



Event Name: 47th Session of the IPCC

Organizers: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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Location: Paris

Let me start by thanking Dr. Hoesung Lee for his kind invitation to join you on this special occasion.

Let me also congratulate the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on your thirtieth anniversary...

The scientists, the delegates and everyone who has contributed to the body of work this organization has produced over the last three decades deserves to be recognized for the major service you provide to the world through your impartial scientific assessments.

So today is a celebration. A much-deserved celebration.

For thirty years now, sound science – peer-reviewed and assessed by the IPCC has driven global action on climate change.

And you have been there since the beginning: the IPCC First Assessment Report in 1990 was integral to the agreement of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio just two years later.

Since then, all major milestones in our process – all achievements by Parties to the Convention – have been directly and immensely informed by the IPCC.

Your second assessment report fed into the Kyoto Protocol negotiations. The third informed final negotiations to bring the



Kyoto Protocol into force and helped lay the foundation of the Bali Action Plan.

As COP President in Cancun in 2010, I saw firsthand how the increased awareness of climate science in the Fourth Assessment Report led to the agreed goal of limiting average global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, and as close as 1.5 degrees as possible.

And of course, the Fifth Assessment Report was instrumental to the adoption of a strong and durable Paris Agreement in 2015.

The Paris Agreement entered into force in record time and has now been ratified by 175 nations. This would not have been possible without the science that has come from the IPCC.

Every step forward is possible because the science got better and better.

So today is a well-deserved celebration.

But as we look back on your immense contribution to progress on climate change... we must also keep an eye on the future.

Because as the superstorms and monsoon flooding of last year and the extreme heat and extreme cold of this year show – we still have a long way to go to deliver on the promise of the Paris Agreement...

This year, you will deliver a special report on the pathways to limit warming to as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible, the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement.



This report could not come at a better time. This year, governments of the world will finalize the operating manual of the agreement under the Paris Agreement Work Program.

These operational details and procedures will determine how the agreement functions over time.

Governments are also – right now – holding an open Talanoa Dialogue on where we are with climate ambition... and how we get from where we are to where we want to go.

All nations and organizations are encouraged to be part of this dialogue... and I am sure the IPCC will bring the science behind the pathways to the 1.5-degree goal to the dialogue.

Science will also be instrumental to raise ambition in the next round of national contributions to the Paris Agreement...

And will give non-Party stakeholders an evidence-based path forward, as they aim to align with our global climate and sustainable development goals.

Next year, you will produce special reports on the ocean and cryosphere and on climate change and land.

These reports are crucial for understanding how climate change will impact some of our most critical natural resources – and what can be done to preserve these treasures.

This is crucial. Healthy oceans and lands underpin the development of all life on Earth, including our own.

The work you do is vital to achieving the real world results that spell success for the Paris Agreement and the Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Then, the Sixth Assessment Report is expected just before the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

So in the next steps for climate action – raising ambition before 2020 and taking stock of progress towards our global goals – science from the IPCC is incredibly important.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is truly a crossroads moment for the future of humanity.

Those in this room know this perhaps better than anyone.

We refuse to choose a path that makes the climate impacts we have seen our new normal. Instead, we have chosen a path of low-emission development and highly resilient societies.

This choice is not easy.

Governments and private sector leaders and individuals need as many reasons as possible – as much evidence as possible – to choose new behaviors and business models.

And the IPCC provides us with that evidence: to put it simply, there will be no success for the Paris Agreement without the work of the IPCC.

The vision of Paris, the future agreed by nations of the world is being built on the foundation the IPCC has helped us put in place.

It is a future where peace and prosperity flourish in a stable, secure world... where healthy and resilient communities grow and develop on a healthy planet.

It is a future we can only arrive at through evidence-based decision making and collaboration based on sound science.



Together, we make that future our reality.

Thank you and congratulations.