United Nations
PRESS RELEASE

Landmark United in Science report informs Climate Action Summit

Science highlights key facts and figures about growing gap between targets and reality

New York, 22 September 2019 - The world’s leading climate science organizations have joined forces to produce a landmark new report for the United Nations Climate Action Summit, underlining the glaring – and growing – gap between agreed targets to tackle global warming and the actual reality.

The report, United in Science, includes details on the state of the climate and presents trends in the emissions and atmospheric concentrations of the main greenhouse gases. It highlights the urgency of fundamental socio-economic transformation in key sectors such as land use and energy in order to avert dangerous global temperature increase with potentially irreversible impacts. It also examines tools to support both mitigation and adaptation.

“The Report provides a unified assessment of the state of our Earth system under the increasing influence of anthropogenic climate change, of humanity’s response thus far and of the far-reaching changes that science projects for our global climate in the future. The scientific data and findings presented in the report represent the very latest authoritative information on these topics,” said the Science Advisory Group to the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit.

“It highlights the urgent need for the development of concrete actions that halt global warming and the worst effects of climate change.”

The Science Advisory Group is co-chaired by WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas and Leena Srivastava, former Vice Chancellor of TERI School.
of Advanced Studies. It comprises highly recognized and respected natural
and social scientists, with expertise in different aspects of climate change,
including on mitigation and adaptation.

The report, which was coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization,
aims to present a “transparent envelope” of authoritative and actionable
cutting-edge science.

The synthesis report consists of short summaries from contributing agencies:
the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Global Atmosphere Watch,
the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Carbon Project,
the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Future Earth, Earth
League and the Global Framework for Climate Services. The synthesis is
complemented by longer, individual reports, presented as a package to a
high-level science event on 22 September and then to world leaders at the
Climate Action Summit on 23 September.

Highlights from the report include:

The Global Climate in 2015-2019
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Warmest five-year period on record
The average global temperature for 2015–2019 is on track to be the warmest
of any equivalent period on record. It is currently estimated to be 1.1°Celsius
(± 0.1°C) above pre-industrial (1850–1900) times. Widespread and long-
lasting heatwaves, record-breaking fires and other devastating events such
as tropical cyclones, floods and drought have had major impacts on socio-
economic development and the environment.

Continued decrease of sea ice and ice mass
Arctic summer sea-ice extent has declined at a rate of approximately 12% per
decade during 1979-2018. The four lowest values for winter sea-ice extent
occurred between 2015 and 2019.
Overall, the amount of ice lost annually from the Antarctic ice sheet increased
at least six-fold between 1979 and 2017. Glacier mass loss for 2015-2019 is
the highest for any five-year period on record.

Sea-level rise is accelerating, sea water is becoming more acidic
The observed rate of global mean sea-level rise accelerated from 3.04
millimeters per year (mm/yr) during the period 1997–2006 to approximately
4mm/yr during the period 2007–2016. This is due to the increased rate of ocean warming and melting of the Greenland and West Antarctica ice sheets. There has been an overall increase of 26% in ocean acidity since the beginning of the industrial era.

Record Greenhouse Gas Concentrations in the Atmosphere

WMO Global Atmosphere Watch

Levels of the main long-lived greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) have reached new highs.

The last time Earth’s atmosphere contained 400 parts per million CO₂ was about 3-5 million years ago, when global mean surface temperatures were 2-3°C warmer than today, ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica melted, parts of East Antarctica ice had retreated, all causing global sea level rise of 10-20m compared with today.

In 2018, global CO₂ concentration was 407.8 parts per million (ppm), 2.2 ppm higher than 2017. Preliminary data from a subset of greenhouse gas monitoring sites for 2019 indicate that CO₂ concentrations are on track to reach or even exceed 410 parts per million (ppm) by the end of 2019.

In 2017, globally averaged atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ were 405.6 ±0.1 ppm, CH₄ at 1859 ±2 parts per billion (ppb) and N₂O at 329.9 ±0.1 ppb. These values constitute, respectively, 146%, 257% and 122% of pre-industrial levels (pre-1750).


Global Carbon Budget

Global Carbon Project

Carbon dioxide emissions grew 2% and reached a record high of 37 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2018. There is still no sign of a peak in global emissions, even though they are growing slower than the global economy.

