

## **Statement from the S&T Major Group, in the Climate Change session of CSD/IPM**

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The Scientific and Technological Community sees a great urgency to take strong action now to confront climate change. This is also one of the key messages on the Report of the Sigma Xi Scientific Expert group, presented to us yesterday by Richard Moss from the UN Foundation.

One month ago, the IPCC confirmed that climate change is real, and that it is due to human activities. The world community must take strong measures on two fronts: First, we must massively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the impacts of global warming. Second, we must design and implement strategies to adapt to the consequences of climate change, which we will not be able to escape, both in relation to environmental impacts and socio-economic consequences. Science, engineering, and technology will be essential in the fight on both fronts, and there will be a need for a significant strengthening of science, engineering, and technology efforts. Extensive North-South and South-South cooperation will be important.

Specifically, we must improve our predictive tools and reduce uncertainties in projections of future climate and its impacts, particularly at the regional level. In this respect, countries should enhance support for long-term observations of the earth and climate system, through the global observing systems now cooperating in the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS).

In regards climate change related research, the contributions of the social and economic sciences needs to be increased. We need a better understanding of the vulnerabilities of coupled ecological/socio-economic systems, and of important climate change – development linkages. We need improved knowledge and technologies to better adapt to climate change.

The Priorities for Action paper by the Science and Technology Community and the SigmaXi report distributed yesterday contains our detailed recommendations.