

IPCC 48, Remarks of UN Environment at the opening ceremony

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Your Excellency, Kim Eun-kyung, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea

Kim Jong-seok, Administrator of the Korean Meteorological Administration

Park Nam-chun, Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City

Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC

IPCC Bureau members, distinguished delegates,

A very good morning to you!

On behalf of the UN Environment Programme, I would like to thank the government of Korea for the generous hosting of the IPCC 48 and its joint working group sessions!

I would like also to pay tribute to the leadership role of Korea in the global efforts to address climate change, namely our former Secretary General H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who has identified climate change as the defining issue of our times in 2007 and laid the foundation for the Paris Agreement, by engaging world leaders at summit level!

Of course the new Leadership afterwards, the current Chair of the IPCC, Hoesung Lee, to whom I owe highest respect.

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the IPCC, much to celebrate, much more to do!

30 years ago, there was no Climate Change Convention, the UNFCCC, and the public was in the dark about climate change;

It was only 11 years ago, that the World finally became convinced of the reality of climate change, detrimental and human-induced, marked by the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007;

5 Years ago, there was no Paris Agreement, but its foundation built to act on the 2 degrees Celsius bottom line. That was the 5th Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Through this endeavor of evidence and confidence building, the IPCC has transformed itself to provide the scientific basis for action from only identifying the issues.

The 1.5 special report that you are going to approve and release during this meeting, is the start of this new adventure.

Together with WMO, the UN Environment has since 30 years ago been proud to escort the IPCC on this great journey with its tears and glories, and will continue to do so as long as governments and people need us.

Additional to all the other supports to the IPCC, policy and admin alike, we also provide complementary program support to fill in some of the time-bond knowledge gaps, such as the annual Emissions Gap Report and Adaptation Gap Report.

Our newly revitalized World Adaptation Science Program, based on the PROVIA, is a partnership with IPCC, WMO and UNFCCC, with one of the key targets to support the working group II assessment on vulnerability, impact and Adaptation.

I would like to congratulate the IPCC for having completed the drafting and review process, to make it ready for final approval and acceptance. This process alone demonstrates your determination and commitment to push the agenda of Paris Agreement forward.

You all deserve my special salute!

World Environment problems including climate change are interlinked, and in many cases emanate from the same sources and drivers.

Resolving these issues need source solutions and engaging everyone.

Climate change has been called the defining issue of our time and must be addressed with Swift response!

There are the other two burning issues. Pollution today causes more victims than world war II, air pollution accounts for more than half---92% of the world population suffer air pollution, and economic loss each year is equivalent to the GDP of Japan!

Climate warming and air pollution are twins, with multi-faceted interlinkages. It could also provide the opportunity to achieve Co-benefits, through initiatives such as the Clean Air and Climate Coalition.

Biodiversity is decreasing at an alarming rate with more than 10000 species disappearing each year. But biodiversity could help both mitigate and adapt to climate change... Another key dimension of Co-benefits in combating climate change. Such as REDD+ and EBA...

In discussing the 1.5 report, there is much to worry about, but much MORE options in our hands to act upon.

I wish the IPCC 48 and its joint working group sessions a good success.

Thank you!