

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

World Meteorological Organization Secretary General Michel Jarraud, IPCC Working Group 27.9.2013

The World Meteorological Organization is proud to co-sponsor IPCC together with the United Nations Environment Programme. The work of the Panel will be essential to the definition of a climate agreement by 2015 and it will guide policy makers for years to come.

National Meteorological Services and WMO co-sponsored programmes such as the World Climate Research Programme and the Global Climate Observing System provided major inputs into the report of Working Group I on the physical science basis of climate change.

This report confirms . with even more certainty than in the past - that it is extremely likely that the changes in our climate system for the past half a century are due to human influence. It should serve as yet another wake-up call that our activities today will have a profound impact on society not only for us but for many generations to come.

Multiple lines of evidence confirm that the extra heat being trapped by greenhouse gases is warming the Earth's atmosphere, surface to record levels, heating and acidifying the oceans, raising sea levels, and melting ice caps and glaciers.

We are also seeing a change in weather patterns and extreme events such as heat waves, droughts and floods . as highlighted in WMO's recent report on the Global Climate 2001-2010: A Decade of Climate Extremes. The Working Group I report provides new insight into future occurrences of these events, which we are now witnessing on a regular basis. Many of the extremes of the past decade were unprecedented.

The decade 2001-2010 was the warmest on record, continuing a trend of pronounced global warming. More natural temperature records were broken than any other previous decade. The rate of temperature increase would

have been even higher if it were not for the relative cooling influence of La Niña events, and the role of the deep oceans in absorbing heat.

The IPCC report demonstrates that we must greatly reduce global emissions in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

The report reflects how much our scientific knowledge has advanced since the previous report six years ago. This is knowledge that can be used to produce actionable climate information and services to help society adapt to the impacts of climate change. The UN system has embarked on a major initiative . the Global Framework for Climate Services - to provide climate services to provide decisions makers with actionable information.

Despite the overwhelming scientific consensus around climate change, we need further assessments and projections, especially at regional level. We need to continue our investment in observations and research.

This reaffirms the importance of and need for the IPCC. The WMO is very proud to have co-sponsored the IPCC and we look forward to supporting the IPCC in its future endeavours.