Current economic and energy trends suggest that emissions will be at least as high in 2019 as in 2018. Global GDP is expected to grow at 3.2% in 2019, and if the global economy decarbonized at the same rate as in the last 10
years, that would still lead to an increase in global emissions.

Despite extraordinary growth in renewable fuels over the past decade, the global energy system is still dominated by fossil fuel sources. The annual increase in global energy use is greater than the increase in renewable energy, meaning the fossil fuel use continues to grow. This growth needs to halt immediately.

The net-zero emissions needed to stabilize the climate requires both an acceleration in use of non-carbon energy sources and a rapid decline in the global share of fossil fuels in the energy mix. This dual requirement illustrates the scale of the challenge.

Natural CO₂ sinks, such as vegetation and oceans, which remove about half of all emissions from human activities, but will become less efficient at doing so. This underscores the need to reduce deforestation and expand natural CO₂ sinks, particularly those in forests and soils that can be improved by better management and habitat restoration.

The emissions gap – where we are and where we need to be

*United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

The UNEP Emissions Gap Reports, with the tenth edition being published this November, assess the latest scientific studies on current and estimated future greenhouse gas emissions; they compare these with the emission levels permissible for the world to progress on a least-cost pathway to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. This difference between “where we are likely to be and where we need to be” is known as the emissions gap.

Global emissions are not estimated to peak by 2030, let alone by 2020, if current climate policies and ambition levels of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are maintained. Preliminary findings from the Emissions Gap Report 2019 indicate that greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise in 2018.

The emissions gap in 2030 between emission levels under full implementation of conditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and levels consistent with least-cost pathways to the 2°C target is 13 GtCO₂e. If just the unconditional NDCs are implemented, the gap increases to 15 GtCO₂e. The gap in the case of the 1.5°C target is 29 GtCO₂e and 32 GtCO₂e respectively.
Current NDCs are estimated to lower global emissions in 2030 by up to 6 GtCO$_2$e compared to a continuation of current policies. This level of ambition needs to be roughly tripled to align with the 2°C limit and must be increased around fivefold to align with the 1.5°C limit.

Implementing unconditional NDCs, and assuming that climate action continues consistently throughout the twenty-first century, would lead to a global mean temperature rise between 2.9°C and 3.4°C by 2100 relative to pre-industrial levels.

If NDC ambitions are not increased immediately and backed up by action, exceeding the 1.5°C goal can no longer be avoided. If the emissions gap is not closed by 2030, it is very plausible that the goal of a well-below 2°C temperature increase is also out of reach.

A substantial part of the technical potential can be realized through scaling up and replicating existing, well-proven policies – such as switching to renewable energy and reforestation - that simultaneously contribute to key sustainable development goals.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

Three IPCC Special Reports released in 2018 and 2019 assess complementary and specific aspects of climate change, ahead of the Sixth Assessment Report.

The *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* states that limiting warming to 1.5°C is not physically impossible but would require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society. There are clear benefits to keeping warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C or higher. Every bit of warming matters.

Limiting warming to 1.5°C can go hand in hand with reaching other world goals such as achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.

The *Special Report on Climate Change and Land* stressed that land is already under growing human pressure and climate change is adding to these pressures. At the same time, keeping global warming to well below 2°C can be achieved only by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors including land and food.
"The report shows that better land management can contribute to tackling climate change, but land is not the only solution. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors including energy is essential if global warming is to be kept as close as possible to 1.5ºC above pre-industrial levels."

On 25 September 2019, the IPCC is due to release the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*.

**Climate Insights**

**Future Earth and Earth League**

Consolidated evidence reinforces human influence as the dominant cause of changes to the Earth system, in a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene.

Growing climate impacts increase the risks of crossing critical tipping points. These refer to thresholds that, if crossed, lead to far-reaching, in some cases abrupt and/or irreversible changes.

There is a growing recognition that climate impacts are hitting harder and sooner than climate assessments indicated even a decade ago.

As climate change intensifies, cities are particularly vulnerable to impacts such as heat stress and can play a key role in reducing emissions locally and globally.

Strategies for mitigation and for upscaling adaptive risk management are necessary going forward. Neither is adequate in isolation given the pace of climate change and magnitude of its impacts.

