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MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Letter from the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

IPCC Secretariat

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Dear Ms. Christ,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Co-Chairs of the Working Groups and other presiding officers, the secretariat of IPCC, IPCC experts and staff of the TSUs, for their valuable contribution to the Climate Change Conferences organized in Bonn (4–15 June 2014 and 20–25 October 2014), Lima (1–12 December 2014) and Geneva (8–13 February 2015).

I am writing to bring to your attention some outcomes of the Lima and Geneva conferences that are of relevance to the IPCC and its future work, which are summarized in the annex to this letter. In a key outcome of the Lima Conference, the decision **12/CP.20 - Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR5)**,¹ the Conference of the Parties (COP) recognized that the AR5 represents the most comprehensive and robust assessment of climate change to date, providing an integrated scientific, technical and socioeconomic perspective on relevant issues, acknowledged that AR5 provides the scientific foundation for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) and encouraged Parties to continue to support the work of IPCC.

Furthermore, the COP invited the IPCC to continue to provide relevant information to Parties on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of climate change, **taking into account the work of the UNFCCC in determining its future products and assessment cycles**. To this end, I would like to draw your attention to the references to IPCC findings contained in the negotiating text produced by Parties at ADP 2-8,² and to the proposed time frame of commitments and actions under UNFCCC. While noting that the work of the ADP is still in progress, I would like to draw your attention to section K of the text, covering time frames, where Parties suggested a time frame for commitments and actions from 5 to 10 years, with many options proposing a 5-year cycle. The text also contains provisions related to the aggregate impact and the pathway of global emissions including a possible review using assessment reports of the IPCC as input.

¹ The full text of this decision is available at:
<<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/cop20/eng/10a02.pdf#page=39>>.

² The text is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/negotiating_text_12022015@2200.pdf>.



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The report of the COP containing the proceedings and all decisions adopted at its twentieth session is available on the UNFCCC web site as document FCCC/CP/2014/11 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3. The report of the forty-first session of the SBSTA is also available, as document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5. The informal unedited version of ADP negotiating text is available at: <http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/negotiating_text_12022015@2200.pdf>. It will be formatted, edited and issued as an official document and, once language versions become available, it will be formally communicated to Parties, as requested by the COP in Lima.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the **key contributions made by IPCC at the structured expert dialogue (SED)** on the 2013-2015 review of the adequacy of the upper limit of accepted warming. The SED, which held its last meeting in Geneva, from 8 to 9 February 2015, has shown to be a successful and promising vehicle to inform and support policy formulation using IPCC products as its scientific foundation and would not have been possible without the good collaboration with the IPCC. In the context of this review and beyond, it will be essential for the IPCC and UNFCCC to continue to collaborate closely towards a science-based management of the pathway to a low-carbon climate resilient future.

I would like to thank the IPCC for the very useful and fruitful discussions we had during the Joint Working Group meeting in Lima and look forward to continuing our cooperation on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Halldór'.

Halldór Thorgeirsson
Director for Strategy

Enc: Annex

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Annex
Summary of matters of relevance for Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from the Climate Change Conferences held in Lima and Geneva in 2014 and 2015

	Body /outcome	Reference
Acknowledgment of IPCC products and contributions	COP 20 Decision 12/CP.20 - The Fifth Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	1. Welcomes AR5. 2. Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all those involved in the preparation of the AR5 for their excellent work. 3. Recognizes that AR5 represents the most comprehensive and robust assessment of climate change to date , providing an integrated scientific, technical and socioeconomic perspective on relevant issues (FCCC/CP/2014/11 and Add.2)
	SBSTA 41 Conclusions on AR5	27. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the presentations made by the IPCC on its AR5, including those made at the SBSTA–IPCC special events on the contributions of Working Groups I, II and III to the AR5, and on the AR5 Synthesis Report, as well as at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of the structured expert dialogue (SED) on the 2013–2015 review. 28. The SBSTA noted its conclusions adopted at SBSTA 39, 40 and 41 welcoming the contributions of Working Groups I, II and III to the AR5 and the AR5 Synthesis Report (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).
	SBSTA 41 Conclusions on the research and systematic observation	35. The SBSTA welcomed the Synthesis Report of the AR5 of the IPCC and noted the continued key importance of research and systematic observation to the work of the IPCC (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).
	SBSTA 41 Conclusions on the 2013-2015 review	45. The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the Synthesis Report of the AR5 of the IPCC, and recognized the usefulness for the 2013–2015 review of the contributions of all IPCC working groups to the AR5. 47. The SBSTA and the SBI noted with appreciation the contributions made by the representatives of FAO, IPCC, the IEA, UNEP, WB, and WHO at the 1st meeting of the fourth session of the SED (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).
Invitations to IPCC	COP 20 Decision 12/CP.20 - AR5	7. Invites IPCC to continue to provide relevant information to Parties on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of climate change, taking into account the work of the UNFCCC in determining its future products and assessment cycles (FCCC/CP/2014/11 and Add.2).
	SBSTA 41 Conclusions on the research and systematic observation	39. The SBSTA recalled the conclusions from SBSTA 39 and welcomed the plans of the GCOS secretariat to organize, in collaboration with the IPCC and the secretariat, a workshop to identify ways to enhance systematic observation and related capacity, especially in developing countries to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate proposed to be held in February 2015 in Bonn, Germany. It invited the GCOS secretariat to provide a report on the workshop by SBSTA 43 (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).
Invitations to Parties	COP 20 Decision 12/CP.20 - AR5	5. Urges Parties to the Convention to make use of the information contained in AR5 in their discussions under all relevant agenda items; 6. Encourages Parties to draw on the information contained in AR5 in the development of their national policies on climate change , as appropriate; 8. Encourages Parties to continue to support the work of IPCC (FCCC/CP/2014/11 and Add.2).



