

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

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PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN IPCC ACTIVITIES

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

IPCC Secretariat

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PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN IPCC ACTIVITIES

Introduction

During the 41st Session of the IPCC (Nairobi, Kenya, 24-27 February 2015), the Panel agreed (Decision IPCC/XLI-4, paragraphs 24-27) that a number of additional measures would be suitable to attract qualified experts from developing countries and enhance and facilitate their engagement with the IPCC, including the following:

- Further encourage Co-Chairs and other Bureau members to engage experts from developing countries in Technical Support Units (TSUs), author teams and as reviewers. Increasing training for TSUs and author teams will help ensure effective participation by all authors;
- Increase the number of IPCC activities in developing countries;
- Arrange briefings and training sessions for government representatives e.g. before sessions of the IPCC;
- In the context of communication and outreach activities, to provide experts with information about the IPCC process and how they can participate in IPCC work.

At the 44th Session of the IPCC (Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 20 October 2016), the IPCC Secretariat presented a set of action points aimed at implementing Decision IPCC/XLI-4, paragraphs 24-27. Subsequently, the Panel (Decision IPCC/XLIV-1, paragraphs 12) recognized the importance of organizing a one day briefing session to reinforce capacity and enhance participation of developing countries in the IPCC process, noting that this briefing should be open to all member countries. The Panel proposed that the briefing session takes place, as a pilot, one day before the 45th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-45). The Panel requested that the outcome of the briefing session be evaluated and a decision be taken as to whether the activity should continue as in-session briefings at future Plenary sessions.

At the 46th Session of the IPCC (Montreal, Canada, 6-10 September 2017), the Panel deferred the discussion on this item to the 47th Session.

Communication and Outreach Events

Since October 2016 the IPCC together with partners and host institutions has continued conducting regional and national outreach events and contributed with speakers and materials to meetings taking place around the world including in developing countries.¹ The IPCC has provided support to ensure the participation of delegates and speakers from developing countries in the outreach activities. The outreach events play an important role in informing policymakers at all levels, as well as other key stakeholders, about the most recent findings of the IPCC, its role, work and activities. The events also encourage contribution to, and participation in, the work of the Panel by providing information on IPCC processes.

Pre-Plenary Briefing Session

A half-day Pre-Plenary Briefing Session was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in the afternoon on 27 March 2017 just before the 45th Session of the IPCC. Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish was provided during the session.

¹ Selected major outreach activities in developing countries since the end of 2016 include: 14-15 October 2016, Bangkok, Thailand; 24-25 October 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam; 10 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco; 29 November – 1 December 2016, Kingston, Jamaica; 25 – 27 March 2017, Guadalajara, Mexico; 10-13 April 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal; 29 – 30 April 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 19-20 September 2017, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 6 October 2017, Lautoka, Fiji; 7 October 2017, Suva, Fiji; 17 October 2017, Kyiv, Ukraine.

The session featured presentations by the IPCC Secretariat and Working Group Co-Chairs, which *inter alia*, highlighted IPCC roles, rules and procedures, and opportunities for member countries and experts to contribute to the work of the IPCC; nomination and selection of IPCC Authors, Review Editors and other experts and their desired qualities; roles of Focal Points in the IPCC Process; communications and outreach and hosting IPCC meetings; the IPCC paper smart system; and a brief introduction to IPCC-45 Agenda items.

Delegates shared their experiences, lessons learnt, best practices, success stories and raised other matters related to their engagement with the IPCC. Opportunities for questions and answers were availed for further clarification of pertinent issues of concern from delegates.

Consistent with the IPCC-44 decision, the Pre-Plenary Briefing Session was open to all registered delegates. In attendance were IPCC Vice-Chairs, Working Group and Task Force Bureau Co-Chairs, IPCC Bureau Members, and delegates representing governments and IPCC Observer Organizations. The distribution of participants according to their country of origin is shown in Annex 1.

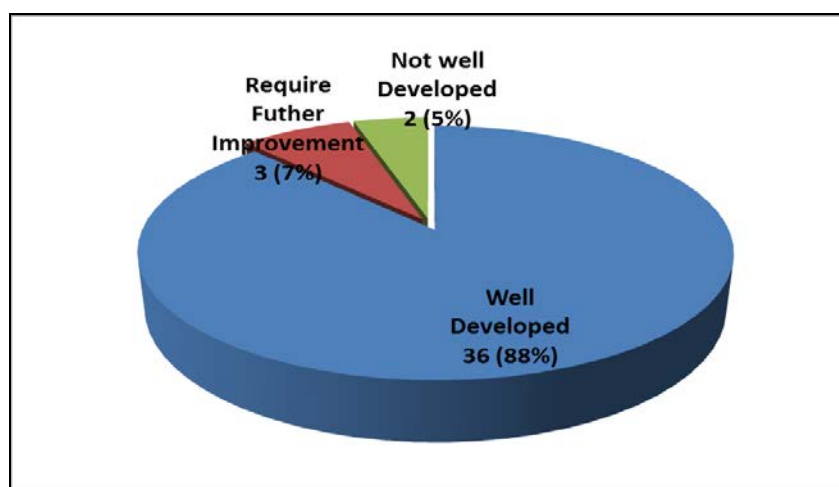
Evaluation of the Pre-Plenary Briefing Session