Only immediate and all-inclusive action encompassing: deep decarbonization complemented by ambitious policy measures, protection and enhancement of carbon sinks and biodiversity, and efforts to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, will enable us to meet the Paris Agreement.

**Global Framework for Climate Services**

Climate and early warning information services should underpin decision-making on climate action for adaptation.
NOTES FOR EDITORS

Members of the Science Advisory Group are
Co-chairs Prof Petteri Taalas, WMO and Dr Leena Srivastava, formerly The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI-SAS) School of Advanced Studies and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), as of 15 November 2019
Science Advisory Group Members:
Dr Navroz K Dubash Center for Policy Research, New Delhi India
Dr Brigitte Knopf Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change
Dr Margaret Leinen Scripps Institute of Oceanography University of California
Dr Heide Hackmann International Science Council
Dr Jian Liu UN Environment
Dr Thelma Krug Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Dr Yacob Mulugetta University College London
Dr Joeri Rogelj Imperial College London
Dr Maisa Rojas Corradi University of Chile
Dr Lisa Schipper University of Oxford

The synthesis report has been compiled by the World Meteorological Organization under the auspices of the Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019, to bring together the latest climate science related updates from a group of key global partner organizations - The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Environment, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Global Carbon Project, Future Earth, Earth League and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The content of each chapter of this report is attributable to published information from the respective organizations.

Please note that where some of the organisations are referring to emissions, they are only referring to carbon emissions, while others are referring to a combination of GHGs beyond just carbon.

For further information please contact:
Clare Nullis World Meteorological Organization
email cnullis@wmo.int Tel 41797091397
Ahead of Climate Action Summit, UN Secretariat adopts plan to slash own emissions by almost half by 2030

Plan is part of UN effort to lead by example in responding to climate emergency

New York, 22 September — The United Nations Secretariat has adopted a new 10-year Climate Action Plan aimed at transforming its operations to achieve a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and sourcing 80 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

The Plan was adopted just ahead of the Climate Action Summit, which is hosted by the UN Secretary-General to help increase global ambition and vastly increase action to limit climate change.

The global operations of the UN Secretariat represent approximately 58 per cent of the reported greenhouse gas emissions from the entire UN system, according to the latest Greening the Blue report, issued on Friday by the United Nations Environment Programme.

The UN Secretariat is the largest entity within the UN system and include peace operations faced with difficult security, logistic and political conditions in the most fragile regions of the world. It therefore plays a critical role in the UN achieving its internal sustainability goals.

The Secretary-General has committed the Organization to lead by example and has called for transformative action to address the climate crisis, including on the part of the UN system and Secretariat itself.

The new Climate Action Plan has been designed to transform UN Secretariat operations to align with the goals of the 2018 IPCC report that found there were clear benefits to limiting climate change to 1.5 °C. The Plan follows the IPCC recommendations on carbon emissions reduction.

To drive its action to 2030, the Secretariat is setting bold quantitative and performance targets. The Plan aims to achieve absolute and per capita
greenhouse gas emission reductions of 25 per cent by 2025 and 45 per cent by 2030. It would do this through per capita reductions in electricity consumption of 20 per cent by 2025 and 35 per cent by 2030 and sourcing 40 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy before 2025 and 80 per cent by 2030. Other quantitative targets address the climate impact of commercial air travel and events.

The Plan also commits the Organization to ongoing climate neutrality for its global operations. According to the Greening the Blue report, the UN Secretariat is climate neutral this year ahead of the UN System goal of 2020 using UNFCCC certified carbon credits. The UN emitted 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2eq) in 2018 – or 7 tCO2eq per capita.

The report found that a total of 55 UN entities were climate neutral for 2018, representing 95 per cent of the System's reported greenhouse gas emissions – a significant increase from 39 per cent for the previous year. The UN entities generated 45 per cent of its greenhouse gas emissions from its facilities, such as headquarter offices, field offices, and logistic centers, 42 per cent from air travel, and 13 per cent from other modes of travel.

The targets of the UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan will be achieved by intensifying existing environmental management efforts, fostering innovative solutions, changing the organizational culture and partnering with external stakeholders. Intensification is estimated to bring a significant carbon reduction in the 30 per cent range. Innovative interventions to complete an energy transition with a broad range of partners will lead the Organization towards the goal of 45 per cent reduction.

