

2015/17/PR

PRESS RELEASE

5 October 2015

IPCC opens Session to elect new Bureau

DUBROVNIK, Croatia, Oct 5 – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) opened a Session on Monday at which it will elect a new Bureau, including a new Chair.

The 42nd Session of the IPCC is being held on 5-8 October 2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Opening the Session, Acting Chair Ismail El Gizouli told the Panel that it was meeting two months before governments go to Paris to seek a globally binding agreement to tackle climate change.

He noted that the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, completed just under a year ago, was a key input into those negotiations, and that negotiators last year had asked the IPCC to continue providing relevant information.

"The elections that we will conduct this week for a new Bureau will be a major step in the preparations for a Sixth Assessment Report," El Gizouli told the Panel.

Croatia's Minister of Environment and Nature Protection, Mihael Zmajlović and representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also addressed the opening session.

As of the start of the Session, approximately 90 candidates had been nominated for the 34 positions on the IPCC's Bureau, including six as Chair.

The Sixth Assessment Report is expected to be completed in 5-7 years.

The IPCC completed its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in November 2014.

The key findings of the AR5 Synthesis Report are:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear;
- The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts; and
- We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future.

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Notes for editors

What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC does not do its own research, conduct climate measurements or produce its own climate models; it assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a snapshot of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists who work as volunteers. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only fourteen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the IPCC, comprising the Panel, are the 195 member states of the UN and WMO. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. The word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a process of dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes, although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something in the summaries for policymakers of the reports.

The IPCC produces comprehensive assessment reports on climate change every six years or so. Among its other products it also issues special reports on particular topics requested by its members, and methodology reports and software to help members report their greenhouse gas inventories (emissions minus removals).

The IPCC completed the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) with the release of the Synthesis Report on 2 November 2014. AR5 is the most comprehensive assessment of climate change ever undertaken. Over 830 scientists from over 80 countries were selected to form the author teams producing the report. They in turn drew on the work of over 1,000 contributing authors and over 1,000 expert reviewers. AR5 assessed over 30,000 scientific papers.

A note explaining the IPCC election process can be found at:

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/210915_IPCC_election_procedures.pdf

A note explaining the role of the IPCC Bureau and Executive Committee can be found at:

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/210915_IPCC_bureau.pdf

For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to www.ipcc.ch