Major Climate Report Describes a Strong Risk of Crisis as Early as 2040

INCHEON, South Korea — A landmark report from the United Nations’ scientific panel on climate change paints a far more dire picture of the future than in the past, according to documents seen by The New York Times.

The report, which is set to be released on Monday, finds that the planet is on track for severe and widespread impacts of climate change by the end of the century, even if global emissions are reduced immediately.

The findings come as a high-stakes political battle rages in Washington between President Trump and his administration, which has sought to downplay the threat of climate change.

The report’s authors say that the warming of the planet is already having significant effects, including rising sea levels, more intense heat waves, and more frequent and severe droughts.

The authors warn that the effects of climate change will be far more severe if emissions are not reduced sharply in the next few decades.

The report’s release comes as a key U.N. conference on climate change begins in Poland, where delegates will discuss how to meet the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

By Coral Davenport

WASHINGTON — A day after the United Nations issued its report urging a global call to arms yet for the world to confront the threat of climate change, President Trump boarded Air Force One for Florida — a state that lies directly in the path of this coming calamity — and said nothing about it.

It was the latest, most vivid example of Mr. Trump’s distance from an effort that has galvanized much of the world. While the United Nations warned of mass wildfires, food shortages and dying coral reefs as soon as 2045, Mr. Trump dismissed his successful Supreme Court battle rather than how rising sea levels are already flooding Miami on sunny days.

"By Mark Landler and Coral Davenport"
Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands