

Statement

Opening Ceremony of the 44th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

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16 May 2016, Bonn, Germany

Thank you, Chair!

Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC, hold its 43rd session in Nairobi in April 2016, and took some important decisions of relevance to the work of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about these decisions.

Firstly, the IPCC has decided “to take the outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC into account when determining the IPCC programme of work and products for the sixth IPCC assessment cycle”.

As you are probably aware, the IPCC responded positively to the request of the UNFCCC and accepted the invitation “to provide a Special Report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and decides to prepare a Special Report on this topic in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.”

I am pleased to let you know that the work on this report has already started. The Secretariat has sent out the relevant invitations to governments, the IPCC Bureau members and observer organizations to nominate experts for the scoping of this report. The scoping meeting is scheduled for the third week of August and is expected to prepare an outline to be presented for consideration at the 44th Session of the IPCC in October 2016. The draft Special Report on this topic is expected to be approved at the IPCC session in September 2018.

Furthermore, the IPCC approved the proposal on “Refinement of 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Inventories, including production of a Methodology Report(s)”, which is expected “to provide an updated and sound scientific basis for future international climate actions, particularly those under the Paris Agreement” (Annex I to the decisions from the 43rd Session of the IPCC). The scoping process for this has also initiated and the draft Methodology Report on Greenhouse Gas Inventories is expected to be approved by an IPCC Plenary session in May 2019.

The panel has also decided to prepare during its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle a Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land

management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, as well as a Special Report on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere. Furthermore, the Panel recommended, within the AR6 scoping processes, a stronger integration of the assessment on the impacts of climate change on cities and decided that the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) cycle should include a Special Report on climate change and cities.

As for the scoping of the AR6 to be delivered in three Working Group contributions and a Synthesis Report, the IPCC also considered enhancing the regional issues. The Panel decided that the approval by the Plenary of the AR6 Synthesis Report should happen as soon as possible in the course of 2022. This means that the report should be launched before the global stocktake in 2023. Furthermore, the panel requested the Secretariat to prepare proposals for aligning the work of the IPCC during its AR7 with the needs of the global stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement and to submit these proposals for consideration at a Plenary session of the IPCC no later than 2018.

To see all the decisions of the 43rd Session of the Panel, please visit the IPCC website at www.ipcc.ch

To conclude, let me thank you all for your attention.