

2015/1/MA

## IPCC MEDIA ADVISORY

12 February 2015

### IPCC meetings in Nairobi

GENEVA, Feb 12 – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be holding the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Panel in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24-27 February 2015.

Among other questions, the Panel will consider the recommendations of the Task Group on the Future Work of the IPCC, and take decisions on the size, structure and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau. The Panel is due to elect a new Bureau, including a new Chair of the IPCC, at its next Session, provisionally planned for October 2015.

Information about the work of the Task Group on the Future Work of the IPCC, including relevant documents, can be found at: <http://ipcc.ch/apps/future/>

The full agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents can be found here:  
[http://ipcc.ch/scripts/session\\_template.php?page=41ipcc.htm](http://ipcc.ch/scripts/session_template.php?page=41ipcc.htm)

#### Press conference

A press conference to discuss the results of the meeting will be held on the last day:

**When: 17.00 Nairobi time on Friday 27 February 2015**  
**(0900 ET, 14.00 GMT, 15.00 Geneva, 19.30 New Delhi, 22.00 Beijing, 23.00 Tokyo)**

**Where: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya**

The Chairman of the IPCC, Rajendra K. Pachauri, and the Secretary of the IPCC, Renate Christ, will take part in the press conference. The press conference is open **only** to media representatives accredited to the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nairobi and holding a land pass for the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). The press conference will also be webcast live. The IPCC will communicate the address for the webcast nearer the time.

#### Opening session

The IPCC will hold the opening session of the meeting on Tuesday, 24 February 2014, from 10.00 to 11.00 Nairobi time at UNEP headquarters. The opening session is open **only** to media representatives accredited to UNIC Nairobi and holding a UNON land pass. It will be addressed by the IPCC Chair and special guests including senior representatives of UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Otherwise the IPCC meeting is closed to the public and to media.

IPCC Secretariat

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## Outreach event

The day before the IPCC Session, on Monday, 23 February 2015, the IPCC will hold an outreach event at UNEP Headquarters, for policymakers and other stakeholders from Kenya to present the findings of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) including the Synthesis Report released in November 2014.

**Only** media representatives accredited to UNIC Nairobi and holding a UNON land pass will have access to the outreach event starting at 11.00 and to its press conference scheduled for 10.30-10.45. Panelists will include the Chairman of the IPCC, Rajendra K. Pachauri; the Secretary of the IPCC, Renate Christ; and IPCC Working Group Co-Chairs Thomas Stocker, Chris Field and Youba Sokona. To reserve a place, accredited media representatives should write to [ipcc-media@wmo.int](mailto:ipcc-media@wmo.int).

For further details or to request interviews with Dr Pachauri and other senior IPCC officials, please contact:

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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 – like the Chair and other elected officials – work as volunteers. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. They are not paid for their work at the IPCC. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the IPCC, comprising the Panel, are its 195 member governments. 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. It is not a United Nations agency, but is sponsored by two UN organizations – WMO and UNEP.

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 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.

## **The Fifth Assessment Report**

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.

Besides the Synthesis Report, AR5 includes the contributions of IPCC Working Group I (the physical science basis of climate change), finalized in September 2013, of Working Group II (impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability), finalized in March 2014, and of Working Group III (mitigation of climate change), finalized in April 2014.

The Synthesis Report distills, synthesizes and integrates the findings of the working group contributions into a concise document. This integrated approach allows the Synthesis Report to draw together the assessment of past changes in climate as well as projections for the future from the three working group reports as well as the two Special Reports brought out in 2011. It covers both adaptation and mitigation to provide an overview of possible risks and solutions.

## **Future work of the IPCC**

At the conclusion of each assessment cycle, the IPCC generally reflects on the report preparation process and draws lessons to inform consideration of the IPCC’s future work programme and processes. This can include examining questions such as the mandate of the IPCC working groups, the structure and scope of future reports, and the timing of IPCC products.

In October 2013 the Panel set up a Task Group to help the IPCC continue to improve its operation and products. The Task Group was asked to develop options and recommendations for consideration by the Panel on future products of the IPCC, the appropriate structure and ways of operating for the production of these products, and ways to enhance the participation and contribution of developing countries in the future work of the IPCC.

This process will be completed at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC on 24-27 February 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, when, according to IPCC procedures, the Panel will have to agree on the size, structure and composition of the next IPCC Bureau, to be elected later in 2015.

*For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to:*

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)