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Since the late 1970s, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) has played a critical role in delivering the physical science basis for climate change. The WCRP, which represents a significant part of the world's climate research community, reaffirms the scientific basis of climate change, as assessed in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, leading to the important findings that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal", and that "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations" (where very likely means > 90% probability of occurrence).

The WCRP has played, and will continue to play, a critical role in advancing the physical science basis for climate change by integrating international observational and modeling activities, and promoting research aimed at addressing key climate science issues. This in turn leads to improved understanding of important physical processes and more robust estimates of future global and regional climate variability and change. It is the WCRP that coordinates and facilitates the observational analyses and the production and evaluation of the model projections in an independent and impartial way.

The WCRP is confident that the IPCC process will continue to provide accurate and unbiased assessment of climate change, and WCRP remains deeply committed to the integrity of the basic climate science that underpins the IPCC assessment. The WCRP will strive to further strengthen the methods by which the research is carried out and assessed so that the science of climate change can be as robust and transparent as possible.

Yours sincerely,

WMO/ICSU/IOC Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Programme

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