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ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF FUNDS OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

(Submitted by the Chairman of the IPCC)

Proposal for the use of the Funds from the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize

Introduction:

The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to the IPCC and Mr. Al Gore for "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change"

As part of this award the IPCC received an amount of CHF 884,926.50 as the Panel's share of the award money.

It is suggested that these funds be used, within the overall IPCC mandate, for activities which otherwise would not have taken place. Consistent with the spirit and purpose of the prize it is also suggested that the funds should be used to support creation and dissemination of knowledge specifically in areas related to climate change and human well being, peace and security.

The aim of the Fund will be support, broaden and enhance the creation and dissemination of knowledge about climate change, its impacts and the management of climate risks through adaptation and mitigation, in a manner which increases engagement of developing country scientists and compliments and supports the work of the IPCC.

Areas of activities that have been proposed for the use of the Nobel Funds:

1. Dissemination of IPCC knowledge and collection of further knowledge on current vulnerabilities and coping capacities

Such activities should be strictly additional to current IPCC outreach activities and contain an element of dialogue in support of assessment activities, consistent with the IPCC rules for workshops and expert meetings which stipulate that "IPCC workshops and expert meetings are those that have been agreed upon in advance by an IPCC Working Group, or by the Panel as useful or necessary for the completion of the work plan of a Working Group, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories or a task of the IPCC." In the past workshops and expert meetings have been used specifically to gather knowledge in areas where insufficient peer reviewed literature is available. Recent examples for such meetings are the WG 3 review meetings and the TGICA Regional Expert meeting (Fiji, 2007).

Meetings could target specifically vulnerable regions and communities and regions where, for example, the achievement of the MDGs and climate change adaptation and mitigation are critically linked. They should be used to disseminate specifically targeted IPCC knowledge and be designed to facilitate gathering additional knowledge and understanding about traditional local coping capacities, insights about current and projected vulnerability and adaptive and mitigative capacity. They could also stimulate further research (see below). Workshop reports would provide inputs to future IPCC assessment activities. A small team of members of the Bureau could be constituted for providing guidance on this activity and for assessing specific activities and events to arrive at recommendations for IPCC involvement.

The Panel may also wish to consider co-sponsored activities in this context.

2. Support for scientists in developing countries

Despite strong efforts to enhance developing country participation in IPCC assessment work, the representation of experts from various developing country regions and in particular of young scientists is still a reason for concern. Therefore several governments and authors suggested, also in their comments on the future of the IPCC, to provide further support to enhance participation of young scientists from developing countries in IPCC work. The use of the Nobel funds was mentioned in this context as a possible source of support.

Suggestions included:

- Twinning or other cooperation arrangements between institutions with high capacity in some regions and institutions with low or medium capacity in other regions, which would involve joint projects, training activities and fellowship programmes. Support would go to developing country institutions. If required, incremental expenses incurred by the developed country institutions involved could be compensated.
- Other fellowships for young scientists
- Internships in relevant institutions and international organizations, including serving for the IPCC or an IPCC TSU to prepare for specific meetings
- Access to online journals for developing country authors involved in IPCC work (and involved in relevant research), similar to the arrangements provided by WG I during the AR4 process.
- Workshops to identify research needs and to facilitate access of developing country institutions to relevant funding. The team of Bureau members suggested for IPCC involvement with workshops and expert meetings would also provide guidance and direction for this activity.

3. Preparation of a special report on climate change and peace

Suggestions have been made for a special report on climate change and peace. This option of a special report has to be considered in the overall context of the future IPCC work programme and is subject to availability of sufficient literature. Further, costs for a Special Report are considerably higher than the total Nobel funds. However, even if not covered by a special report the issue should be given a high profile by other means in the scope of a future assessment report.

Management of the Funds

A separate Trust Fund has been established. The management, accounting and reporting of this fund should be separate from the general IPCC Trust Fund. It is suggested that an Executive Board be set up to approve activities carried out under that special trust fund, within the general guidance given by the Panel. The management of the fund would be carried out by the IPCC Secretariat. As the name “Nobel Prize” is protected and therefore cannot be used for that new fund in any way, it is suggested that the fund and the programme established under be called the “IPCC Special Trust Fund – 2007 Peace Prize”

The funds received from the Nobel Foundation are generous but would only allow a rather limited number of activities. In order to maintain activities for an extended period of time and allow benefits for a large number of people and experts, the Panel may wish to consider inviting and accepting contributions from non-governmental sources such as private donors and foundations. The aim would be to create a sustainable fund and allow for sustained growth in activities. The above- mentioned Executive Board would ensure that such donations would not jeopardize the independence of the IPCC and its activities. In this context it should be mentioned that recently non-government donors have started to express interest in supporting the IPCC financially. However, in order to maintain the intergovernmental and objective nature of the IPCC it is recommended that contributions to the IPCC Trust for all regular IPCC activities would come only from governments and relevant UN Bodies.

Recommended action by the Panel:

- Agree on general scope of activities, and TOR for the Executive Board
- Establish an Executive Board
- Set up a process to develop detailed guidelines for the operation of the fund
- Agree on official name of the new fund and programme
- Agree on inviting further contributions and establish criteria for acceptable sources