RINGO COP24 HLS statement

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the global research community.

Back in 1992, the Framework Convention on Climate Change stressed that ‘... Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects ...’ and that ‘... lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures ...’. While precaution remains a central value to inspire policy making, 26 years of additional research have resulted in more evidence of climate change attributed to human activity than ever before. The recent IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees may in this sense be seen as a culmination of scientific insight underpinning a convincing warning signal to the world.

We honor and deeply appreciate the commitment of our members who contributed to the research within and the preparation of the report. Moreover, many of our members are not only researchers but also educators and facilitators of discourse about climate change. In our universities and institutes, we teach climate science and policy, and train people to become future champions for climate action. Education must encompass not only the teaching of the latest developments in climate science and technology, but also policy analysis, cultural awareness and the history and context of climate policy. In that sense, we also want to highlight the importance of research in strengthening the policy dialogue. Research has enabled us to see the linkages and interdependencies between climate action, human well-being and planetary health. With the research data, multi-stakeholder discussions will be even more effective in identifying solutions that work for all.

In conclusion, we would like to express our deep concern over the recent discussions on the latest IPCC report, the summary of which was approved by the members of the IPCC. We urge the same governments in this UNFCCC process, where research and systematic observation are vital to enable robust evidence-based policy, to take the IPCC report and the research underpinning it as seriously as we do.

Thank you.