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FUTURE OF THE TASK GROUP ON DATA AND SCENARIO SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AND CLIMATE ANALYSIS (ATF-TGICA)

(Prepared by the Ad Hoc Task Force (ATF-TGICA) on the Future of the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA))

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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FUTURE OF THE TASK GROUP ON DATA AND SCENARIO SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AND CLIMATE ANALYSIS (ATF-TGICA)

Background

The current mandate of the Task Group on data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) was adopted by the 21st Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2003. The current mandate of the TGICA is included as ANNEX 6 in the report of the 21st Session of the IPCC (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session21/final-report.pdf>) and represents a revision of a previous mandate.

At the 44th Session of the IPCC in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 October 2016, the Panel continued its discussions on the future of TGICA. The Panel decided ([Decision IPCC/XLIV-8](#), paragraph 1) to establish an Ad Hoc Task Force to design a strategic plan and revised mandate and terms of reference for the transformation of TGICA functions to serve the needs of the IPCC during and beyond the Sixth Assessment. The membership and Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Ad Hoc Task Force (ATF-TGICA) are contained in Annex 1 to Decision IPCC/XLIV-8 ([Decision IPCC/XLIV-8](#)).

Roles and responsibilities of the ATF-TGICA

According to the terms of reference, the ATF-TGICA is responsible for:

- i. Reviewing options and identifying priority objectives for the future of TGICA, including those presented to the Panel at the 43rd Session of the IPCC and to the Bureau at its 52nd Session;
- ii. Reviewing options and identifying priority objectives for the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) including those presented to the Panel at the 43rd Session and to the Bureau at its 52nd Session;
- iii. Scoping, implementing and overseeing a mapping exercise of activities undertaken by external organizations that are similar or related to TGICA or the DDC, including but not limited to what is presented in the documents listed in (i) and (ii) above. The objective of this exercise is to evaluate the potential overlap, sustainability, and relevance of other products and services compared to TGICA and DDC functions, so as to identify remaining gaps and help refine priorities, and to explore potential partnerships;
- iv. Developing, based upon the information and findings from the above activities, a proposal for a longer-term vision, and a short-term strategy, which will enable the transformation of existing TGICA functionalities and to identify priority objectives of the DDC. This strategy should ensure continuity, transparency, accessibility, and integration across Working Groups of existing and emerging support needs for data and scenarios by the IPCC; mindful of human and financial resource constraints;
- v. Proposing a new mandate and terms of reference for the transformed TGICA functionality and for the core functions of the DDC;
- vi. Proposing options for sustainable resourcing to support the needs of the transformed functions, including possible ways to expand country contributions; and
- vii. Providing a progress report about its activities to the IPCC at its 45th Session.

Membership

The membership of the ATF-TGICA is included in Annex 2 to the present report. The complete list of Friends is shown in Annex 3 to the present report.

Progress made

The ATF-TGICA provided a progress report to the 45th Session of the IPCC reporting on the mapping exercise undertaken, questionnaires and teleconferences held. The ATF-TGICA reported that it aimed to complete the mapping exercise by March 2017. Subsequently, the remaining tasks in the mandate would be undertaken with the aim of completing the preparatory work and developing, based upon the information and findings, a proposal for a longer-term vision and a short-term strategy, which would enable the transformation of existing TGICA functions and identification of priority objectives of the DDC, before the 46th Session of the IPCC to be held in September 2017.

A first actual meeting (“ATF-TGICA Meeting 1”) was held during the 45th Session of the IPCC, where ATF-TGICA decided to form three subgroups working on different tasks in parallel with the view to accelerate progress. Three tasks were identified and two subgroups A and B formed. The tasks are:

- (i) Reviewing options and identifying priority objectives for the future of TGICA and the DDC¹
- (ii) Compilation of financial and other resource needs as resulting from the objectives considered under task (i)
- (iii) Analysis of the questionnaires as gathered during the mapping exercise

Subgroup A was assigned tasks i and ii, subgroup B task iii. Some results were made available to all members of ATF-TGICA. Yet, the outcome of task (i) was not unanimously agreed, task (ii) made no progress since task (i) is considered to be a prerequisite, and the efforts from subgroup B on task (iii) face technical difficulties requiring further time and awaits still completion.