Among these interventions, the UN Secretariat is seeking to catalyze the development of new climate smart infrastructure in difficult operational areas to meet its peace operations and local communities' energy needs in partnerships with other climate champions that share its vision.

In undergoing its own transformation and energy transition in a multi-stakeholder effort, the Secretariat aims to achieve direct economic and sustainable development co-benefits, with long-term operational efficiencies, improved integration of UN climate action at the country level, and a positive impact for the vulnerable communities where the UN Secretariat operates and which it serves.

Building on existing efforts in field missions and throughout the Secretariat,
the Organization has already accelerated environmental sustainability in its operations in recent months. The Organization promulgated an environmental policy in September 2019 and committed to climate neutrality for its global operations ahead of the UN 2020 climate neutrality goal. This momentum will continue, and the Organization welcomes interested partners in its 10 year journey to a climate smart Secretariat.

For further information, please contact Dan Shepard, UN Department of Global Communications: E-mail: shepard@un.org, Tel: 1 212-963-9495

__________________________

United Nations

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S REMARKS TO YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

New York, 21 September 2019

[as delivered]

I have been more times a keynote speaker than a listener. That is one of the problems of world leaders: they talk too much and they listen too little.

And, it is listening – it is in listening that we learn.

It is in giving the possibility for all those that represent today’s world to speak and to have their voices be part of decision-making processes that we can move forward.

I am really very enthusiastic about the leadership and the dynamism of the youth movement for climate action today in the world.

When I started two years and something ago, I must say I felt very, very discouraged in relation to the prospects of climate action.
We are already facing a climate emergency. We are seeing, and I'm not going to enter into technical details about it, but we are seeing this multiplication of natural disasters becoming more and more intense, more and more dramatic with worse consequences.

We are seeing drought in Africa. Namely, in some circumstances, not only making communities unable to survive, but being affected by conflict like in the Sahel, where the lack of water resources is making farmers and others fight each other and because of that, facilitating the emergency of conflicts and even the spread of terrorism.

We were seeing the glaciers melting, the ice caps disappearing, the corals bleaching, biodiversity being threatened, the heatwaves everywhere.

There was always in the last few years, since I started, clearly this perspective, there is a climate urgency. Things are getting worse. The worst forecasts that were made are being proven wrong, not because they were too dramatic, but because they were not enough dramatic in relation to the reality.

At the same time, there was a sense of apathy. It was very difficult to put these things on the table. It was very difficult to make decision makers assume the need to act.

There was a kind of a laissez-faire in the world. All of a sudden, I started to feel that there was momentum that was gaining. This was largely due to the youth movement that started a fantastic, very dynamic impulse around the world, moving progressively with them, their families, their communities, their societies, and based on the societies moving, and the voice of the societies being heard, starting to have an impact on the way businesses were acting, on the way cities were acting, and on the way regions were acting.

Finally, we are starting to see electorates being active on these and governments starting to respond.

There is a change. We are not yet there. We are still losing the race. Climate change is still running faster than what we are. We still have subsidies to fossil fuels, we still have coal plants being built, we still have many things that are not happening and should happen, or things that go on happening and should not be happening anymore.
But, there is a change in momentum - I feel there is a change in momentum. Largely this change in momentum was due to your [Greta Thunberg’s] initiative, and to the courage with which you have started this movement and made this movement from a small movement in front of a Parliament to -- I believe it was the Swedish Parliament some time ago -- into millions around the world, saying clearly, not only that they want change, not only that decision makers must change, but they want them to be accountable. This question of accountability is essential.

Obviously, there are different dimensions on these. There are dimensions related to grassroots movements that at the village level are able to themselves be leaders in climate action. Then, based on that, push their communities, push their societies, push their governments to act. There is the way to participate in an institutional way, in the bodies that are discussing these things.

You mentioned Katowice. I went to Katowice three times. You can't imagine how difficult it is to make things move when you have 193 countries and we have to have all the countries agreeing with the moves that are absolutely obvious that need to be done, but there is always someone with some doubts or some questions or whatever.

So we really need a very strong impulse and the impulse of the young people organized to push for the institutional decision making processes to move is essential.

