

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

His Excellency Mihael Zmajlović, Minister of Environmental Protection and Nature, Republic of Croatia

Mr Jeremiah Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

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Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Government of Croatia for hosting this 42nd Session of the IPCC in these excellent facilities in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik. Such a setting will surely be conducive to a harmonious and productive meeting.

Our main work at this Session will be to elect a new Bureau of the IPCC, so it is fitting for me to say a few words about the departing Bureau.

The Bureau that is standing down this week has helped the Panel through a highly productive assessment cycle, including the Fifth Assessment Report, the two Special Reports on renewable energy and on extreme events, and two Methodology Reports, as well as a wealth of expert meetings and workshops.

During this period, the IPCC has also undertaken a thorough review of its practices and procedures, and ends the cycle as a stronger and more robust organization.

It has been a privilege for me to serve for the past six months as Acting Chair.

The single greatest achievement of the past seven years was the completion of AR5 – the most thorough and comprehensive assessment of the science relating to climate change ever undertaken.

Let us recall some of the key findings of that milestone report:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear;
- The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts; and
- We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future.

We are meeting here two months before COP 21 in Paris, where our governments will seek to reach a binding global agreement to tackle climate change.

For the negotiators in Paris, the findings of AR5 are a rich resource and key input.

Indeed, the COP, meeting last year in Lima one month after the finalization of the Synthesis Report concluded the AR5 process, made this explicit:

The COP last year acknowledged that AR5 provided the scientific foundation for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action or ADP, which is developing the climate agreement. It urged Parties to the Convention to make use of the information in AR5 in their negotiations and invited the IPCC to continue to provide relevant information to the Parties.

Also, in the last few years, the IPCC has conducted an unprecedented programme of outreach, helped by the generous support of some of our members. It is not enough to produce excellent assessments; we must also communicate them in an accessible and effective manner, to policymakers, key stakeholders and the general public at large.

The elections that we will hold this week for a new Bureau are being conducted in the light of the decisions we took at the previous Session in Nairobi, when, in the review of Future Work of the IPCC, we expanded the size of the Bureau to 34 from 31 members.

I would like to conclude by urging all of you to work together this week for the benefit of the IPCC.

And of course, I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, the Bureau, the Technical Support Units and the Secretariat for all their hard work in making the IPCC what it is today.

I wish you all a successful, collegial and friendly meeting, and hereby declare the 42nd Session of the IPCC open.