Additionally, due to unforeseen challenges of a personal grave nature for one of the co-chairs, the ATF-TGICA has not been able to complete its work and is therefore not able to present as planned a proposal to the 46th Session of the IPCC for a longer-term vision and short – term strategy which would enable the transformation of existing TGICA functions and identification of priority objectives of the DDC.

PROPOSAL

The Co-Chairs and the members of the ATF-TGICA therefore request that the mandate of the ATF-TGICA be extended until IPCC-47 and that TGICA continue its work within its current membership and chairmanship.

¹ including those presented to the Panel at the 43rd Session of the IPCC and to the Bureau at its 52nd Session.

Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Task Force on the Future of the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Task Force (Task Force) on the future of the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) is to design a strategic plan as well as a mandate and terms of reference for the transformation of TGICA functions to serve the needs of IPCC during and beyond the sixth assessment cycle, to be considered by the IPCC at its 46th session. This plan and the related ToRs and mandate should take into consideration identified priority objectives of the Task Group and the IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC) it oversees, including emerging needs in relation to regional data and scenarios and results from a mapping exercise of other organizations and stakeholders, paying due attention to constraints on both human and financial resources.

2. TERM

The Task Force will initiate its work immediately after the 44th Session of the IPCC and continue its activities until the revised mandate and terms of reference are approved by the Panel, but no later than the time of the 46th Session of the IPCC, which is provisionally scheduled for September 2017.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force will comprise of at least:

- Two Vice-Chairs from each of the three Working Groups, one from a developed country and the other from a developing or economy in transition (EIT) country;
- Current TGICA Co-Chairs;
- Six Government representatives, three each from developed and developing/EIT countries. DDC host countries will be given priority if they are willing to participate;
- One representative from each of the Working Group technical support units; and
- A representative of the IPCC Secretariat.

The Task Force will be Co-Chaired by two Working Group Vice-Chairs from different Working Groups, one from a developed country and another from a developing country/EIT. At least one of the Co-Chairs should preferably be female. The Task Force may consider inviting DDC managers and relevant TSU staff from the AR5 cycle to share their views and experiences. This Task Force will be open to government representatives and Bureau members who may be co-opted for supporting specific tasks, as required.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Task Force will be responsible for:

- i. Reviewing options and identifying priority objectives for the future of TGICA, including those presented to the Panel at the 43rd Session and to the Bureau at its 52nd Session;
- ii. Reviewing options and identifying priority objectives for the DDC including those presented to the Panel at the 43rd Session and to the Bureau at its 52nd Session;
- iii. Scoping, implementing and overseeing a mapping exercise of activities undertaken by external organizations that are similar or related to TGICA or the DDC, including but not limited to what is presented in the documents listed in (i) and (ii) above. The objective of this exercise is to evaluate the potential overlap, sustainability, and relevance of other products and services compared to TGICA and DDC functions, so as to identify remaining gaps and help refine priorities, and to explore potential partnerships;
- iv. Developing, based upon the information and findings from the above activities, a proposal for a longer-term vision, and a short-term strategy, which will enable the transformation of existing TGICA

functionalities and to identify priority objectives of the DDC. This strategy should ensure continuity, transparency, accessibility, and integration across Working Groups of existing and emerging support needs for data and scenarios by the IPCC; mindful of human and financial resource constraints;

v. Proposing a new mandate and ToRs for the transformed TGICA functionality and for the core functions of the DDC;

vi. Proposing options for sustainable resourcing to support the needs of the transformed functions, including possible ways to expand country contributions; and

vii. Providing a progress report about its activities to the IPCC at its 45th Session.

5. MEETINGS

All meetings will be held through teleconferencing and/or in combination with existing IPCC meetings where Task Force members will be present. They will be chaired by the Ad Hoc Task Force Co-Chairs who will be responsible for preparing meeting agendas. Teleconferencing arrangements and meeting minutes will be prepared by the Secretariat.

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