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IPCC PRESS RELEASE

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IPCC presents findings and activities in Jamaica

Kingston, Nov 29 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world body for assessing the science related to climate change, will present its findings with a focus on the Caribbean at an outreach event in Kingston on 29 November - 1 December 2016 to be attended by policymakers, practitioners, scientists, civil society representatives and media from Jamaica and the region.

The IPCC will also present its work programme for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle, including the Special Report on global warming of 1.5 °C at the event hosted by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica and taking place at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The event will be opened by Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness and the Chair of the IPCC Hoesung Lee and will include a press conference on 30 November.

IPCC Chair Lee said the Sixth Assessment Report would build on the robust scientific findings on climate change delivered by the IPCC's last major report, the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), completed in 2014. Lee said he hoped the next assessment would provide more regional detail.

"We would like to see a greater involvement of scientists from the Caribbean in the work of the IPCC publishing research, serving as authors or acting as expert reviewers across the range of topics that we assess," said Lee.

At the outreach event, scientists will also present the findings of the Fifth Assessment, which was a crucial input to the Paris Climate Change Agreement reached in December 2015 by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). That report found the world has the means to limit global warming and build a more prosperous and sustainable future, but limiting warming to 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels would require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades.

"Climate change will amplify existing risks and create new risks for Jamaica and other Caribbean countries, which are vulnerable to a range of impacts including sea-level rise and extreme climate events," said John Agard, IPCC author from Trinidad and Tobago. "Nonetheless, there are many opportunities to combine responses to dangerous climate change with development strategies," said Agard, one of the speakers.

Other speakers include IPCC Vice-Chair Thelma Krug, IPCC author Inés Camilloni, IPCC Bureau member Ramón Pichs-Madruga, UWI Professor Michael Taylor, Carlos Fuller, Chair of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, and representatives of the Caribbean Community.

For more information:

Webpage of the event: <http://ipcc.ch/apps/outreach/eventinfo.php?q=369>

Follow the event live: <http://live.mona.uwi.edu/>

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Notes for editors

What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a picture of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the Panel are its 195 member countries. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. The word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes, although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something.

Sixth Assessment Cycle

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 43rd Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and AR6.

At its 44th Session in October 2016, the IPCC approved the outlines of *Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* to be delivered in 2018, and *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* to be delivered in 2019.

In 2019 the IPCC will also finalize two Special Reports: on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere; and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The AR6 Synthesis Report will be finalized in the first half of 2022.