

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE IPCC WGII APPROVAL SESSION “CLIMATE CHANGE 2014: MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

by

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On behalf of the Secretary-General

World Meteorological Organization

(Berlin, Germany, 7–12 April 2014)

Excellency,

Dr Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC,

Drs Pichs-Madruga, Edenhofer and Sokona, Co-Chairs of Working Group III,

Mr Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP,

Ms Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC,

Ms Christ, Secretary of the IPCC,

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization, one of the two co-sponsors of the IPCC, I wish to welcome you at this approval session of the third part of the Fifth Assessment Report.

We are meeting again, only one week after the successful launch of the report of Working Group II, which has provided a crucial assessment of the knowledge of climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

The WMO community looks forward to the approval of this third component of the Fifth Assessment Report, the one that offers policymakers options for mitigation policies to reduce human influence on the climate system.

This report and the entire assessment would have not been possible without years of intense work by thousand of people. I wish to express my gratitude to the committed and dedicated scientists, including from the WMO community, who have accomplished this major task. I am confident that the satisfaction for the completion of the report is accompanied by the pride of having contributed possible solutions to mitigate climate change. I am grateful also to the Member States of the United Nations and to our co-sponsor UNEP for the continuing support to IPCC.

Last year, the report of Working Group I stated that limiting the global warming to a 2°C rise from the levels of 1880 will require that our future emissions of carbon dioxide be dramatically lower than the total amount of all our past emissions. Today's report on Mitigation of Climate Change presents what we need to do to meet this profound challenge in the context of a global economy that is rapidly growing.

Greenhouse gases can last for decades or longer in the atmosphere and this means that past and current emissions will continue to affect the climate for many years to come. To provide policymakers with sound scientific elements for their decisions, WMO and its Members monitor atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping gases on a continuous basis. These measurements confirm that atmospheric concentrations have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800 000 years.

In addition to sponsoring the IPCC and coordinating international climate observations and research, WMO supports also efforts to reduce emissions. The Global Framework for Climate Services assists governments to produce and use climate information and predictions for adapting to and mitigating climate change while transitioning to a green economy. Many climate-sensitive sectors, such as energy and agriculture, both contribute to, and are affected by, climate change. Climate services can empower decision makers to make these sectors more climate-resilient and to minimize their emissions.

I should add that from climate researchers to TV and radio weather presenters, the meteorological community has a key role to play in informing policymakers and the general public about the causes and impacts of climate change. The services and predictions we provide also support efforts to adapt to new climate conditions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate that WMO is proud for what the IPCC stands for and for what it has delivered. More than 25 years after the establishment of the Panel, we continue to believe that through scientific assessments of the highest quality IPCC is rendering a unique service to the international community. This is why we support its work unconditionally with our resources and inputs.

This 39th session of the IPCC is also important for the discussions that are being held on the future of the IPCC. This is a timely and very relevant process that will lead the Panel into assessment cycles with increased responsiveness to the needs, challenges, and opportunities of the world. As a co-sponsor of the IPCC, WMO welcomes this debate and looks forward to be further involved.

Thank you.
