

## **Welcoming Speech by Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization Opening Ceremony of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address the opening ceremony of the 48th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and I extend WMO's gratitude to the Republic of Korea and the Korean Meteorological Administration for hosting and for all the generous arrangements they have made.

I am accompanied today by WMO's new Chief Scientist Professor Pavel Kabat who will be here throughout the week.

The WMO Executive Council at its June 2018 session congratulated the IPCC on its 30th anniversary and welcomed the success of the IPCC in stabilizing and improving its financial situation.

WMO Executive Council called on Members to maintain, and whenever possible, increase their financial support to IPCC activities through contributions to the IPCC in order to ensure a required level of financial resources to ensure completion of activities and products in the Sixth Assessment Report cycle. It urged Members to actively participate in the activities of the IPCC, in particular through the contribution of scientists and experts from NMHSs, especially from developing countries.

We are pleased that the science is increasingly heard and used by policy makers to support policy decisions. WMO Secretary General Prof Petteri Taalas regularly informs UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the status of the global climate and trends in extreme events.

The UN Secretary General highlighted climate change in his address to the opening of the General Assembly and quoted WMO figures that the past two decades have included 18 of the 20 warmest since record-keeping began in 1850.

*"Climate change is moving faster than we are. We need greater ambition and a greater sense of urgency. We must guarantee the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It has immense potential to*

*set us on the right course, but its targets -- which represent the bare minimum to avoid the worst impacts of climate change -- are far from being met,"* Mr Guterres told the General Assembly.

*"We must listen to the earth's best scientists,"* said Mr Guterres. In his General Assembly address, He spoke about you. The world's best science is concentrated here in this room. We commend the heroic work of thousands of authors and reviewers.

WMO continues to monitor climate trends. It is no surprise that 2018 is set to become one of warmest on record, and we are seeing new records in long-term climate change indicators. The greatest tragedy to those immediately affected is the d extreme weather ranging from record heat in northern Europe to devastating floods in Japan, India, southeast Asia and the southeastern United States.

As far as WMO is concerned we need to step up action to help our Members in assisting with climate resilient development and being more integrated in the approach we are taking to the provision of climate services for high-level policy processes.

This includes further alignment of WMO-supported climate analyses relevant to the scientific assessment of the IPCC and continued integration of such analyses into WMO flagship publications such as the annual statement on the state of the climate. WMO will continue to provide guidance on methodologies and tools to Members for the preparation of analyses of past, present and future climate as needed to assess collective progress of climate action under the Paris Agreement.