

Opening remarks by Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization Ko Barrett

64th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-64)

Bangkok, Thailand

24 March 2026

Good morning, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to join you for this 64th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

I would like to warmly welcome the IPCC Chair, Vice-Chairs, members of the Bureau, the Secretariat, representatives of Governments, and Observer organizations. Your continued commitment underscores the strength and relevance of this scientific and intergovernmental partnership.

Over the past 30 months, the Seventh Assessment Cycle has made strong and steady progress. Work is now underway across all seven reports, with important milestones already achieved.

The completion of First Order Drafts for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and the Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers marks a significant step forward.

The first Joint Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) held in December 2025 in Paris was an important moment in the history of IPCC. It was the first time that the three Working Groups have held a joint LAM - reflecting a more integrated approach to assessing climate science.

At the same time, efforts to strengthen gender, inclusivity and diversity are advancing, including through trainings and a workshop was recently led by the IPCC Chair on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems. These are essential steps towards ensuring that the IPCC's work remains both scientifically robust and globally representative.

As we look ahead, the session this week places an important focus on the review of IPCC principles and procedures. These foundations have long ensured the Panel's rigor and integrity. Continuing to strengthen and refine them is critical—not only to uphold these standards, but also to ensure the IPCC remains responsive and fit for purpose while maintaining the credibility it has gained over the years.

At the same time, we must recognize the financial pressures facing the IPCC Trust Fund. Sustained—and where possible, increased—support from Member Governments will

be essential to safeguard the Panel's work. WMO and UNEP remain fully committed to continuing their support to the IPCC and its vital mission.

We will also take a moment this week to recognize Abdalah's longstanding service to the IPCC. As you may know, this will be his last Plenary session as the Secretary of the IPCC. His contributions over many years – in multiple roles – have been instrumental, and we look forward to properly acknowledging this during the session.

As you begin your deliberations, I wish you a productive and constructive session. I look forward to the continued progress of the Seventh Assessment Cycle, and I commend the Panel and its experts for the dedication and excellence that underpin this critical work.