



WMO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



UNEP

**Speech by Mr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, IPCC Chairman,
at the Opening Ceremony of the 30th Session of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Antalya, Turkey, 21st April 2009**

Your Excellency, Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroglu, Minister of Environment and Forestry in the Government of Turkey; Mr. Geoffrey Love, Representative of WMO; Mr. Peter Gilruth, Representative of UNEP; Mr. Florin Vladu, on behalf of the UNFCCC; members of the IPCC Bureau, distinguished delegates and colleagues. It is a great pleasure for me to address you in the presence of the Honorable Minister Dr. Eroglu, who is a distinguished scientist and engineer, with a remarkable record of achievement in solving the water supply problem in Istanbul and other accomplishments at the national level in Turkey.

This meeting represents an important milestone in the history of the IPCC, and it is significant that it is being held in the beautiful city of Antalya, in a country that is so rich in culture and tradition. The IPCC in its twenty plus years of history has established an outstanding record of assessing all aspects of climate change, of which all of us are proud. The award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was the crowning moment in this distinguished record of scientific endeavor that governments of the world from north and south, east and west have fostered and built over the past two decades, and which has been the result of remarkable teamwork on the part of the international scientific community.

We now have a new Bureau of the IPCC and a new team of office-bearers. We also have new challenges, which we must have the ability and wisdom to decipher. Our work emphasizes the policy relevance of the assessments we produce, and if this is going to remain the hallmark of our work we must understand the shifting landscape on which our work must be based. And in understanding this aspect we would also have to grasp the rising expectations of our audience which is now better informed, much more seized of the urgency of new policies and actions in the field of climate change, and, therefore, more impatient in seeking new findings of the IPCC. To a large extent, we are now facing the consequences of the success achieved by the Panel, credit for which must go collectively to all the distinguished delegates present in this room and the thousands of scientists who have toiled hard over the years. The members of the Panel deserve great credit for the foresight they have displayed in establishing the procedures and practices of the IPCC.

We are now at the beginning of our Fifth Assessment, and in earlier discussions the Panel has already addressed some of the challenges we face in dealing with the future of the IPCC. Members of the Bureau are making every effort to see that the priorities and directions highlighted by the Panel since the AR4 was completed are kept fully in focus while working on the AR5. We are conscious, for instance, of the need to

1. Reduce uncertainties and gaps in knowledge, wherever they exist currently
2. Provide greater regional detail pertaining to different parts of the world

3. Ensure adequate coverage of the socio-economic and humanitarian dimensions of climate change
4. Carry out assessment of climate change for a wide spread of plausible scenarios pertaining to the future.

A meeting is being held in July in Italy to scope out the structure, shape and design of the AR5. This would be an extremely important meeting, because its outcome would define the work of the Panel going up until 2014 and beyond.

While we plan our efforts at this stage, we also need to get into some organizational issues. Given the growing demands on the IPCC for a range of outreach activities and the emphasis expressed repeatedly for greater coordination and information sharing across working groups, we would need to strengthen the core structure of the IPCC. A task group to deal with strengthening of the Secretariat will be reporting to the Panel in this session, and I would suggest that we would be well served by early decisions on this subject, so that we can equip ourselves better for the challenges ahead. The WMO and UNEP had advisedly provided the Secretariat two senior scientific positions two decades ago, but given the challenges ahead, we need to create some depth in that structure with a sense of urgency now. In this context, let me also highlight the growing demand for outreach activities by the IPCC. These have no doubt had an important effect in the past two years, because awareness on the scientific facts related to climate change have reached a level which could not have been anticipated even at the beginning of 2007. But, all this has only added to the demand for more information, which the IPCC will have to provide and disseminate on a much larger scale in the future. Indeed, this demand will not end whatever the outcome in Copenhagen, but is likely to escalate. All the office-bearers and authors involved in the work of the IPCC will have to play an important role in outreach activities.

I also look forward to a proactive role on the part of the Bureau in guiding the work of the Panel. We are indeed fortunate to have a wealth of experience and scientific strength in the Bureau, which must be tapped effectively and continuously for the benefit of those who would work on the AR5 and the other products that are currently in hand and those that may be taken up in this Bureau's term of office.

In conclusion, may I once again thank His Excellency BAKAN Eroglu and all his officials for their warm hospitality and help, and for hosting this meeting in a beautiful place like Antalya.

TEŞEKKÜRLER
