

Opening remarks by Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Sixty-fourth session of the IPCC, Bangkok, Thailand

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Dr. Jim Skea, the Chair of the IPCC, Ko Barrett,

Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, and,

my dear friend, Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC,

Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the 64th session of the IPCC. This, sadly, I have to say, is the last session of IPCC for Mr Abdalah Mokssit, who will leave after 10 years of service. Abdallah, if I may, undoubtedly help to shape the strategic direction of the Secretariat input to the IPCC process. Facilitating consensus of plenary sessions and mobilizing resources for the trust fund, navigating the organization through the pandemic, innovating the very first virtual approval process, which was adopted by other intergovernmental organizations. My deep thanks, go to Abdalah. You will be missed.

My thanks also go to every one of you, for your work in this, the seventh cycle of the world's highest authority on climate science. You have made great progress.

The authors of this Special Report on Climate Change and Cities have completed their first order draft. According to your sixth assessment report, cities account over 70% of the global carbon dioxide equivalent. And they are the key drivers of the climate crisis, and therefore, the places where solutions have to be found, and cities must also face many of the impacts of climate change head on, be they extreme heat, floodings, storms, sea level rise, or drought. Your work will be crucial in guiding local governments to make the right decisions on both mitigation and adaptation.

And then, the authors of the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers have also completed their first draft. Improving the estimates of short-lived climate forcers, helps countries design effective mitigation strategies, and better integrate air quality and climate policies. And I note, the start of the work, on a Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal, Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage. The 2025 Emissions Gap Report warns that a temporary overshoot of 1.5 degrees Celsius is now very likely. And returning to 1.5 degrees centigrade by 2100 will require deeper and faster emission cuts and the use of CDR technologies with caution. This is why your report is critically important.

I also congratulate Jim Skea and the Chair of the Gender Action Team Diána Ürge-Vorsatz for their work on diversity. Over half of the authors of the seventh assessment reports are from developing countries or economies in transitions. Almost half are women. This is an improvement of the previous cycle, and strengthens the diverse sets of knowledge and views needed to make climate science relevant to everyone, everywhere.

Closely linked to the issue of diversity and one of the key focuses of this session, are the IPCC principles and procedures. These principles of neutrality, transparency, robustness of review, and inclusiveness, are essential to maintain the integrity and credibility of this body. The IPCC principles have made this body not just the success in and of itself. They have set a model that has been followed by other bodies, such as IPBES, and we expect, in the upcoming negotiations, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution. Such principles are equally vital across Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as we seek more policy relevant and actionable science, in line with resolution of UNEA-7, of course.

My thanks also go to you, Jim, for your contribution and your presence at UNEA-7 and for your deep engagement in the leadership dialogues, that aimed at ensuring that the MEAs engage and work closely together.

Friends and colleagues,

I look forward to the seventh cycle, advancing a pace, including through approval of the reports on time, to inform climate action.

But for this to happen, member governments must address an increasingly difficult financial situation. Expenditures from the IPCC Trust Fund have exceeded contributions over the last few years. If this continues, the Trust Fund's cash balance will be defeated before the end of the seventh cycle, impacting both this cycle and the transition to the next. I therefore urge all member governments to increase their contributions to back this body to complete this important work, that it has begun in the 7th cycle. The IPCC has proven itself time and again, and now more than ever, we need a strong and well-funded IPCC to guide the world out of the climate emergency.