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Invitations to the secretariat</p>	<p>SBSTA 41 Conclusions on AR5</p>	<p>29. The SBSTA recognized that it is important that the AR5 continue to be considered in depth by Parties to the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol so that all relevant agenda items are informed by the findings of the AR5. In that context, the SBSTA requested that the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, be prepared to invite the IPCC, in response to any request made by Parties, to inform its consideration of relevant agenda items, in particular through focused briefings on relevant information from the AR5 and other IPCC reports (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">References to IPCC findings</p>	<p>COP 20 Annex to decision 9/CP.20 - Fifth review of the Financial Mechanism</p> <p>Executive summary of the technical paper on the fifth review of the Financial Mechanism</p>	<p>81. The review found that as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, the GEF, through its projects and programmes, contributes to supporting developing countries in meeting the objective of the Convention, while enhancing their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. In relation to the below 2 °C goal, the IPCC has noted that emission patterns that limit temperature increase from pre-industrial levels to no more than 2 °C require considerably different patterns of investment</p> <p>89. With the establishment of the GCF, the risk of overlap among the activities financed within and outside the Convention is high. Although duplication is not desirable, it may not be the most important issue at this time, since, as outlined in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, much more significant climate financing is needed than that provided at present through all of these funds combined. Moreover, the funds can collaborate with each other to learn lessons from one another's programmes and to set common performance targets. In this context, the respective funds under the Convention should be actively engaging on their strategic positioning towards the GCF and how they could foster complementarity with it (FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2, page 33).</p>
	<p>ADP 2-8 Negotiating text³</p>	<p>A. <i>[[Preamble]</i></p> <p>[Gravely concerned by the IPCC's finding in its Fifth Assessment Report that it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century,] (page 2).</p> <p>D. <i>[Mitigation</i> <i>[Long-term and global aspects of mitigation]</i></p> <p>13.2 [Option 1: [Parties' efforts to take the form of:][The agreed long-term objective above shall be in the context of a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, and shall also take into account vulnerabilities and managing transition in a sustainable manner. In this regard, Parties' differentiated efforts to take the form of:]</p> <p>Option (a): A long-term zero emissions sustainable development pathway[, bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries][for developing countries that combines adaptation and mitigation to reduce climate change and its impacts]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistent with science and the findings of the / Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (e.g. 40–70 per cent below 2010 levels by 2050) in accordance with historical responsibilities, capabilities, and the state of development, while addressing vulnerabilities and in a cooperative

³ The paragraph numbers are only relevant for the informal unedited version of the text and will change in the edited version.



