

**Statement at the IPCC 48 Plenary**  
**Incheon, Republic of Korea, 1 October 2018**  
**Youssef Nassef – Director of the Adaptation**  
**Programme, UNFCCC secretariat**

*Recognition of Dignitaries from the Republic of Korea*

*Recognition of panelists in the plenary, which may include (t.b.c):*

Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chairman of the IPCC,

Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the WMO,

Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment,

Secretary Abdalah Mokssit and the secretariat of the IPCC,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank the IPCC and the government of the Republic of Korea for welcoming us here in Incheon. I am very happy to be here in beautiful Songdo, and at Songdo Convensia which is also where we will be partnering with the Government of Korea in holding a weeklong adaptation forum in April 2019.

In this era of implementation of the Paris Agreement, there has never been a more urgent need for a science to inform climate action. With the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the IPCC has responded to this need. For the UNFCCC process, this is a particularly *special*, Special Report, given its seminal importance to the evolution of ambition in the climate change negotiations.

The Special Report will feed directly into the Talanoa Dialogue, and its scientific findings will be disseminated through the SBSTA-IPCC Special Event at COP 24 in Katowice. What better occasion to do so than in the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the IPCC. We are sure that this Special Report will leave an indelible mark on our process, as past products of the IPCC have done.

The governments of the world are eagerly awaiting the findings you will present in the report, so that they can make informed decisions in Katowice, during the Talanoa Dialogue, and beyond, through the global stocktake, which itself will also be informed by the outcomes of the Sixth Assessment Report, to be completed in 2022.

Over the past three decades, the IPCC has progressively succeeded in narrowing uncertainty, in informing international policy and decision-making, and forging enhanced synergy between policy, science and practice. Within the coming years, the IPCC will further foster its role in this regard. As the Chair of the IPCC mentioned earlier this year, the IPCC is reinventing itself with the challenging body of work it is currently undertaking.

This session is largely focused on the adoption of the Special Report on 1.5. That said, I also look forward to hearing progress reports about the IPCC's work on the other Special Reports, the methodology report and the AR6, as well as topics like funding and how the IPCC will organize its work in light of the second global stocktake in 2028. In Katowice, I am sure that colleagues here will also be eagerly following, or even directly negotiating, the outcomes of the Ad hoc working group on the Paris Agreement, including on the transparency framework, global stocktake, adaptation and mitigation, to name just a few items.

We value the excellent collaboration between the IPCC and the UNFCCC, and between the respective secretariats. In this auspicious year, we celebrate thirty years of sound science, assessed by the IPCC, which has driven global action on climate change. Throughout the years, every milestone in the UN Climate Change process has been directly and powerfully informed by IPCC reports. The climate change negotiating process is critical to guiding national and global action on climate change; and at the same time, the progress we have made together over the past thirty years has encouraged many more climate actors to engage. The science produced by the IPCC is relevant to UNFCCC Parties, and to the world as a whole, including businesses, local governments, civil society organizations and individual citizens.

Looking back on 2018 thus far, we can see that collaboration has been very effective. We would like to thank the IPCC for the input into the Talanoa Dialogue that it has already provided. Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea participated in the Dialogue in May, where he emphasized the “unambiguous evidence” of climate change impacts, and discussed the fact that the Special Report on 1.5 deals with the social aspects of mitigation for the first time, and opportunities that exist, such as the falling costs of solar and wind energy.

The SBSTA Chair also hosted an informal meeting with the science community on the sidelines of the SB session in May, in which input from the IPCC, WMO and UNEP was much welcomed.

This year also marks an anniversary for the UNFCCC process, a decade of Research Dialogues, with valued IPCC participation and support. The tenth dialogue was held on the third of May this year, in conjunction with SBSTA 48. The goal of the dialogue was to hold a discussion at the science–policy interface in support of action under the Paris Agreement by focusing on “science for understanding” and “science for action”.

To conclude, the IPCC has consistently worked to fulfill the scientific needs of the UNFCCC. We are committed to working with you in communicating the science to the policy-makers, to shed light on both the challenge we face and the solutions. As you all know, this is a critical point in history. The window of opportunity is rapidly shrinking we must all work together to turn things around.

**Thank you** and I look forward to a productive forty-eighth session.