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IPCC MEDIA ADVISORY

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IPCC holds preparatory meeting in Dublin for Special Report

GENEVA, Feb 9 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will hold a scoping meeting in Dublin on 13-16 February 2017 to draft the outline of the Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The meeting will bring together around 100 experts from about 50 countries.

The IPCC will hold a **Media Briefing** from 08:00 to 08:30 on Monday 13 February at the Ballsbridge Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin. This briefing immediately precedes the **Opening Ceremony** Session of the Scoping Meeting at which Laura Burke, Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, will present a welcome address. Bill Callanan, Chief Agricultural Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, will also speak at the opening session. This Plenary Session will run from 09:00 to 10:00 and is also open to the media as observers.

Representatives from the IPCC taking part in the Media Briefing will include IPCC Vice-Chair Youba Sokona, who is the Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Scoping Meeting and Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of IPCC Working Group III and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee, and other members of the IPCC Bureau.

During the Media Briefing, they will provide information about the IPCC, the Special Report and the purpose and expected outcomes of the scoping meeting.

“The way we manage land is one of the critical influences on the climate system. We need a holistic view so that responses to climate change can enhance other goals such as eradicating poverty and enhancing food security,” said IPCC Chair Lee. “Adaptation and the mitigation of climate change go hand-in-hand when we manage land sustainably, for example by restoring degraded land or improving agricultural practices. This report provides a unique opportunity to help policymakers develop integrated responses to these challenges.”

The IPCC decided to produce the Special Report in April 2016. It is due to be completed in September 2019. The meeting in Dublin will draft the outline and indicative coverage of the contents of the report, for consideration by the IPCC when it next meets in March.

The Scoping Meeting is supported by the Government of Ireland.

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What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. It has 195 member states.

IPCC assessments provide governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC assessments are a key input into the international negotiations to tackle climate change. IPCC reports are drafted and reviewed in several stages, thus guaranteeing objectivity and transparency.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The IPCC has three working groups: Working Group I, dealing with the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II, dealing with impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and Working Group III, dealing with the mitigation of climate change. It also has a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories that develops methodologies for measuring emissions and removals.

Sixth Assessment Cycle

Comprehensive scientific assessment reports are published every six to seven years; the latest, the Fifth Assessment Report, was completed in 2014. The next comprehensive assessment is due to be completed in 2022. The IPCC also publishes special reports on more specific issues between assessment reports.

The IPCC decided to produce the special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems as part of the programme of work agreed at its 43rd Session in Nairobi in April 2016. The outline of the report drafted in Dublin will be considered by the IPCC at its 45th Session in Guadalajara, Mexico, in March. On approval by the Panel, the IPCC will call for nominations of experts to serve as authors of the report.

In addition to the special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, the IPCC has agreed to prepare two other special reports during this assessment cycle:

- *Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*, to be delivered in 2018; and
- a special report on climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere, to be delivered in 2019.

The IPCC also prepares methodologies to enable countries to report their emissions and removals of greenhouse gases. It is currently updating the *2006 IPCC Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, for completion in 2019.