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To IPCC Authors and Reviews Editors

Geneva, 23 April 2015

Dear Colleague,

End of May I will retire as Secretary of the IPCC, a position which I had held since 2004. It was a pleasure and privilege for me to serve this distinctive organization which in its 26 years of existence has contributed tremendously to informed decision-making in the field of climate change through its rigorous, comprehensive and objective assessments of scientific knowledge. It has also contributed to advancing science relevant to the understanding of climate change, its impacts and how to respond to the climate change challenge.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and all colleagues who have contributed to IPCC work as an author or review editor. It is the authors who provide their time, expertise and knowledge voluntarily to the IPCC who make the IPCC so unique and authoritative. The contribution of authors coming from different disciplines, with different expertise and viewpoints and their interaction in the writing teams is essential for arriving at a balanced assessment of such a complex matter as climate change. Without your participation and your tireless efforts IPCC reports would not exist. We from the IPCC Secretariat, the Executive Committee, the Bureau and the Technical Support Units are only facilitators to ensure that the task is completed in a timely and efficient manner and according to IPCC principles and procedures.

I had the opportunity to participate in many lead authors and expert meetings and listen to debates among authors. I learned a lot, not only about science itself but also how to respect and bridge differences in approaches and methods of various disciplines, something which I consider even more relevant the more the reports address not only the natural science dimension but also human and societal aspects. While the preparation of IPCC reports is very time consuming, and procedures and deadlines have to be respected, I hope that you also remember the interaction and work in IPCC teams as inspiring and beneficial experience.

I am confident that the IPCC will continue in the spirit for which it has been acknowledged and appreciated in the past and will prepare high quality and policy relevant assessments, assessments which respond to questions asked by decision-makers and other ever increasing user groups, without becoming policy prescriptive or getting into advocacy and with the widest possible contribution from the scientific community from all parts of the globe.

I wish you all the best for your future.

With kind personal regards,



(Renate Christ)
Secretary of the IPCC

IPCC Secretariat

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