



Climate Science and Humanitarian Dialogue
Unpacking the findings of the IPCC 1.5° report and
the implications for policy and climate action

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Council Chamber, Palais des Nations, Genève

Opening speech by Valentin Zellweger

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Welcome to Geneva and welcome to the first-ever **Climate Science and Humanitarian Dialogue**. We are here today to unpack the findings of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees.

What would an increase in 1.5° or 2°C mean for the lives of the most vulnerable people in the world?

To address such an important question, we invited representatives of States, scientists, humanitarian experts and academics from all geographic areas.

This event has been prepared and will be conducted in the spirit of the Talanoa Dialogue. We are here to learn from one another, to share stories and to get inspired by ideas and experiences in a positive environment.

The humanitarian impacts of climate change are growing. More and more people are affected by the impacts of climate change in their every-day lives.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN recently published a report stating that climate variability and extremes are a key force behind the recent rise in global hunger.

In its new institutional strategy 2019-2022 – published last month – the ICRC states that “*Short-term humanitarian problems caused by conflict and violence are made worse by longer-term trends like (a.o.) climate change (...)*”.

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And the number of people forced to flee their homes because of floods, tropical storms, droughts and other hazards has never been so high.

In Switzerland, glaciers will lose three quarters of their mass by the end of the 21st century, causing a serious impact on the water supply.

These are just a few examples. But they shows us, how addressing climate change must be a priority. We owe it to the vulnerable people who are disproportionately affected by the many impacts of climate change.

The recently released IPCC special report is alarming. We need to increase our efforts to mitigate the risks and to adapt to the challenges.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the IPCC authors who are here in Geneva to share their findings with us.

As a diplomatic hub and humanitarian capital, and as the headquarters of IPCC, Geneva presents the advantage of providing a unique platform where different stakeholders can meet and exchange on the humanitarian impacts of climate change.

In 2019, related discussions will continue in Geneva as host of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in May and the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December. In addition, Poland will host the COP24 in December of this year. Today's recommendations will feed into all these conferences.

I am convinced that the discussions of today will provide us with creative and innovative ideas to address the rise in temperature and the humanitarian response.

I thank you all for coming today. I wish you all a very fruitful day and inspiring discussions.

I now give the floor to the Ambassador of The Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Monique van Daalen.
