

**Transcript of the video message from UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen delivered at the opening of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.**

**24 February 2025, Hangzhou, China**

*Transcript for recording – check against delivery.*

Dr. Jim Skea, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),  
Ms. Ko Barrett, Deputy Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO),  
Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC,  
Colleagues and friends.

Welcome to the 62nd session of the IPCC. My thanks to the Government of China, the China Meteorological Administration and the city of Hangzhou for hosting this gathering. Deep thanks also to everyone for the work so far in this, the seventh cycle of the world's leading authority on climate science.

As I said when you began this cycle, your work is critical in this time of climate emergency. The 20 months since have only reinforced this message. The WMO reported that 2024 was at least 1.55°C above pre-industrial temperatures. We all saw the impacts.

The goal of holding temperatures to 1.5°C is still mathematically possible but of course we are pushing against that very limit. And there is growing concern that temperatures are climbing faster than expected. Overshoot, and further deadly and damaging impacts, is looking increasingly likely.

The IPCC, through this cycle, will provide the science that backs nations in implementing the national climate plans they are updating this year. These plans must be much stronger and, collectively, promise to almost halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 for a long-term 1.5°C trajectory.

The Panel has made progress. Last year you agreed to deliver three assessment reports on the physical science; on impacts; and on adaptation and mitigation – alongside a synthesis report. You have also agreed to deliver a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and methodology reports on Short-lived Climate Forcers and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).

Last year, the three Working Groups scoped their assessment reports, while the Task Force on GHG Inventories scoped the methodology report on CDR. All four reports are now under consideration at this session. I commend you for your work.

I also acknowledge your efforts to build a bigger tent, so that everyone can be involved in addressing climate change. On making your assessment reports relevant to policy, as

demonstrated by the high profile of the IPCC at the last climate COP. And on interdisciplinary action, shown through collaboration with UNEP-supported assessment Panels and support for negotiations on the Science-Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention.

But time is not on our side. So, at this session, I ask you to finalize ambitious outlines, timelines and budgets for the three working group reports, and the Methodology Report on CDR. Your science is urgently needed to guide nations in greater ambition and to inform the second Global Stocktake in 2028.

As we are at the stage when we need all hands to the pumps, I also ask you to focus on providing a menu of solutions that provide action points for all sectors of society. UNEP will, of course, be there to support you, including by hosting future sessions, if required.

Colleagues,

The goals of the Paris Agreement are in danger. But let us remember that every fraction of a degree avoided counts in terms of deadly and damaging impacts. Therefore, every tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent avoided counts.

Every day, week and month counts. The IPCC stands unequivocally for the best science the world can deliver. Science is physics, not politics. Science cannot be politicized because science will always remain science. The IPCC has the clout to take this message to the world and show us what must be done, starting with the decisions taken at this session.