		<p>manner (page 9);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... - Consistent with the scientific findings of the IPCC, in order to have a likely chance at keeping temperature change to below 2 °C, global GHG emissions in 2050 will need to be 40 to 70 per cent lower than in 2010 and reach levels near zero Gt CO₂ eq or below in 2100 (page 10).
Information gaps	<p>SBSTA 41 Conclusions on AR5</p>	<p>30. The SBSTA noted that the AR5 identified some information gaps, including in developing countries, especially in Africa, and on emerging issues, such as the links between climate change and desertification.</p> <p>31. The SBSTA invited the IPCC and relevant international and regional research organizations to inform Parties about efforts undertaken to address the information gaps identified in the AR5, including as referred to in paragraph 30 above, for example at the meeting of the research dialogue at SBSTA 42 (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5).</p>
Review of guidelines	<p>COP Decision 13/CP.20 - Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention</p>	<p>58. The purpose of the technical review of Annex I Parties' GHG inventories is:</p> <p>(c) To examine, in a facilitative and open manner, the reported inventory information for consistency with the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories" (decision 24/CP.19) (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines), the IPCC 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines) as implemented through the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines and, if applied, the <i>2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands</i> (hereinafter referred to as the Wetlands Supplement) and any additional guidance adopted by the COP;</p> <p>68. The checks will include a standardized set of data comparisons mainly based on the CRF data and identify:</p> <p>(g) Whether estimates for CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are reported using the IPCC reference approach in addition to estimates derived using a sectoral approach;</p> <p>75. Each ERT shall for centralized and in-country reviews:</p> <p>(b) Examine whether the 2006 IPCC Guidelines as implemented through the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines and any supplementary methodologies adopted by the COP and, if applied, the Wetlands Supplement was applied and documented, in particular noting the identification of key categories, selection and use of methodologies and assumptions, development and selection of emission factors, collection and selection of activity data, reporting of recalculations and consistent time series, reporting of uncertainties related to inventory estimates, methodologies used for estimating those uncertainties and QA/QC procedures, and identify any inconsistencies;</p> <p>81. Issues will be identified as a failure to follow the requirements and definitions in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines. Issues will also be identified as failure to follow general IPCC good practice for any other category that the Party included in its national estimates in accordance with the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines...(FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.3).</p>



[Time frames and process related to commitments / contributions / Other matters related to implementation and ambition]	ADP 2-8 Negotiating text	<p>71. Option 3 (chapeau): The time frame of commitments / actions is as follows</p> <p>Option (a): Every five years for all Parties;</p> <p>Option (b): Commitments shall be inscribed every five years, beginning in 2015. All Parties shall communicate proposed commitments in the 12 to 18 months prior to their inscription. The commitments will cover a five-year period, ending 10 years after the inscription year. Parties may also propose an indicative commitment covering a further five-year period, which can be confirmed or enhanced five years later, when formally inscribed (2020); 8 Some Parties consider that it is premature to discuss this section.</p> <p>Option (c): Every five years, indicating the commitment / contribution / action for the subsequent five-year period as well as an indicative commitment / contribution / action for the following five-year period;</p> <p>Option (d): Every five years for [developed country Parties][Parties included in annex X] only;</p> <p>Option (e): Every five years for [developed country Parties][Parties included in annex X] and every 10 years for [developing country Parties][Parties not included in annex X];</p> <p>Option (f): Every five years for the upcoming period and an indication for the following period only for mitigation: annual or biennial time frame for means of implementation in line with national budgets; different time frame for adaptation;</p> <p>Option (g): By 2030 / 2025 for all Parties;</p> <p>Option (h): By 2025 and/or 2030 for all [developed country Parties][Parties included in annex X] only, and with the diversity of end dates for [developing country Parties][Parties not included in annex X];</p> <p>Option (i): Every 10 / x years, with a midterm review;</p> <p>Option (j): For a period to be determined by the governing body;</p> <p>Option (k): The mitigation component of each contribution pursuant to section D shall include a five-year contribution term and a five-year consecutive indicative term;</p> <p>Option (l): By 2025 and 2030 for all developed country Parties only, and with the diversity of end dates for developing country Parties subject to the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties] (pages 68-69).</p>
	ADP 2-8 Negotiating text	<p>76.2 The ex ante consideration process / further facilitation of transparency and clarity / consultative period/process is to:</p> <p>Option (a):</p> <p>a. Be science-based and informed by the assessments of the IPCC, moving to assessment reports every five years (e.g. 2019, 2024, 2029) (page 71);</p> <p>76.3. The aggregate consideration process shall be conducted consistent with science and on the basis of equity, with a view to providing recommendations and informing Parties in adjusting their nationally determined contributions towards enhancing ambition, and be guided by:</p> <p>a. A technical paper from the secretariat on the aggregate effect of the mitigation component of the nationally determined contributions communicated and registered pursuant to sections D and K</p> <p>b. A synthesis report on the aggregate level of mobilization and provision of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building to developing countries, based on the registry referred to in section G and the information provided pursuant to section H</p> <p>c. A synthesis report on adaptation actions and support, based on the registry referred to in section E</p>



