

## SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4 January 2013, 3:00-4:30PM CET - Teleconference

### CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

#### Participants:

##### *Members:*

R. K. Pachauri (Chair); I. Elgizouli; H. Lee; J.-P. van Ypersele; T. Stocker; V. Barros; C. Field; R. Pichs Madruga; Y. Sokona; T. Hiraishi; T. Krug.

##### *Advisory Members:*

R. Christ; P. Midgley; D. Dokken; J. Minx; S. Eggleston; L. Meyer.

##### *Others:*

G. Leone (minutes); J. Lynn.

#### **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The ExCom adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting (EXCOM-XVI/Doc.1), attached as **Annex 1**.

#### **2. OUTCOME OF UNFCCC COP-18 OF RELEVANCE TO THE IPCC**

The Secretary referred to the informal summary of IPCC-relevant conclusions and decisions taken at UNFCCC COP-18/CMP-8 in Doha that she had distributed to the ExCom on 10 December 2012, and highlighted those decisions that, as indicated in the summary, may have direct implications for the work of the IPCC. J.-P. van Ypersele, Vice-Chair, who had also been involved in the Doha meetings as an observer, stressed the high expectations that transpired at COP-18 in relation to the AR5 conclusions. The Chair and several other members expressed appreciation for the informative summary prepared by the Secretary. The latter spoke also about issues related to cooperation between UNFCCC and IPCC that were discussed at a meeting of J.-P. van Ypersele, I. Elgizouli, T. Hiraishi, and R. Christ with C. Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC and her staff in Doha. That meeting had explored ways to improve interaction, and agreed to resume the meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG), with the participation of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, the SBSTA Chair (and if needed of the SBI Chair and Chairs of UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Groups), the IPCC Chair (or his representative), IPCC Secretariat and relevant and interested IPCC ExCom members/advisors. The next meeting of the JWG is planned during the UNFCCC Bonn meetings in 2013. The Chair expressed his support on this matter.

#### **3. LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES**

The Chair and several members expressed their positive reaction to the way in which a recent case related to the Working Group (WG) I AR5 Second Order Draft had been dealt with. The need for speed in responding to challenges to the IPCC was stressed, and the choice not to engage in a discussion on the substance of the draft report was appreciated. The rapidity of the IPCC reply benefitted from the fact that the case involved only one WG and did not require consultation with the full Communications Action Team (CAT). The Chair clarified that in some instances where rapid action is required, it might be advantageous to entrust the preparation of the IPCC response to those who are directly involved in matter. This issue needs to be discussed at a future CAT meeting. T. Stocker, Co-Chair, WGI, suggested considering the involvement of IPCC Authors in certain communications activities related to the substance of IPCC work.

The ExCom decided to hold informal discussions among its members in the near future on issues related to the confidentiality of IPCC pre-decisional documents. The Secretary suggested that, at the beginning of each review period, the confidentiality and status of IPCC drafts be explained on the IPCC website, in line with the relevant provisions introduced in Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work in 2011, and starting with the upcoming review of the first order draft of the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol*.

#### **4. ISSUES FOR ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION AT THE 46<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE BUREAU**

##### **4.1 Electronic versions of IPCC reports as documents of record**

C. Field, Co-Chair, WGII, referred to the PDF-A version with internal links of a SREX chapter that he had distributed to the ExCom in advance of the meeting. He suggested that work should continue on considering the PDF-A format with internal links for AR5.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING POSSIBLE ERRORS**

The Chair informed the ExCom of recent developments in the on-going review of a claim of possible error in the AR4 WGIII report, where further consultation between authors and members of the Independent Review Committee established in accordance with the Error Protocol is needed.

##### **5.1 Overview of status of implementation**

The Deputy Secretary provided an overview of the current status of the implementation of the Error Protocol, which will be also the subject of a report to the Bureau at its upcoming Forty-Sixth Session. The following two issues are on the table for consideration by the ExCom: (i) appropriateness of the deadlines contained in the Error Protocol, as discussed already at ExCom-13, when it was agreed that a proposed revision would be submitted to the Plenary for approval at its Thirty-Seventh Session; and (ii) handling of translation mistakes.

The ExCom discussed the type of response that needs to be sent to the claimants of possible errors once the process defined by the Error Protocol has run its course. C. Field, Co-Chair, WGII, proposed that there be a page on the IPCC website where the full record of the process followed for each claim would be posted. T. Stocker, Co-Chair, WGI, suggested that the closing message to the claimant should contain information about the conclusions of the process, reference to the erratum that has been posted (if any), summary of the scientific consideration (in case there is no error), and rationale for the final decision.

The Chair concluded that the type of response depends on the nature of the claim, on a case-by-case basis. This is in line with the spirit of the Protocol, which states that the Chair and relevant Co-Chairs “decide on a communications strategy if needed.”

##### **5.2 Handling of translation mistakes**

T. Hiraishi, Co-Chair, TFI, introduced this item and expressed his view that translation mistakes should not be put through the process of the Error Protocol. The Secretary recalled that Appendix A contains no guidance on publications, leaving open the question of whether the English version is the document of record, or all UN language versions of IPCC reports are equally authentic. T. Stocker, Co-Chair, WGI, was of the opinion that the English version is the version of reference, therefore other language versions do not fall under the Error Protocol. Corrections of translation should not be part of the overall errata, but recorded on the appropriate webpages where the translated versions are available. C. Field, Co-Chair, WGII, proposed to establish an archive of comments on translations.

V. Barros, Co-Chair, WGII, stressed that translation of IPCC work should not be left to a single translator who is not an expert. There is a need for procedures governing the translation process. The Secretary specified that the translation of UN documents has to be done by accredited translators in order to be "official". These translators may consult experts to clarify the meaning of technical terms. Past attempts to have the translation checked by Bureau members have had mixed results. On the other hand, having the terminology/glossary translated in advance in all UN languages, checked by experts, and then finalized by a qualified team of translators would be beneficial.

In conclusion, the ExCom agreed to look into the possibility of developing a separate process/protocol for translation errors and to continue the discussion on this matter.

## **6. MATTERS OF COORDINATION ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS**

There was no matter to be discussed under this item.

## **7. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

### **7.1 Date of next ExCom meetings (February-March 2013)**

The next regular meeting of the ExCom will be held on Wednesday, 6 February 2013 by teleconference. A meeting of the ExCom will be held in Geneva on the eve of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Bureau on 27 February. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3 April 2013.

The meeting closed at 04:30PM.

**IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SIXTEENTH MEETING  
Teleconference, 4 January 2013**

EXCOM-XVI/Doc. 1  
(20.XII.2012)  
Agenda Item: 1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

- 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 2. OUTCOME OF UNFCCC COP-18 OF RELEVANCE TO THE IPCC**
- 3. LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES**
- 4. ISSUES FOR ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION AT THE 46th SESSION OF THE BUREAU**
  - 4.1 Electronic versions of IPCC reports as documents of record
- 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING POSSIBLE ERRORS**
  - 5.1 Overview of status of implementation
  - 5.2 Handling of translation mistakes
- 6. MATTERS OF COORDINATION ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS**
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