

I would like to thank the French government for their great generosity in hosting this meeting as well as the celebration that follows this opening session.

And I would like to thank UNESCO, with whom we share the pursuit of knowledge, for letting us use these beautiful buildings.

This is our first session of 2018, our 30th anniversary year.

One of our most important pieces of business this week is to hear the reports of the Working Group Bureaux on the selection of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors for the Sixth Assessment Report.

The success of the IPCC starts from formulating a critical mass of quality authors for each chapter of the assessment reports.

The lists of authors presented to us this week will reflect this critical mass, taking into account the balance of expertise, geographical coverage and gender. The IPCC Bureau members and the Technical Support Units have invested tremendous amount of time and effort to produce this lists. We are very grateful to them for their dedication to the IPCC.

It is encouraging to see the increases in the number of developing country authors and the improvement in the gender balance.

This Sixth Assessment cycle and this 30th anniversary year are among the most ambitious the IPCC has seen.

You can argue the IPCC is reinventing itself with this challenging body of work, to ensure that it remains relevant to policymakers and other stakeholders amid our growing understanding of climate change.

I am referring not only to developing countries and the gender balance – two topics for further discussion on our agenda this week.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chair's opening statement to the 47th Session of the Panel
Paris, 13 March 2018

I am also thinking of the increased numbers of CLAs and LAs from the social sciences in AR6

This is particularly important because the Sixth Assessment will have an increased focus on solutions.

We need the expertise of sociologists, economists, political scientists, and so on as we look at the costs and opportunities of climate action and inaction and the drivers of decision-making at different scales.

Last week I was in Edmonton at the CitiesIPCC conference that we co-sponsored with nine partners to bring together scientists, practitioners and policymakers working with cities and climate change.

As you know, the IPCC is putting a particular focus in the Sixth Assessment Report on the problems that cities face from climate change, and the particular opportunities for mitigation and adaptation that they offer.

This reflects the increasing role of non-state actors, from local and city governments to investors, in the policy response to climate change.

Look also at the increasingly cross-disciplinary and cross-cutting approaches to our assessments.

You see this not only in the hand-offs from one working group to another in the AR6 outlines, but the very real and practical cooperation between working groups in the special reports and scientific business.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of many of our member governments, including our host France, the immediate financial problem has passed, but we still have much to do to put IPCC finances on to a sustainable footing.

Ladies, and Gentlemen, we are at the start of a historic year for the IPCC.

AR6, which will be completed in 2022 with a Synthesis Report that will be the major scientific input into contribute to the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

This week we will consider how we can most effectively align the assessment cycle of the IPCC with the Global Stocktake process to ensure that Parties to the Convention can base their negotiations on the most up-to-date science.

The Global Stocktake process opened this year with the Talanoa Dialogue, which will be concluded at COP24 in December.

Our Special Report on *Global Warming of 1.5°C* – one of the most keenly awaited in our history – will be the major scientific input into this dialogue.

The report will be finalized at the beginning of October, two months before COP24.

The review of the second order draft of the 1.5° report, assessing 5,000 cited references, closed two weeks ago, after attracting over 25,000 comments.

The authors, who meet next month in Botswana, are working on the final draft, which will go to final government review of the SPM in June and July.

Meanwhile, work continues apace on the other two special reports, on Climate Change and Land and on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and on the 2019 Refinement to our methodologies.

It is a source of pride that this unprecedented level of work is taking place in our 30th anniversary year.

As a result, the IPCC will be releasing eight reports over the next few years – one or more almost every year between now and 2022.

In this way we will continue to be the voice of climate science, contributing to evidence-based policy-making around the globe, as we have done for the past three decades.

I look forward to a productive and constructive meeting and declared the 47th Session of the IPCC open.