

February 24, 2015

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I was privileged to be elected as Chairman of the IPCC in April, 2002, and was re-elected by acclamation in 2008 for a second term. In the thirteen years as Chairman of the IPCC – almost half the life of this unique organisation – I have had the good fortune of supervising the production of the Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports, several impactful Special Reports and other valuable outputs. Throughout this period I have endeavoured to uphold and enhance the scientific credibility of the Panel, its escalating policy relevance and the robustness of its work, supported by and contributed to by the best scientific expertise from all over the world. The time, talent and labour gifted by thousands of scientists in the work of the IPCC is a priceless asset which forms the foundation of its unmatched contributions to global society.

I have found it a source of unprecedented and deep satisfaction to lead the IPCC during some very difficult times and in the face of grave challenges. But the Panel has always scaled new heights of excellence, such as with the completion of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) in 2007 and even more so the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in 2014. It was a blessing and a rare moment of glory for the scientific community and me when I received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC in 2007.

I had intended to announce on November 2, 2014, when we released the AR5 Synthesis Report (SYR) in your august presence in Copenhagen, that my work was done and that I was voluntarily ending my spell as Chairman, IPCC on that date. But close friends and colleagues advised me against that action and to continue with outreach efforts worldwide based on the SYR. I have endeavoured to do so in the past three months and will continue to do so assiduously throughout my life in whatever capacity I work. For me the protection of Planet Earth, the survival of all species and sustainability of our ecosystems is more than a mission. It is my religion and my *dharma*.

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The IPCC needs strong leadership and dedication of time and full attention by the Chair in the immediate future, which under the current circumstances I may be unable to provide, as shown by my inability to travel to Nairobi to chair the plenary session of the Panel this week. I have, therefore, taken the decision to step down from my position as Chair of the IPCC some months before completion of my term, and with effect from February 24, 2015. I would be available for help, support and advice to the entire IPCC in its future work in whatever manner I may be called on to provide.

Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you, Mr. Secretary General, for all your invaluable support, encouragement and inspiration over the years. I owe a debt of deep gratitude for the unstinted support of the thousands of scientists from all over the world who made inestimable contributions to the work of the IPCC these past 13 years. I am very grateful to members of the IPCC Bureau, the Executive Committee, the Secretary of the IPCC, the wonderful staff of the Secretariat, many colleagues and friends, and of course all the 195 governments which are members of the IPCC and who I have been privileged to serve as a humble servant. The greatest joy of working as an elected official of the IPCC lies in not receiving any monetary compensation in return, which elevates this mission to a level of sublime satisfaction.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the IPCC, so that the Bureau and the Panel can act on it promptly in keeping with IPCC procedures.

Thanking you & with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



R.K. Pachauri

Cc: Dr. Renate Christ, Secretary, IPCC

Mr. Jonathan Lynn, Head, Communications and Media Relations, IPCC

Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, and Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)