

**Opening Session**  
**Special Report on the “Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing  
Climate”**

(Monaco, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019; 10:00 am)

VOCATIVES

- 1 - His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.
- 2 - Mr. Hoesung Lee - Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- 3 - Ms Elena Manaenkova - Deputy Secretary-General, WMO
- 4 - Mr Jian Liu - Chief Scientist and Director of the Science Division, UN Environment.
- 5 - Mr Florin Vladu - Manager Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC.
- 6 - Dear Ministers of State.
- 7 - Lead authors and contributors to the IPCC special report on the “Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate”.
- 8 - Country’s delegates.
- 9 - Dear Friends of Science.

WELCOMING WORDS

Merci monsieur Abdalah Mokssit;

It is a privilege to participate in the opening ceremony of the 51st Session of the IPCC for the discussion of the Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Special Report on the “Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate”, and in the approval of the underlying report. We celebrate the presence of his serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, along with the highest representatives of

the IPCC, WMO, UNFCCC and country's delegates that will take part in these timely discussions during the next few days.

I express my gratitude to the Government of Monaco for kindly hosting the meeting and for providing the conditions for a productive environment. I also thank the lead authors of this special report, which collects and organizes our up-to-date knowledge of the Oceans and the Cryosphere and their link to Climate Change. And I thank policy makers.

Like all previous IPCC special reports, **it is through the systematic hand-in-hand work of scientists and policy makers that high-quality evidence holds its true potential to reach the public and contribute to decision making.**

## OCEANS AND CRYOSPHERE

The role of the oceans as key elements in the regulation of global climate is well-documented. We are now accumulating substantial evidence on the effects of climate change in ocean dynamics and its acidification; we are also progressively understanding its effects in coastal ecosystems; in biodiversity; and in the development of productive activities and the provision of ecosystem services.

We have also made significant progress in our understanding of the cryosphere, with known reduction in the volume of ice sheets and glaciers.

Perhaps more than in any other topic, **sharing** the information of our oceans and ice between different countries, between different communities within countries, and **establishing collaborative strategies to use this information** are essential to generate and coordinate global efforts for climate action, focused on both mitigation and adaptation. This is part of an urgent and unavoidable challenge that knows no borders, one that reveals the extent of the

integration of climate and life on this planet. An integration worth stressing now that just a few days ago we celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt's birth, whose pioneering vision points in one direction only: **everyone must be part of the solution.**

## CHILE

Chile has been an active advocate for climate action regarding the oceans and the Antarctica. Together with Monaco and many others we have promoted initiatives like "Because the Ocean" and "Friends of the Ocean".

Importantly, we have protected 43% of our Exclusive Marine Economic Zone - no small feat when considering that its surface is roughly 3.5 million square kilometers, three times the terrestrial surface of the country - and we are looking forward to start implementing the monitoring and assessment of these protected areas - with the help of technology! In December we will launch the "Platform of Solutions for the Ocean" as a tool for action.

We have also initiated a plan to renovate our bases in Antarctica and will continue improving logistics support for Antarctic research with a new icebreaker, currently under construction in the south of Chile.

**Crucially**, we have committed to fully replace coal energy production by 2040, to electro-mobility in public transport and to become carbon neutral by 2050. These objectives require new perspectives in the upgrading of our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and strong alliances to turn it into a global effort.

**As the incoming Presidency of COP25, Chile will encourage world leaders to establish ambitious goals and to implement ambitious policies, because we firmly believe it is “time for action”.**

### A NEW MINISTRY FOR SCIENCE

At the recently created Ministry of Science in Chile – we’ve been in office for 9 months - we take time for action seriously. As a result, we are encouraging a decided first step in this direction: **to strongly embrace the compelling evidence produced by the international scientific community.** In our minds this is a vital issue and one that is worth defending with renovated vigor as we perceive that, despite our conviction, the relevance of evidence seems fragile in our contemporary world and perhaps no so solidly built-in as one would like to believe.

Additionally, we realize that fear, together with catastrophic and apocalyptic scenarios, only serve to paralyze us. On the contrary, although we are fully convinced of the seriousness of the current evidence and its projections, **time for action means embracing a “responsible solutions” perspective.** Solutions where science, technology and innovation, are implemented by integrating academic research, the public sector, the private sector and civil society. Where evidence finds its way to public policy and where significant efforts are made to bridge those two words, evidence and policy, that are often still distant realities.

In preparing for COP25 we have set up a scientific advisory committee that will produce local reports and will participate in elaborating our NDCs. We have incorporated members of our staff in the negotiating teams for COP25 and as delegates for these IPCC sessions. **We invite all of you to use COP25 as a turning point, to**

**enhance the relationship between scientific evidence and climate action.**

## HOPE

I have witnessed the hope of thousands of scientists willing to contribute to public policies. And we all know that millions of people are expecting solutions based on our current understanding of the behavior of our physical world. **From our perspective, full consideration of scientific evidence is *the* opportunity of our time to drive sustainable and integral development.**

Therefore, I can hardly conceive a better chance than this IPCC session and the results that it will provide, to give us the chance to reflect on these not so simple issues, and to prepare for action, thus responding to growing social expectations of the scientific endeavor, especially regarding the role of the oceans and the cryosphere in our changing climate. **This instance is also perfectly aligned with COP25, which we have conceived to bear the colors of the ocean: Blue-COP25.**

I admire your commitment and wish you all a productive *and* influential meeting.

Thank you very much.