

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

51st Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Speech at the Opening Ceremony by IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee
Monaco, 20 September 2019

Firstly, let me thank His Serene Highness Prince Albert II for honouring us with his presence here today and for welcoming us to his country and to this magnificent conference centre.

Monaco was a driving force behind the IPCC's decision to focus this Special Report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate.

Three years ago, we met here in Monaco for the scoping meeting of the report we are now here to approve.

Monaco's generous support to the IPCC extends to many other areas as well.

Last night we held the ceremony for the new round of awards under the IPCC Scholarship Fund, which draws vital support from the Prince Albert II Foundation.

The Scholarship Fund supports early career climate scientists in developing countries and contributes to the building of a strong scientific foundation for IPCC work in the future.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to His Serene Highness for the outstanding support to the work of the IPCC.

This week's deliberations on the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* mark another major milestone for the IPCC.

I would like to thank the authors, the working group co-chairs and the Technical Support Units and all involved for delivering such a solid draft on which we can base our discussions here this week.

This is a marathon year for the IPCC: In May we completed our methodology report, the *2019 Refinement*, and last month we approved and accepted our Special Report on *Climate Change and Land*.

The two special reports this year complement last October's Special Report on *Global Warming of 1.5°C*.

Together they constitute the most up-to-date science on climate change as we prepare for the full Sixth Assessment Report.

Preparations are also under way for the scoping meeting for the Synthesis Report next month to be held in Singapore.

IPCC authors and bureau members are working to punishing schedules while you - the government delegates - rise to the occasion of rigorous approval sessions three times this year.

We have seen how our special reports *Global Warming of 1.5°C* and *Climate Change and Land* have transformed and galvanized discussions about climate change.

There is no doubt that our work over the next few days will make another big contribution to public awareness about global warming.

Policy relevance is the hallmark of the IPCC and the timing of this report could not be more relevant.

World leaders are gathering in New York for the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit to boost ambition and accelerate action to tackle climate change.

This report will also be a valuable input into the COP25 Santiago Climate Change Conference later this year, which host nation Chile is describing as a "Blue COP".

I am confident our report will give political leaders, the scientific community and the public the scientific knowledge they need to take the right action and find solutions to address climate change.

I wish you fruitful and productive discussions.

Thank you for your attention.