

21 September 2015

The IPCC election procedures

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is holding elections for a new Bureau at its 42nd Session, to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 5-8 October 2015. The IPCC is using an electronic voting system for the first time.

The Bureau to be elected at this Session of the IPCC consists of 34 members: the Chair of the IPCC; three IPCC Vice-Chairs; two Co-Chairs of the Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI); the Working Group I Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and seven Working Group Vice-Chairs; the Working Group II Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and eight Working Group Vice-Chairs; and the Working Group III Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and seven Working Group Vice-Chairs.

This represents an increase on the current Bureau, which consists of 31 members, as decided at the 41st Session of the IPCC held in Nairobi in February this year.

The 42nd Session will also elect the Bureau of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), which consists of two Co-Chairs and 12 Members. As noted above, the two TFI Co-Chairs are members of the IPCC Bureau.

There are separate elections for each position:

- The IPCC Chair;
- The three IPCC Vice-Chairs:
- The eight Co-Chairs of the Working Groups and the TFI;
- The 22 Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups: and
- The 12 members of the Task Force Bureau.

For each election result to be valid, a majority of IPCC Members (member states) with accepted credentials must be present at the Session. The IPCC has 195 Member States; for elections 98 Members with accepted credentials must be present. The Panel establishes a Credentials Committee at the start of the Session at which elections take place to examine the credentials of delegates. The Credentials Committee consists of one representative from each Region (see below). Each Member participating in a Session with accepted credentials has one vote. There is no proxy voting: Members must be physically present to vote.

Candidates are elected by a simple majority of the valid votes cast – the next integer immediately above half of the valid votes cast. If in the first ballot no candidate obtains a simple majority, a second ballot is held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes. If any other candidate obtains the same number of votes in the first ballot as the second candidate, he or she is also included in the second ballot. If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes in the second ballot, a third ballot is held. If this yields no result, the decision between those candidates is made by drawing lots. There is no preferential or transfer voting.

For the elections, the IPCC uses the Regions of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), each of which has a certain number of positions on the Bureau (this allocation for the 33 Bureau positions excluding the Chair has been introduced since the last election in 2008):

Region I – Africa (seven positions);



Region II – Asia (six positions);

Region III – South America (four positions);

Region IV – North America, Central America and the Caribbean (four positions);

Region V – South-West Pacific (four positions); and

Region VI – Europe (eight positions).

For the composition of the Regions click <u>here</u>.

In filling positions, the following conditions, introduced since the last elections in 2008 are taken into account:

- The IPCC Chair does not represent a Region;
- The three IPCC Vice-Chairs are from different Regions, including at least one from a developing country and one from a developed country;
- One Co-Chair in each Working Group and the TFI is from a developing country;
- At least one Co-Chair in each Working Group and the TFI is from a country that is ready to host a Technical Support Unit; and
- Each Region is represented in each of the following four formations within the IPCC Bureau: the Executive Committee, Working Group I, Working Group II, Working Group III (the Executive Committee consists of the Chair, the three Vice-Chairs and the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups and TFI, with some non-voting members drawn from the Secretariat and Technical Support Units); and
- Consideration should be given to promoting gender balance.

It follows that as the elections for different positions proceed, some candidates may no longer be eligible even though they have been nominated by their governments, because their Region has already received its full allocation of positions.

Each Region will contribute two members to the Bureau of the TFI.

Nominations for elected positions should be submitted by 5 September 2015, but may be submitted later, including from the floor during the Session.

For an up-to-date list of nominations, click here.

Nominations may also be made from the floor during the Session.

At the start of the Session, the Panel establishes a Nominations Committee, consisting of two representatives from each Region. The Nominations Committee submits a list of nominations for each elected position to the Panel 24 hours before the election takes place. It follows that nominations from the floor during the Session may delay that election by 24 hours.

If there are no delays or unforeseen circumstances, it is likely that the election of the Chair will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 6 October and the election of the Working Group Co-Chairs on the morning of Wednesday 7 October.

For a summary of the election procedures click here.

For the full procedures governing IPCC elections (Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work) click here.