

## **The key points from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was approved by the IPCC on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October in Incheon, Republic of Korea. It will be a key scientific input into the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change.

“With more than 6 000 scientific references cited and the dedicated contribution of thousands of expert and government reviewers worldwide, this important report testifies to the breadth and policy relevance of the IPCC,” said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC.

Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the IPCC report in response to an invitation from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015.

**This document provides the most up to date science on climate change and the risks it poses to human societies and eco-systems. A heating planet caused by greenhouse gas emissions from carbon states and corporations can be solved with decisive action now.**

### **1. Climate Change is a REAL threat**

- Human induced heating is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 (just 12 years away) and 2052.
- The impacts include – increases in temperatures, extreme droughts, rains, sea level rise, species loss and extinction, forest fires and the spread of invasive species.
- We are currently at 1C increase in planetary temperature since pre the industrial revolution and extreme weather patterns are already impacting on our societies.

### **2. The IPCC says that climate change will affect everything**

- Risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.
- Fishers and farmers will feel these risks disproportionately
- Poverty will increase.
- The African continent and Asia will be particularly exposed to effects of global warming.

### **3. What needs to be done?**

- Aggressive reduction in emissions - this can be achieved!
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and methane by 35% or more by 2050.
- Mitigation in the energy sector, agriculture and waste.

### **4. Paris Agreement is not enough**

- Paris Agreement targets were set for 2030. Pathways are showing that in order to limit the 1.5 °C overshoot, massive reductions need to be implemented much before 2030. At least 40% of reductions must happen at 2010 levels before 2030 and by 2050 net zero emissions must be reached
- What we do over the next 12 years to decarbonise and build systems to limit climate risk to our societies and eco-systems is crucial.

### **5. Strengthening the global response in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty**

- Addressing climate change also means addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality
- Each country needs to develop options, so they benefit sustainable development and help to reduce impacts on the most vulnerable.
- Increase investment, policy instruments, technological innovation as well as behavioural changes.

### **Questions we should be asking**

1. Why has the South African government not debated this report in parliament and its implications for our climate change policies?
2. What does this mean for South Africans (jobs, economy, living conditions) and our future?
3. South Africa is the 14<sup>th</sup> highest carbon emitter in the world. Despite energy inequality we have a carbon footprint per capita higher than Brazil, India and China. How should we reduce coal, gas and oil use?
4. What kind of food, energy, water, transport, production, consumption, health, community and state systems should we develop to advance a deep just transition to sustain life?
5. How do we advance mass civil resistance to achieve climate justice and ensure we do not overshoot 1.5C?