

**PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
6 DECEMBER 2105**

**PREMISES OF THE SENATE  
PANEL DISCUSSION**

FROM CLIMATE SCIENCE TO PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

***Speech by Prof. Hoesung Lee,  
Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change***

Moderator, excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honor for me to be part of this Panel Discussion at the French Senate: From climate science to parliamentary action. Providing access to sound climate information is the focus of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change. As you know, the IPCC was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to give the world a clear scientific guidance of what is known and what is not known about climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.

Our Assessments are compiled by thousands of scientists from around the world. All Governments are involved during the scoping, review and approval of our reports.

It is this scientific and intergovernmental nature that gives the IPCC a unique opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers. By endorsing the IPCC reports, all governments acknowledge the authority of their scientific content.

I understand that yesterday, you discussed the importance of the availability and access to data and information in producing relevant and appropriate legislation. This is in effect the role of the IPCC in providing with respect to the activities of the UNFCCC.

The IPCC Second Assessment Report of 1995 provided important material drawn on by negotiators in the run-up to adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The Third Assessment Report came out in 2001 and the Fourth in 2007.

The findings of our most recent report, the Fifth Assessment Report, should underpin the deliberations here this week. Let me just briefly recall its key findings:

- ✚ We know the climate is changing and we know it's due to human activity.
- ✚ The climate is already changing. If we carry on like this, we risk severe and irreversible impacts: Rising seas, increasingly severe droughts and downpours, food and water shortages, increased immigration from climate refugees.
- ✚ We know how to tackle climate change and we have the means – economic, technological and institutional. But the longer we wait, the harder and more expensive it will be to overcome.

We are now at the beginning of our sixth assessment report cycle where we are committed to provide a sound contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of the Paris Climate Conference. We want this contribution to be policy relevant, scientifically sound and objective and at the same time effectively communicated.

Thank you for your attention and I would be pleased to follow up on these topics during the panel discussion.