

Talking notes for DSG/WMO at opening of 42nd Session of the IPCC Dubrovnik, 5 October 2015

- Thanks to the government of Croatia for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city.
- This session, whose main business is to elect a new bureau of the IPCC, is taking place at an important moment in climate policymaking.
- In less than two months your governments will be gathering in Paris to reach a global and legally binding agreement to tackle climate change.
- The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, completed 11 months ago with the finalization of the Synthesis Report in Copenhagen, provides a key input, perhaps the key input, into those deliberations.
- Recall the main messages of AR5:
 - Human influence on the climate system is clear;
 - The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts;
 - We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous and sustainable future.
- The election of a new bureau will set in train the production of the Sixth Assessment Report.
- In the meantime the scientific community is continuing its work.
- The WMO (which itself is going through a leadership transition) released an update on El Niño last month.
- Among the findings we stated:
 - As of August 2015, both the ocean and atmosphere over the tropical Pacific exhibit behaviour indicative of a strong El Niño;
 - A majority of the models surveyed and expert opinion suggest the 2015-16 El Niño will strengthen further during the second half of 2015;
 - The peak strength of this El Niño, expected sometime during October 2015 to January 2016, with surface water temperatures in the east-central tropical Pacific Ocean likely to exceed 2° Celsius above average, could potentially place it among the four strongest El Niño events since 1950.
- In November or December, just before or during COP-21, the WMO will release its Greenhouse Gas Bulletin 2014, Preliminary Statement on the Status of the Climate 2015, and a statement on the climate for 2011-2015.
- These WMO and IPCC products are attracting lively attention from the media and public at large, especially in the context of the approaching climate negotiations.
- Clear and accessible communication of climate science is important, and the WMO welcomes the series of outreach activities undertaken by the IPCC in different countries this year.

- Together the WMO and IPCC have been running a series of workshops for weather presenters to familiarize them with the IPCC findings.
- The WMO will bring up to 20 weather presenters to Paris for COP-21 and we hope there will be an opportunity for IPCC leaders and authors to be interviewed by them.
- I wish you a successful and productive meeting in Dubrovnik.