

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Closing Remarks by the IPCC Vice-Chair Youba Sokona at the outreach event on the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report key findings and their relevance to Asia “Climate change: resilience, transformation, and equity”

28 April 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

As we conclude our gathering today, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to take part in this outreach event entitled “Climate Change: Resilience, Transformation and Equity”. Four extraordinary panel sessions today were all dedicated to the key findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and their relevance to Asia.

We have covered many interesting topics from observed warming and future scenarios, equity and justice and finance, to communications and policy.

As the Vice-Chair of the IPCC, I was very pleased to observe that our IPCC speakers were also joined by many colleagues from this region. I thank all of you.

The IPCC reports are clear and unequivocal.

The climate is changing, adversely impacting life on our planet. The challenge warrants urgent, more decisive and genuine global climate action.

Today, an estimated 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in global hotspots of high vulnerability to climate change.

Looking to the future, every slight rise in warming will increase risks to nature and people in every region of the world.

Our reports show that there are feasible and effective adaptation and mitigation options which can reduce risks to people and nature. The time to act is now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Besides assessing and delivering the most robust and up-to-date scientific knowledge about climate change, the IPCC has a duty to help policymakers and other stakeholders understand climate change and how to respond to it. I hope that with today’s event, we shifted the needle towards meeting that objective.

Another priority for the IPCC today was to enhance the involvement of developing nations in our work. We already have some excellent authors from this region, as manifestly displayed today. I am confident this event will encourage both more and new nominations of scientists and experts from this part of the world for the next IPCC cycle.

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It is critical that experts from the region continue to publish new research on regional topics across the full range of disciplines. We will draw from that scientific work in our next assessment cycle. Once the work on the next series of IPCC reports begins, you are all encouraged to register as expert reviewers to contribute to developing the drafts.

I also wish to extend our special thanks to the media representatives who were with us today. Your role in informing the public about the climate change challenge and how it can be addressed is crucial. This story is relevant to everyone on this planet. Your coverage can ensure a better understanding of these critically important issues. And through that, you empower your audiences to act and begin addressing this existentially important matter.

I am also pleased to see the youth present as well. You are the generation already facing the challenges of climate change. Understanding these means we can decide how to prepare better and how to prevent climate change from getting worse. I invite you to follow our website and social media and check our see updates on the IPCC Scholarship programme supporting students from developing countries. I hope very much to see some of you as authors or reviewers of future IPCC reports.

Lastly, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Joyashree Roy and her team at the SMART Centre at the Asian Institute of Technology for organizing the event, all the speakers for their contributions and the TSUs and the Secretariat for their support.

Thank you.