Then you have also this fundamental reflection about injustice. We do not live in a fair globalization. The dramatic thing is, it's not the African continent, or the small islands in the Pacific or the Caribbean, that contribute more to climate change, but they are the main victims.

It's not the poorest communities that contribute more to climate change, but they are the main victims. And indeed, there is a question of justice and the question of fairness in the way the global economy is organized, in the way power is distributed. This is also related to climate change.

So, your reflection is also a very important reflection. We need to link climate change to a new model of development, a model with more justice among people, and a fair relation between people and the planet.
When we look into today’s world, I think that is something that is new. We have had conflicts among people for centuries or for millennia since the human race existed. But, for the first time, there is a serious conflict between people and nature, between people and the planet.

This could be absolutely destructive for the future of our communities and for the future of all societies. It's not only a question of glaciers or icecaps, or corals, even if that is extremely important, and biodiversity is a is a vital question in today’s world. But it is more and more about the suffering of people. And this will become worse and worse as time goes by. Lots of people are today dramatically dying and suffering because of the impacts of climate change.

So, we have no time to lose. It does not make sense to go on subsidizing fossil fuels. Some people present the subsidies of fossil fuels as a benefit to the population. No, they are done with taxpayers money – with our money. It doesn't make sense at all money is there to boost hurricanes, or to bleach corals or to destroy communities, like the ones that were mentioned here in Africa. Let's make sure that taxpayers get their money back and there are no more subsidies to fossil fuels.

When people talk about tax on carbon, that means more costs for the economy. Not necessarily. You can put a tax on carbon, and reduce taxes on people, namely on salaries, and with that you help solve the problems of unemployment, namely youth employment.

So that is a win-win strategy that is possible, if you combine at the same time, climate action with a fair globalization with the Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and our plans for a more fair and just world, in which the resources can be better distributed and better used.

I believe that what the youth is doing today, what grassroots movements are doing today is absolutely essential for this to happen. I encourage you to go on some people say it is very dangerous, very complicated, you know, these young people, be careful. No, I am not careful at all.

I encourage you to go on, I encourage you to keep your initiative, keep your mobilization, and more and more to hold my generation accountable. My generation has largely failed until now to preserve both justice in the world and to preserve the planet.
I have granddaughters. I want my granddaughters to live in a liveable planet. My generation as a huge responsibility. It is your generation that must make us be accountable to make sure that we don't betray the future of humankind.

Thank you very much.

United Nations
PRESS RELEASE

Youth leaders vow continued pressure on governments and business for urgent action to address climate emergency at UN Youth Climate Summit

Following massive rallies around the world for climate action, young people highlight plans to mobilize and accelerate action

New York, 21 September—A day after thousands of young people marched and rallied for urgent climate action, young leaders brought their message to the United Nations for the Youth Climate Summit, the opening salvo of the three day long United Nations Climate Action Summit, which will culminate on Monday, 23 September.

The Youth Climate Summit—the first time the UN has convened a summit for young people completely devoted to climate action — aimed to give voice to the demands of young people to take far swifter action to reduce the emissions that, without action, are on track to reverse the development gains of the recent decades that have improved the lives of millions of people.

The Summit opened a dialogue between youth and decision makers, putting young people in the driving seat with voice and agency to realize their potential and the change they are persisting towards climate action.

Hosted by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, the Youth Climate Action Summit brought youth climate champions together from more
than 140 countries and territories to a platform to share their solutions on the global stage, and deliver a clear message to world leaders: we need to act now to address climate change. The outcomes of the Youth Climate Summit will feed into the Climate Action Summit, which will be attended by heads of state and government as well as business CEOs and civil society leaders.

Mr. Guterres, calling this generation of young people “essential” in combating the climate crisis, said today’s gathering was a critical milestone ahead of Monday’s Climate Action Summit, where he has asked world leaders to come with bold, concrete plans. He credited youth for shaking up leaders’ “laissez-faire” approach to climate change.

“We are not yet there,” Mr. Guterres said, adding that we are “still losing the race” against climate change. “But there is a change in momentum. Largely this change in momentum was due to your [Greta Thunberg’s] initiative, and to the courage with which you have started this movement.”

