



**Speech by
Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri
Chairman of the IPCC,
at the Twenty Second Session of the IPCC**

New Delhi, India, 9 - 11 November 2004

Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Thiru A. Raja; Executive Director of UNEP and Under Secretary General of the UN, Prof. Klaus Topfer; Secretary General of the WMO, Dr. Michel Jarraud; Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dr. Prodipto Ghosh; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Mr. Naresh Dayal; Dr. Halldor Thorgeirsson from the UNFCCC, distinguished delegates and colleagues.

The IPCC has been in existence now for 16 years, and it would be appropriate to say at this 22nd session of the Panel that the organization has reached a stage of full maturity. During this entire period a great deal has been achieved, which I need hardly recount. But, it is reassuring to see that heads of governments, CEOs of major corporations, leaders of civil society and representatives of the media all refer to the work of the IPCC in forming their own positions and in discussing and implementing actions in the area of climate change. This places a growing responsibility of our organization, and if we wish to meet the expectations of those who utilize the work of the Panel, we would need to take a serious view of what our audience expects of us. I have said before that the success of the IPCC poses its greatest challenge. May I in this context offer a salute to my predecessors, who have ably led this organization to establish a process and attain a level of credibility that provides a solid foundation for us to build on.

In the various items that we would discuss formally in this meeting of the Panel, we would need to keep our own agenda and the expectations of others in perspective to continue with IPCC tradition and practice.

The major strength of the IPCC comes from its remarkable ability to proceed on the strength of consensus among its membership, which represents the diversity of today's world and a vast range of priorities and perspectives reflecting different interests and stakes. But we all have a common stake in assessing every aspect of climate change on a scientific and objective basis. May I emphasize two vital characteristics of IPCC's tradition and its consensual approach that constitute the strength of this organization. Firstly, the Panel as a whole must always respect and consider the specific perspectives of each member. But, more importantly, each member must respect and consider the perspectives of the entire Panel. Consensus is not something that happens by itself. It is an outcome that has to be shaped, and the only basis for shaping it is to follow the two cardinal rules that I have just mentioned. If we lose the dedication, the spirit and the desire to forge consensus in the working of the IPCC, then we would lose the most important element of its strength. I am mentioning this because I want to appeal to the members of this august body to ensure that our decisions are made and arrived at, driven exclusively by this imperative.

Another vital element of success of the IPCC has been the importance that the Panel attaches to the policy relevance of its work. This has been greatly facilitated and ensured through interaction with the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the various subsidiary bodies associated with it. It is the relevance of our work to the framing of policies that upholds the usefulness of IPCC's work round the world. We have to ensure and maintain this usefulness. IPCC has been instrumental in assisting human society take several actions in the field of climate change. We must, therefore, pursue stocktaking of ongoing global actions to see how the IPCC might retain and enhance the policy relevance of its work. This means that we must have close familiarity with the subjects and themes that are relevant to climate change related policies and actions. Further, we should also be fully cognizant of the value attached to timing of our outputs, so that the relevance of the assessments we produce is in keeping with the agenda that the global community is pursuing at any point of time. As is the case with justice delayed being justice denied, knowledge delayed is also knowledge irrelevant, if it is not delivered at the stage when it would be of use. As we develop our plan of action we have to be aware of what is expected of us and when. So also must we be aware of the questions that dominate prevalent thinking in the field of climate change today. It is for this reason that we selected a set of cross cutting themes for the AR4, wherein a consistent and coordinated view of certain themes should run through the Working Group reports so that the audience we address obtains a comprehensive and complete picture of them. But, through all these matters, may I say that the scientific integrity of what we do must remain paramount. It must never be compromised and never be questioned.

There is today a far greater need for coordination between Working Groups than has been the case in the past. This reality is a function of the extent of knowledge that is already prevalent on various aspects of climate change. As a result, those who, for instance, are concerned with the science of climate change and projecting the extent, magnitude and nature of climate change in the future would necessarily like to know the impacts of climate change as well. Awareness and knowledge of one part of a system leads to interest in other parts of the system. Here again the policy relevance of our work dictates the need for greater integration and coordination between the efforts of the Working Groups. With greater coordination the richness of each Working Group report would also be correspondingly enhanced. Fortunately, the outlines on which the Working Group reports

are now being developed include a broad and integrated view of cross-cutting subjects, and it is now for us to ensure that this intent for integration is converted into substance.

One of the major items we have on the agenda for this session of the Panel is the question of producing a Synthesis Report. I am sure the Panel will take an enlightened view on this subject and that we would get a decision before the close of this session. I believe this is important for us not only in planning our work during this Bureau's term of office but also for informing our audience of what we intend to do on this subject. Government policymakers, leaders of business and industry, NGOs, the public in general and even those from research and academia, who may not have the basic expertise and time to be able to read the other reports produced by the IPCC, would like to know if a synthesis report of the AR4 is to be brought out. Such a report, challenging as it might be to produce, is something that would get widespread attention from all stakeholders throughout the world. But, of course, we have to ensure the objectivity, the credibility and the usefulness of the Synthesis Report. We also have to ensure that this publication if produced by the IPCC is truly faithful to the science that is in the three Working Group reports as well as in the special reports produced by the Panel.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of India and the Ministry of Environment and Forests for having hosted this meeting and for all the excellent facilities and support provided to all of us. We do hope that in the deliberations and decisions of this session we would justify the support and help provided to us and of course live up to the expectations of the global community at large that places increasingly high expectations in our path.

Thank you!