

IPCC Chair – opening remarks - Global Stocktake Technical Dialogue, 6 June 2023

Thank you ...

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

As the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC – I would like to express my gratitude for this opportunity to address the opening of this year's Global Stocktake Technical Dialogue. The important discussions and conversations over the coming days will pave the way and help to shape the first Global Stocktake at COP28 in Dubai.

Less than three months ago the IPCC released the Synthesis Report to the Sixth Assessment Report, in time to deliver its substantial scientific contribution to these important processes, critical to assessing collective progress under the Paris Agreement and addressing opportunities for enhanced action and support.

Our latest report is a stand-alone synthesis of the most policy-relevant evidence from the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature assessed in the Sixth Assessment. It draws and integrates the main findings and lines of evidence from the critical contributions of the three Working Groups and the three special reports.

You will find the contents of the Synthesis report particularly relevant for the guiding questions of this Global Stocktake Technical dialogue. I encourage you to consider their responses in light of equity and the best available science, including the latest reports of the IPCC.

The IPCC report says it is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change. Human activities, predominantly from burning fossil fuels have warmed the planet by 1.1 degree Celsius. The scale and magnitude of climate changes are unprecedented over many centuries and thousands of years and recent changes are widespread, rapid and intensifying, from the poles to the ocean, from mountains to the tropics. This warming has and will continue harming people and places, with those contributing the least experiencing the most negative impacts.

Our latest work brings the losses and damages into sharp focus. Both those we are already experiencing and those to come in the future. Most vulnerable people and ecosystems are hit the hardest.

The Report stresses that urgent climate action can secure a liveable future for all. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In all sectors, emissions will need to be cut by almost half by 2030 if we want a chance to stay at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Our report is also a message of hope. The report points to multiple, feasible and effective options across all sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change. And those options for change are already available.

We also lay out a clear pathway towards solutions through climate-resilient development. It involves integrating measures to adapt to climate change with actions to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in ways that provide wider benefits.

But climate-resilient development becomes progressively more challenging with every increment of warming. This is why the choices made in the next few years will play a critical role in deciding our future and that of generations to come.

To be meaningful and effective, these choices should be grounded in our diverse values, worldviews and knowledge, including scientific knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge. This approach will facilitate climate-resilient development and allow locally appropriate and socially acceptable solutions.

The Synthesis Report also clearly states that there is sufficient global capital to enable sustainable development and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provided existing barriers are reduced. Increasing finance to climate investments is important to achieve global climate goals.

These vitally important transformational changes are more likely to succeed where there is trust, where everyone works together to prioritise risk reduction, and where benefits and burdens are shared equitably. It must be stressed - we live in a diverse world in which everyone has different responsibilities and different opportunities to bring about change. Some can do a lot while others will need support to help them manage the change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Synthesis Report is now making a difference in ongoing policy discussion, contributing already to these technical dialogues at the 58th session of the Subsidiary Bodies. This will be even more evident in December, at the first Global Stocktake during the COP28 in Dubai.

The Global Stocktake is a Party-driven process, which should be grounded in the best available science. I urge and encourage everyone to listen to the science and seize the unique opportunity offered by these highly participatory and diverse fora. I am confident that these technical dialogues in the coming days will facilitate the most interactive exchange between participants as you prepare for the inaugural first Global Stocktake at the COP28

I'm looking forward to our collegial and productive discussions.

Thank you.