“Millions around the world [are] saying clearly, not only that they want change, not only that decision makers must change, but they want them to be accountable,” he added.

“I have granddaughters. I want them to live in a livable planet. My generation has a huge responsibility. It is your generation that must hold us accountable to make sure we don’t betray the future of humankind.”

The Youth Climate Summit featured a full-day of programmes that brought together young activists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and change makers committed to combating climate change at the pace and scale needed to meet the climate challenge.

The programme culminated in unveiling the State of Youth Platform and the ActNow platform that encourages people to take action on climate action. To close the Summit, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed took part in a Town Hall with the participants and high-level representatives from Governments and civil society.

Jayathma Wickramanayake, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, said “Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Millions of young people all over the world are already being affected by it. If we don’t act now, the impact will be severe.”
Global emissions are increasing, temperatures are rising and the impacts of climate change are growing. Climate change is already affecting the lives of all people, but for the 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years, the issue is felt with far more urgency as it will shape their lives in ways never witnessed before. For the younger generation, the need for urgent climate action has never been clearer.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, the world is now experiencing the warmest five-year period on record. The average global temperature for 2015–2019 is on track to be the warmest of any equivalent period on record and is currently estimated to be 1.1°Celsius above pre-industrial times. Widespread and long-lasting heatwaves, record-breaking fires and other devastating events such as tropical cyclones, floods and drought have had major impacts on socio-economic development and the environment.

Sea ice and ice mass continue to decrease, sea-level rise is accelerating, and sea water is becoming more acid. Food insecurity and health impacts are growing. But the world is continuing to invest in fossil fuels.

Jayathma Wickramanayake emphasized that climate action must be fair and just. “We have to ensure that no one, especially young people, is left behind.” The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she said, are a blueprint for the world to achieve sustainable development by 2030. Climate action (SDG 13) is crucial to achieve this.

Hashtag: Youth #ClimateAction Summit
Livestream: http://webtv.un.org/
Website: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-summit.shtml

For information on the Climate Action Summit:

Press Contact information:
Nicholas Ceolin, Office of the Youth Envoy email nicholas.ceolin@un.org tel. +1 917 367-8575
Dan Shepard, UN Department of Global Communications, email shepard@un.org tel. +1-212-963-9495
Enhancing productivity and sustainability of food production among vulnerable farmers

Multan, 20 September – As population continues to grow, greater demand is placed on agriculture to increase productivity. Peace and security are tied to food security and all efforts must be made to ensure the productivity and sustainability of food production especially among the smaller more vulnerable farmers. Based on the floods and droughts experienced in recent years, it is evident that a strong commitment to enhancing the resilience of the agriculture sector is urgently needed. This will require increased investment, improved governance, and considerable work on policies and strategies at the national and sub-national levels.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Miná Dowlatchahi concluded a two-day visit to Multan and Muzaffargarh to visit officials and communities in the context of the project Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan. During the visit she met with local farmer communities and key government stakeholders to take stock on FAO’s assistance to help build resilience for small-holder farmers in three districts of Punjab including; Muzaffargarh, Jhang, Rajanpur.

“The project has gone a long way to help identify ways of strengthening the Government of Punjab up to the Tehsil level in working towards achieving small-holder men and women farmers' resilience by adopting climate-smart resilient practices and promoting inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems for zero-hunger and modernization of the agriculture practices. The project is working with women and disabled persons to ensure that no one is left behind,” said Miná Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan.

The Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan project has significantly contributed to the development of key strategic and policy documents including Punjab Agro-ecological zones, district agriculture operational plans and climate smart agriculture practices. The project has also provided innovative agriculture practices such as locally produced cold storage made out of clay and cooking stoves with low smoke emission and fuel-wood use.
The project activities also pave the way to plan for the recently signed project agreement with the financial support from the Green Climate Fund. The GCF funded project ‘Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Climate-Smart Water Management’ will support 1.3 million climate-vulnerable farmers along Pakistan’s Indus River Basin with Climate Smart Agriculture and Water management in Punjab and Sindh. In Punjab the project will work in 5 districts including; Multan, Lodhran, Khanewal, DG Khan, Muzaffargarh.

For media inquiries, please contact Mehr Hassan, FAO Pakistan at mehr.hassan@fao.org

***