

**Opening of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
13 March 2018, at 9 am. UNESCO headquarters, Paris, France.**

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, you will quite rightly hear many people praise the incredible contribution of the IPCC.

- How their experts coordinate the latest science to deliver robust, independent evidence that can shape policy and action.
- How their track record and credibility resonates as much with individual citizens as it does with political, industrial, financial, civil society and community leaders.
- And how their work not only underpinned an ambitious global agreement on climate change that was unimaginable 30 years ago, but continues to highlight the need to go even further if we are to deliver on those commitments.

All true.

All merited.

However, along with our friends at the World Meteorological Organization, UN Environment's sponsorship of the IPCC means that we are privileged to see, what is perhaps an even more impressive side of their work.

We get to see the incredible men and women behind the research, reporting and recommendations.

Dedicated, talented scientists focused not on the well-earned recognition of Nobel Prizes or other awards, but on how well they can protect people around the world that they will never meet.

- People like young Howard Brunet and his family, who have to leave their homes in Louisiana to escape rising sea levels.
- Like elderly Georgia Lopez Ortiz in Puerto Rico, who was trapped at home for over month after the hurricanes damaged infrastructure.
- Like agricultural worker Wu Zhihua, who had to find new ways to support her family when the Yellow River swallowed their land.
- Or like 14-year-old divorcee Brishti Rafiq's who finds herself alone in Bangladesh because her family were washed out of their rural community in Jamalpur by floods.

There are millions like them across every continent.

Ordinary people already living with the daily impact of climate change, who will be joined by millions more in the years to come

That is why the teams at the IPCC work so incredibly hard to make their own impact.

And that's why it so appropriate to be marking this Anniversary at UNESCO.

The scientific heart of the United Nations, which is working so hard

- to nurture the next generation of researchers
- to protect the traditional cultures that are not only at risk from climate change, but could also hold some of the solutions to tackling it.
- And to play such an important role in campaigning and raising awareness on the forms and projection of climate impact.

The work of the IPCC does not only connect incredibly complex science that allows UN Environment Assemblies, Climate Conferences and Member States to take decisions and trigger actions.

It helps people from all walks of life do the same through their own personal and professional choices.

- From the investors steering us towards a greener economy and the finance system and companies scaling up clean energy and transport.
- To the individual consumers changing their ways of living and the national and local governments fostering that change.

So, the kind of hard data provided by the IPCC is crucial in enabling the UN to unite governments and private sector around policies, regulatory frameworks and fiscal measures, that can shift the world towards more sustainable progress.

We have already seen how effective this can be with the Montreal Protocol:

- First helping us to repair the Ozone Layer
- And now, with the Kigali Amendment, helping us to avoid up to 0.5 Celsius degrees of global warming by the end of century.

Just as the private sector was key to repairing the ozone, they are stepping up to the mark on business opportunities that also tackle global warming.

To give you just a very few examples:

- Google has been carbon neutral for more than a decade and is aiming for 100% renewable – a growing trend in the technology sector.
- Tesla's new solar roofs tiles look like the real thing, but stronger and 20% cheaper, when you factor in energy savings and tax credits.
- The Mumbai Metro sources 30% of its non-traction energy from solar.
- Coca Cola, Pepsi, Red Bull and Unilever are working together through 'Refrigerants Naturally!' to replace millions of cooling systems with HFC free alternatives.

And with each new business success, comes new jobs and investment.

The 10 million people working in renewables today will reach 26 million by 2050, with investment in the sector growing six-fold in just the last decade.

- In Europe, more than 90% of new power generation capacity already comes from renewable energy, with the Commission also targeting 30% energy efficiency by 2030.
- In Japan, more than 100 communities already operate entirely on renewables, but thanks to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, more than 7,200 communities are committed to reducing emissions 40% by 2030.
- And, around the world dropping costs for renewable and off-grid technology could transform the lives of than 500 million people currently without electricity.

So, there is no doubt that looking back 30 years, the IPCC has done a lot. But looking ahead, there is much more to do.

The world will continue looking towards the IPCC as it:

- prepares for next year's Climate Summit,
- shapes the Environment Pact
- and strives to help us cut the dangerous gap between the Paris targets and the emission reductions actually being achieved.

That's why UN Environment and WMO are so proud to have supported the incredible teams at the IPCC through the ups and downs of the last three decades.

But, I promise, we will be even more proud to be by your side in the months and years ahead as the rest of the world lives up to the amazing example you have set.

Thank you.

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