing this type of event is extremely important because your work, is extremely valuable.**

**It enables us, policymakers, to speak the same language.** And thus, to be able to move forward together toward a common goal.

**This language is the language of scientific realities.** The one of figures, data, and graphs.

The one that transforms feeling into fact, the abstract into the concrete, and the invisible into the visible.

The one we need to realize the impact climate change can have on our own lives. And let me mention two figures here.

In a world that is two degrees warmer, up to eighteen percent of terrestrial species would be at high risk of extinction, which is almost one in five.

And in that same world, between eight hundred million and three billion people could suffer from chronic water shortages.

These figures, which are taken from your reports, are edifying and must be shared with the entire world.

**Because the messages of science are universal and transcend political boundaries.**

That is, I think, one of your greatest strengths, this ability to send messages that appeal to all citizens and policy-makers.

**Dear scientists, in one week, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement: an agreement that would never have been achieved without your work.**

And I want to take advantage of its anniversary to look back on the progress that has been made over the past years.

**Ten years ago, we were heading for a more than 4 degree rise in temperature.** Today, we are heading for a 2.4 degree rise. This change would not have occurred if you had not raised our awareness.

**Ten years ago, only one percent of cars sold were electric.** Today, twenty percent of cars sold are electric: this is one in every five cars. This change would not have happened if you had not charted a path toward carbon neutrality.

**These examples show how your expertise has transformed our daily lives and our public policies.**

This is particularly true in Europe: where, a few weeks ago, the twenty-seven member states agreed on a target of reducing their emissions by ninety percent by 2040.

And this is also true in France: where we are about to publish our ambitious roadmap to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. A goal that we have enshrined in our own law.

These targets, and the solutions for achieving them, are all based on your work. And I repeat: they could never have been adopted without your invaluable contributions.

**But of course, at every level, we are not moving fast enough.**

**A few weeks before the launch of COP30, the UN Secretary-General declared that exceeding 1.5 degrees was now inevitable.**

Yet, this warning didn't lead to a general push for climate action at the COP. And the absence of any reference to fossil fuels should concern us all.

**The difficulties experienced during the last COPs show how weakened our multilateral framework has become. And we need science's help to ensure that it does not deteriorate further.**

This is one of the reasons why the Seventh Assessment Report that you will be working on this week will be extremely precious. Especially for the preparation for the next global stock take, which will take place in 2028, during the COP33.

**In this context, there is also something that should concern us all: the rise of climate-related disinformation.**

**On our social media, in our newspapers, and even at the heart of our political institutions:** too many people deny the results of your work. Too many people prefer to discredit the speaker rather than listen to what he has to say.

**And that undermines our ability to act.** Because without agreement on science, there will be no agreement on action.

**That is why, we – the scientific and political communities – must respond.** And several countries have already taken steps in this direction: in October, at the Paris Peace Forum. And more recently at COP 30, with the signing by twelve states – including France – of the declaration on information integrity on climate change.

**But we must keep in mind that we cannot win this fight alone.** We must mobilize a large number of actors – the media, companies, associations – to constantly remind people of the reality of climate change. And to remind them that there are ways to address it.

**As you know, France is a country whose culture is deeply marked by rationality, science, and critical thinking.**

**And that is why we will always support the IPCC model:** a model that brings together scientists from all over the world so that they can deliver a common message that transcends borders. Because that message, which brings together both the world's best science and the international legitimacy, is incredibly powerful.

**And that model that has been so useful that many are now seeking to replicate it in other fields.** We could mention, of course, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service [IPBES]. Or more recently, the creation of International Panel on chemical pollution [IPCP].

Those examples demonstrate the value of bringing together researchers from around the world to build scientific consensus. Let us preserve these models by combating misinformation.

I wish you all a wonderful and productive week.

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