

UNFCCC SBSTA-39, 11 November 2013, Warsaw
Statement by the Secretary of the IPCC Renate Christ

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to update SBSTA on ongoing and recently completed IPCC work which is of relevance to SBSTA or responds directly to invitations from SBSTA.

Let me start with the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. In September the Panel at its 36th Session held in Stockholm, Sweden, approved the Summary for Policymakers and accepted the full report of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report, dealing with the Physical Science Basis. Let me recall a few key findings of this report:

- The report confirms that warming of the climate system is unequivocal.
- Scientists conclude with high confidence that ocean warming dominates the increase in energy stored in the climate system, accounting for more than 90% of the energy accumulated between 1971 and 2010.
- Human influence on the climate system is clear. It has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes.
- Global surface temperature change for the end of the 21st century is likely to exceed 1.5°C relative to 1850 to 1900 for all RCP scenarios except RCP2.6. It is likely to exceed 2°C for RCP6.0 and RCP8.5, and more likely than not to exceed 2°C for RCP4.5. Warming will continue beyond 2100 under all RCP scenarios except RCP2.6.
- Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Cumulative emissions of CO₂ largely determine global mean surface warming by the late 21st century and beyond. Any given level of warming is associated with a range of cumulative CO₂ emissions²¹, and therefore, higher emissions in earlier decades imply lower emissions later. Limiting the warming caused by anthropogenic CO₂ emissions alone with a probability of >66% to less than 2°C since the period 1861–1880, will require cumulative CO₂ emissions from all anthropogenic sources to stay between 0 and about 1000 GtC since that period. An amount of 515 GtC was already emitted by 2011.

The WGI report provides the best available scientific knowledge on the physical science basis and we hope that it supports Parties' considerations of the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention, as well as the ADP and other SBSTA agenda items. Details of the report will be presented at the SED tomorrow and on Wednesday and at a SBSTA-IPCC Special Event held on Tuesday 12 November from 13.15-14.45. The edited version of the approved SPM and an unedited version of the accepted underlying assessment report are available on the

IPCC website. Further information can be obtained at the IPCC stand.

The preparation of the remaining contributions to the AR5 proceeds as scheduled with WG 2 to be finalized end of March 2014, WG III mid April and the SYR end of October and we hope we can provide detailed presentations at SBSTA-40 and COP-20 next year.

Let me now turn to the work of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. I am very pleased to inform SBSTA of the completion of two methodological reports.

One is the “2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands”. This report has been developed in response to the invitation by SBSTA at its 33rd Session for the IPCC to undertake further methodological work on wetlands, focusing on the rewetting and restoration of peatland, with a view to filling in the gaps in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in these areas.

The other report is the “2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol”. This report has been produced in response to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its 7th Session, for the IPCC to update supplementary methodologies for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol on the basis of, inter alia, chapter 4 of its Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

Both reports were adopted and accepted by the IPCC at its 37th Session in mid-October held in Batumi, Georgia.

The pre-publication versions of these reports were uploaded to the IPCC TFI website on 2 November so that they are available to the SBSTA for consideration at this session as requested. I would like to also inform you that the SBSTA-IPCC Special Event on these two new methodological guidance reports will be held at lunchtime on Wednesday, 13 November, in Room 4.

As the 5th assessment period comes to a close the IPCC has started at its 37th Session considerations how to best organize and structure future IPCC work. User feedback is essential in this context and I would like to invite you to an IPCC side event to consider users perspectives of the WGI contribution to the AR5, which will be held at lunchtime on Thursday 21 November in Room Cracow.

Thank you Mr. Chairman