

Mr. Pachauri has highlighted today the new assessment report of the IPCC and its main conclusions:

First that climate change is real and already happening;

Second, that climate change is influenced and caused by human activity.

(Key messages from the conference)

The launch of Portugal's National Adaptation Strategy in 2010 was remarkable because it came to lay the foundation for the work of adaptation to climate change in Portugal. This was a new issue for most of the institutions involved and the option was to start with small steps but the results - and the process to achieve them - allowed the development of a culture of questioning the policies of each sector in the light of this new reality.

The topics discussed during this conference show how adequate and timely that decision was. Today, there is much to be done, but we have already taken the necessary preparatory steps and the first results are starting to emerge.

We are starting a new phase for adaptation in Portugal. Programme AdaPT is an excellent way of providing an additional incentive to engage others in considering and taking adaptation seriously. The formal signing of programme AdaPT during this Conference and the start of the second stage of our national adaptation strategy will greatly contribute to place Portugal on a new, more action oriented, path.

As our Minister pointed out on his opening speech, the new European Financial Framework for 2014-2020, foresees the use of at least 20 % of available funding to climate related action. This opens new opportunities that, if properly exploited, will help us to mainstream adaptation into sectoral policies. The challenge before us is thus to ensure that this opportunity is used effectively and that it represents a concrete step in increasing the resilience of our society to the adverse effects of climate change.

Let me finish with a word for the organisation of this event. This conference was itself a product of Portuguese and Norwegian cooperation. It was challenging to organise an event with so many different actors involved, but the results highlight what can be achieved with good cooperation. From what I could observe and the feedback I got from many of you, this event was a success and I would like to extend my thanks to all those that were involved, most notably at APA, at DSB, at CCIAM and at the FMO.

With this, Ladies and Gentlemen I declare this conference to be closed and I wish you all a safe return to your home countries or a pleasant stay, if you decided to enjoy our country for a few more days.

Thank you.