Speaking notes for WMO Deputy Secretary General Elena Manaenkova

45th Session of the IPCC

Guadalajara, Mexico, Tuesday 28 March 2017

Your Excellency, Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Mexico;

Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC;

Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Jorge Aristóteles Sandovai Díaz, Governor of the State of Jalisco

Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC

- On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization, I wish to express to the Government of Mexico my appreciation for hosting this session of the IPCC.

- The IPCC plays a key role in supporting national and international policy formulation on climate-related issues through its high quality assessments

- WMO Members and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) play a key role in national contributions to the work of the IPCC: 33 per cent of national IPCC focal points are NMHSs.

- At the same time, the involvement of scientists and experts from NMHSs, especially those from developing countries, in the activities of the IPCC is of substantial benefit to both NMHSs and the IPCC.

- Upon request of the Executive Council, the Secretary-General of WMO is further promoting the active participation of WMO technical, scientific and co-sponsored programmes and NMHSs in the preparation of products of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

- Last year, the WMO Executive Council, at its sixty-eighth session, noted that the level of contributions and the number of contributors to the IPCC Trust Fund are steadily declining.

- Therefore, there is a need to mobilize additional resources to ensure the successful completion of activities and products planned for the Sixth Assessment Report cycle.

- To this end, the Secretary-General of WMO, jointly with the Executive Director of UN Environment, sent a letter to all Members at the highest levels, inviting them to increase their level of contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund or to make a contribution in case they have not yet done so.

- The two special reports before you in this meeting reinforce the IPCC's role as the developer of policy-relevant assessments of the highest quality.

- The special report on climate change, oceans and the cryosphere advance climate resilience of people and ecosystems. It will look at high mountain areas and polar regions, at sea-level rise and its implications for coasts and communities, including low-lying islands and coasts, at the changing ocean, marine ecosystems and dependent communities, and at extremes and abrupt changes and managing these risks .

- Covering some 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and storing over 90 per cent of the extra heat generated by humanity's carbon emissions, the ocean is a major driver of the world's weather and climate.

- The ocean is also a major driver of the global economy, carrying more than 90 per cent of world trade and sustaining the 40 per cent of humanity that lives within 100 km of the coast.

- Recognizing this, national weather agencies and researchers under the umbrella of WMO regularly monitor the ocean and model how it interacts with the atmosphere and cryosphere.

- Today, the growing impacts of climate change are making oceanic and atmospheric observations, research and services more critical than ever before, especially in regions particularly affected by climate change impacts, such as Small Island Developing States and the Arctic.

- WMO looks forward to the nomination of authors so that it may contribute experts from its community to this important special report.

- The special report on climate change and land will examine the interaction of land and climate, both the ways that climate change affects land and impacts food security, and the way land use and land-based adaptation and mitigation affect the climate.

- It is hard to imagine a more policy-relevant subject. The area of food security alone goes to the heart of the challenges facing governments. Disruptions to food and water resources can exacerbate poverty, undermine development and increase displacement of people, contributing to security problems.

- A number of WMO programmes are involved in these issues, particularly the Global Framework for Climate Services.

- The WMO governing bodies have expressed great support for the IPCC and underlined its critical role in informing the preparation of the Paris Agreement and its implementation.

- Therefore, WMO advocates continued involvement of scientists and experts from NMHSs, especially from developing countries, in the activities of IPCC, noting the need to further develop regional climate assessments.

- WMO has reorganized all its climate activities for a more consolidated and effective effort in assembling climate data and producing climate information products complementary to those of IPCC.

    − Annual climate statement with impact elements provided by partner UN organizations

    − 5-year climate statement

    − La Niña Update

    − A synthesis of RCOF statements

    − Global Carbon Budget

    − GHG Bulletin

    − possibly a report on ocean heat content

- These deliver a clear message from the scientific community, and feed into the IPCC assessments. Last week the annual climate statement showed that 2016 was the warmest year on record, at 1.1ºC above the pre-industrial period, and beating the previous record set in 2015.

- In communications, WMO continues its work with weather presenters to disseminate IPCC findings to a wide audience. The WMO and IPCC are together supporting a conference of weather presenters this week.

- I understand the IPCC is undertaking a series of outreach events around this meeting, and I commend you for profiting from the presence of experts and the scientific leadership at such meetings to reach out to stakeholders in a cost-effective manner.

- The WMO remains committed to assist IPCC in delivering its work programme, including through financial, administrative and operational support to the extent possible.