		<p>d. The most recent IPCC assessment report e. Each Party's share in the global average temperature increase, and f. The contribution of each Party to limiting the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C (page 73).</p>
ADP 2-8 Negotiating text		<p>80. [Option 1: The governing body shall regularly conduct a strategic review of implementation / aggregate ambition assessment. Option 2: All Parties shall review their emission reduction commitments on a common five-year cycle Option 3: The COP / governing body shall regularly conduct a review of implementation in accordance with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The purposes, modalities, procedures and guidelines of the review will be further elaborated and adopted by the COP / governing body, based on Articles 4.2(d), 7.2(e) and 10.2(a) of the Convention and drawing upon the lessons learned from previous review processes and ambition mechanisms under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the review].</p> <p>(See also paragraphs 81 for further details on the strategic review)</p> <p>82. [The review / assessment / mechanism shall take place: Option 1: Starting in [X] / after the agreement has come into effect, every one / two / four / five years Option 1 bis: Starting in the year [20xx] and every one year for developed country Parties; Starting in the year [20xx] and every two/four years for developing country Parties; Option 2: Immediately following the publication of each IPCC assessment reports.] (page 76).</p> <p>(See also paragraphs 83-84 for further details on the strategic review)</p> <p>85. [The review / assessment / mechanism to be consistent with science, on the basis of equity and sustainable development, and informed by: Option 1: ... d. The assessment reports of the IPCC; Option 2: ... d. The assessment reports of the IPCC; f. The report on the 2013–2015 review and subsequent reviews (page 77);</p> <p>(See also paragraphs 86-87 for further details on the strategic review).</p>



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">[Mitigation [Long-term and global aspects of mitigation]]</p>	<p>ADP 2-8 Negotiation text</p>	<p>16 quarter. [Parties agree to account for their efforts to reduce or limit GHG emissions in line with agreed accounting framework/principles, as further elaborated by the governing body, in a manner that:</p> <p>..</p> <p>16 quarter.2 Is consistent with IPCC principles of transparency, accuracy, consistency, completeness and comparability (page 14);</p> <p>[In accounting for progress towards meeting their commitments / contributions, including their use of market mechanisms and of the land sector, Parties shall apply the following accounting principles:</p> <p>23.1 General principles</p> <p>...</p> <p>b. Parties are encouraged to include all major sources of anthropogenic emissions and removals in their commitment / contribution, as defined by IPCC key categories</p> <p>...</p> <p>h. Parties shall use the metric specified by the IPCC in its latest Assessment report and adopted by the COP, unless otherwise decided by the COP. (page 17).</p> <p>23.2 Land sector principles</p> <p>...</p> <p>e. Parties may exclude emissions and removals resulting from natural disturbances, consistent with the most recent IPCC guidance (page 17).</p> <p>..</p> <p><i>[Reporting of mitigation information]:</i></p> <p>24 septies. [Parties to report on the following in line with Article X (on transparency) :</p> <p>:</p> <p>24 septies.1 A national inventory report containing estimated emissions and removals, in accordance with IPCC guidance as adopted by the COP (page 19)</p>
<p>Others</p>	<p>ADP 2-8 Negotiating text</p>	<p><i>E. [[Adaptation and loss and damage]</i> <i>[Adaptation]</i> <i>[Long-term and global aspects of adaptation]</i></p> <p>25. ...</p> <p><i>Option 8:</i> All Parties in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities agree on a long term vision on adaptation, based on:</p> <p>a. Science, including, inter alia, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings on negative impacts of climate change (page 21);</p> <p>38.bis ...</p> <p>[Proposals for decisions related to anchoring institutions under the agreement] The replenishment of the Financial Mechanism and its operating entities to be linked to IPCC scientific assessments (page 41);</p> <p>67 ter. [All Parties shall use common methodologies and metrics as agreed by the IPCC and adopted by the governing body to determine their greenhouse gas emissions and removals.] (page 62)</p> <p><i>[Rules and modalities]</i></p> <p>69. <i>Option 1:</i> The governing body shall elaborate the rules related to transparency of action and support, including MRV, as well as related to accounting, in particular rules on the use of market mechanisms and to the land sector in relation to mitigation commitments / contributions, which:</p>



		c. Option (a) : Apply IPCC greenhouse gas inventory guidelines and common metrics agreed under the Convention; Option (b) : Use common metrics and methodologies adopted by the IPCC and agreed by the COP for the estimation of GHG emissions and removals; (page 63)
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