

PRESS RELEASE

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Strengthens Processes and Procedures at 32nd Plenary Session

Busan, South Korea – Oct. 14 2010 – In its recent plenary session concluded today, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decided to strengthen a number of its processes and procedures. These changes will improve the way the IPCC works and how it is governed, and benefit the central objective of ensuring the best assessment of climate science.

The Panel considered a number of recommendations and suggestions made by the InterAcademy Council (IAC) in its independent review into the processes and procedures of the IPCC. The Chair of the IPCC, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, and the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, requested this review jointly in March of 2010. The IAC published its review on August 30th 2010.

The Panel made clear that the IAC recommendations are important to improve the way the IPCC works and how it is governed.

The IPCC is taking decisive action to respond to these recommendations in a way that is transparent and open, and ensures the highest quality assessments are produced and made available to the international community.

At its 32nd session, the Panel agreed to immediately implement many of the recommendations. These include guidance on uncertainty, non-peer-reviewed literature and addressing potential errors. In addition, the Panel agreed to set up a task group which will address the establishment of an Executive Committee, review the key responsibilities of the Secretariat, as well as the terms of reference of Chair and Co-chairs of the Working Groups. The IPCC also decided to implement a rigorous conflict of interest policy and established a task group to propose options.

The Panel accepted the recommendation to develop a communication strategy. It also formed task groups to address other IAC recommendations related to IPCC procedures for the preparation of the assessment reports.

The IAC review highlights the contribution the IPCC has made to improving the understanding of the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of climate change, and the commitment of the world's leading scientists and other experts to a robust assessment process.

The work to prepare the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which will be published in 2014, remains on course and will benefit from the Panel's decisions.

Speaking following the conclusion of the plenary meeting, Dr Rajendra Pachauri said: "I am pleased that the Panel has accepted a number of important recommendations which were made in the IAC review. These will strengthen the IPCC and ensure it is able to effectively perform its role in accurately assessing climate science. I look forward to working with the Panel to continue the process of reform."

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Notes to Editors

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The IPCC is an interdisciplinary and intergovernmental body comprised of 194 participating countries. It mobilizes scientific experts from around the world to carry out assessments of global climate science based on the available relevant literature.

Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the IPCC reports. The members of the IPCC Bureau, including the IPCC chair, serve in their expert capacity and are not paid by the IPCC. Rigorous review is an essential part of the process, broadening the set of individuals contributing and ensuring an objective and comprehensive assessment of current information.

For the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, released in 2007, 559 experts from 130 countries served as lead authors. More than 2,500 reviewers provided more than 90,000 comments.

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