

**THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
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Agenda Item: 5
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REVIEW OF THE IPCC PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Background and Introduction

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat on behalf of the Task Group Co-chairs)

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Work of the Intersessional Task Groups to Address The Recommendations of the InterAcademy Council

Note from the Task Group Co-Chairs

On 10 March 2010, the UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of the IPCC signed a joint letter requesting the InterAcademy Council (IAC) – a consortium of national academies of science of a number of countries – to carry out an independent review of IPCC's processes and procedures. Government focal points were informed of this request through the letter No.6942-10/IPCC/GEN dated 12 March 2010. The IAC issued its recommendations on 30 August 2010, in time for the 32nd Session of the IPCC in Busan Korea, 11-14 October 2010. The report is contained in document IPCC-XXXII/Doc.7.

At its 32nd Session, the IPCC welcomed the IAC review, and agreed to implement many of the recommendations immediately. On others, the Panel decided to form four Task Groups to undertake further work intersessionally, with a view to completing work on the IAC recommendations at the Panel's next session.

These Task Groups covered the following topics: 1) Procedures; 2) Governance and Management; 3) Conflict of Interest Policy; and 4) Communications Strategy. The Task Groups operated under the mandates provided in decisions of the Panel at its 32nd Session covering these topics, as contained in Annex 3 to the Report of the 32nd Session of the Panel.

The Task Groups were requested to prepare proposals regarding the IAC Review recommendations with a view to completion of their tasks at the 33rd Panel Session. The Panel decided that the Task Groups would be open to participation by the members of the IPCC, and government representatives volunteered in the final plenary meeting of the 32nd Session of the IPCC and thereafter. A list of the countries represented in each of the Task Groups is added to the individual Task Group reports.

The Panel requested that the Task Groups seek the advice of the IPCC Chair, the IPCC Vice-Chairs, Working Group and TFI Co-Chairs and the Secretary. The Task Groups consulted with these individuals at various stages of the development of these recommendations.

The Task Groups worked by e-mail and teleconference, and met in Geneva over the period February 1-4, 2011. Task Groups chose the following co-chairs and rapporteurs:

- Task Group on Procedures – co-chairs: Norway and Peru, rapporteur: The Netherlands.
- Task Group on Governance and Management – co-chairs: Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, rapporteur: Germany.
- Task Group on Communication Strategy – co-chairs: Canada and Mexico, rapporteur: Norway.
- Task Group on Conflict of Interest Policy – co-chairs: Bangladesh and New Zealand, rapporteur: United Kingdom.

The Task Groups prepared draft recommendations, in accordance with their Terms of Reference contained in the report of the 32nd Session. In accordance with the mandate of the 32nd Session, Task Groups circulated their draft recommendations to governments on February 9, with a four week period for review. The Secretariat received comments from 25 governments, as well as written advice provided the IPCC Chair, the Vice-Chairs, Working Group Co-Chairs and the

Secretary. The draft recommendations of the Task Groups issued on February 9, as well as the comments received, are provided as information in document IPCC-XXXIII/INF.1.

Since March 9, the Task Groups have revised their draft recommendations taking into account comments received. These recommendations are contained in the following documents:

IPCC-XXXIII/Doc.10 - Proposal by the Task Group on Governance and Management

IPCC-XXXIII/Doc.11 - Proposal by the Task Group on Conflict of Interest Policy

IPCC-XXXIII/Doc.12 - Proposal by the Task Group on Procedures

IPCC-XXXIII/Doc.13 - Proposal by the Task Group on Communications Strategy

Additional information is contained in addenda to the documents.

Cross-cutting issues have been handled through discussions among the co-chairs. General comments were referred to relevant task groups, where appropriate.

Several comments from governments noted that the work to fully addressing the subject matter covered under the IAC's recommendations may in certain cases will require further iterations, and that mandates would in that instance be needed from the plenary. The Task Groups organized their work so as to conclude work on as many of the recommendations as possible. The work of the Task Groups indicates that in finalizing consideration of the subject matter identified in the IAC reports, further work on implementation may be necessary in a limited number of cases.

The Panel is invited to consider each of these sets of draft recommendations, with a view to coming to decision on all issues at this session. It is expected that the 33rd Session will focus on finalizing recommendations in all four areas covered in the work of the Task Forces.