

Women Advancing Climate and Climate Change Sciences

Side event at COP22, Monday 14 November

Opening statement by Hoesung Lee

Your Excellency Charafat Afailal, Deputy Minister for Water

Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the WMO

Dear Fatima, Ko and Valérie

Friends and Colleagues

Thank you for this invitation to speak at this event on Women Advancing Climate and Climate Change Sciences. This is a great initiative and I'm delighted to see so many people from the IPCC community involved in it. You are role models for all those girls and young women considering a career in science.

Increasing the involvement of women in science is not just a good in itself. There are sound scientific reasons why we need to understand the part women play in climate change responses: their contribution as leaders in communities and households to managing disaster risks and building resilience; the threat to those communities when women are disempowered. I believe women scientists can bring a particular perspective to bear on these questions, in addition to their contribution to non-gender-related matters.

If we look at the IPCC procedures, we can see that gender balance is one of the factors to be taken into account when selecting author teams. And yet women made up only one fifth of the writing team for the Fifth Assessment Report. Let us be honest. We rely on our member states and observer organizations to nominate women scientists and experts to work for the IPCC. For instance for the scoping meeting in August for our special report *Global Warming of 1.5°C* only 27% of the experts nominated were women. By the time the scientific steering committee had finished selected experts, the proportion had improved to one third.

But when we look at the scientific leadership elected last year we can feel encouraged: two IPCC vice-chairs, two working group co-chairs, four working group vice-chairs, and six task force bureau

IPCC Secretariat

c/o WMO · 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix · C.P: 2300 · CH-1211 Geneva 2 · Switzerland
telephone +41 22 730 8208 / 54 / 84 · fax +41 22 730 8025 / 13 · email IPCC-Sec@wmo.int · www.ipcc.ch

members – several of whom are present today. We know we have further to go but I hope that our progress can provide some inspiration, and I look forward to hearing more about this initiative.

Thank you.