Transcript of the video message from the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell during the Opening of the 62nd Session of the IPCC. Hangzhou, China 24 February 2025

Colleagues,

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

Every year since then, countries have come together to agree more detail. We know why the world must stop climate change. In the last ten years, we've agreed how to do it:

In Sharm, countries agreed to pool resources for the most vulnerable. In Dubai, they agreed to phase out fossil fuels and on steps to achieve the global goal on adaptation. And in Baku, they agreed on the financial support to enable the transition in developing countries – at least 300 billion dollars by 2035, looking to ramp up that amount to 1.3 trillion.

The energy transition is already in full swing. And it is unstoppable. Over 2 trillion dollars were invested in climate action last year.

And countries are taking note – with national climate plans that are slowly bringing climate action in line with the needs that scientists tell us must be met.

Limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C is still possible – but this window is closing fast – with last year being the first full year above that temperature.

Science provides the basis and the benchmark for all our work.

We need your work to continue, now more than ever, as we pivot to implementation – because your insights can help us accelerate action, to ensure temperatures stabilize, and people are protected.

From making plans to putting them in practice and assessing progress, the best available science is indispensable.

I am encouraged by the draft outlines and suggested timelines put forward by the three working groups.

By August 2028, this information will deliver a fundamental assessment of the impacts of international cooperation for climate action.

It will provide crucial information on adaptation and mitigation options based on experience, looking at costs, benefits, and who's to benefit – with equity in mind.

Adaptation, in particular, is extremely important. We must understand the progress we are making, its effectiveness and adequacy compared to previous cycles. Especially as we will be agreeing more indicators to measure progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation in Belém.

Now is the time to push forward. I urge all the delegates in Hangzhou to agree to these outlines and timelines. Because your work will be vital as Parties plan and implement climate actions, collectively assess progress, and consider enhancing their ambition.

As we move forward, I look forward to continued cooperation between our organizations. I am eager to hear an update from the IPCC Chair during our June meetings in Bonn.

Together, we can ensure a just transition and a sustainable future for all. I thank you.