Considering that the Session was a pilot, a survey was conducted to solicit comments and feedback from participants on its usefulness. The IPCC Secretariat developed a questionnaire, which was sent to participants. Responses were solicited to the following questions:

1. Was the agenda developed in a manner, which allowed sharing of all relevant information to delegates?
2. Did the presentations meet the needs of delegates, particularly those who are not very familiar with IPCC procedures and rules?
3. Was the time allocated to the session adequate for sharing of relevant information?
4. Is your country/ organization in a better position to participate in IPCC activities?
5. Should the Pre-Plenary Briefing Sessions be continued in subsequent IPCC Sessions?
6. Additional remarks and suggestions.

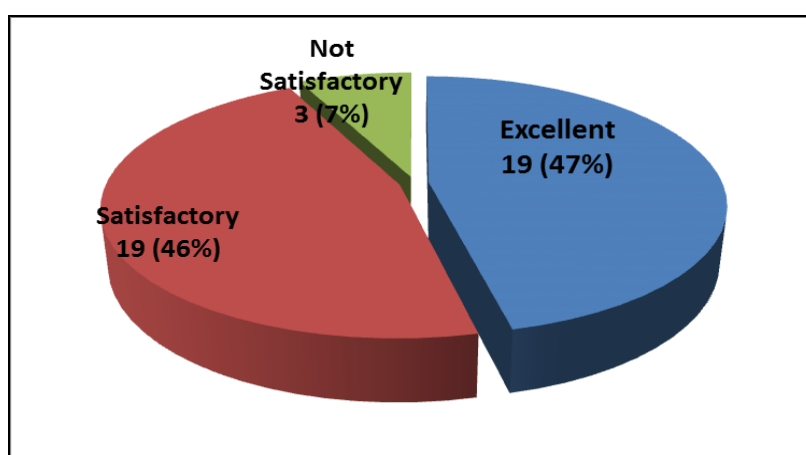
A summary of the responses received from forty-one respondents is presented below.

1. Regarding whether agenda was developed in a manner, which allowed sharing of all relevant information to delegates, 88% of the respondents submitted that it was well developed, 7% suggested that further improvements are required and the remainder 5% felt it was not well developed.



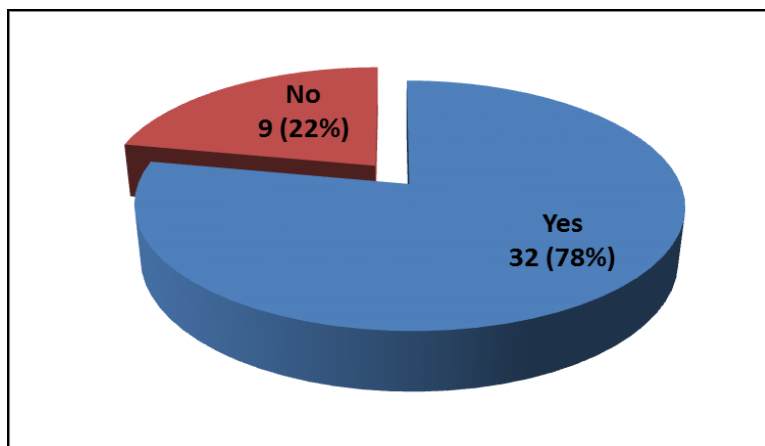
Comments/Suggestions
<p>Well Developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe time was a little too short, so lots of information was shared in a concentrated manner, making them a little hard to grasp. Totally understand the need to make the pre-plenary briefing in half-day, the event was really good, cost-benefit-wise. • Results of this evaluation process should be used to tailor the agenda for any subsequent pre-briefing session. • Agenda setting was well aligned with the interest of delegates, particularly from developing countries.
<p>Require Further Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information was useful but not to be repeated in every plenary. • A lot of information that was presented could also be found on the IPCC website. • Ask the Focal Points about new items for the agenda. • It could be useful to give a short information on the usual run of a Plenary (e.g. time allocated for panel member interventions, opening/closure of a point, draft decision on screen before approval, contact group, etc). • It would be useful to have agenda in a more timely manner. • Need more information on practical IPCC work e.g how the dynamics in the plenary works, use of breakout groups, FiTT etc. More time could have been given to show useful tips in PaperSmart.
<p>Not Well Developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not find that the agenda was well developed or circulated prior to the briefing session.

2. In response to the question on whether the presentations met the needs of delegates, particularly those who are not very familiar with IPCC procedures and rules, about 46% found the presentations excellent, another 46% thought they were satisfactory, while 7% felt they were not satisfactory.



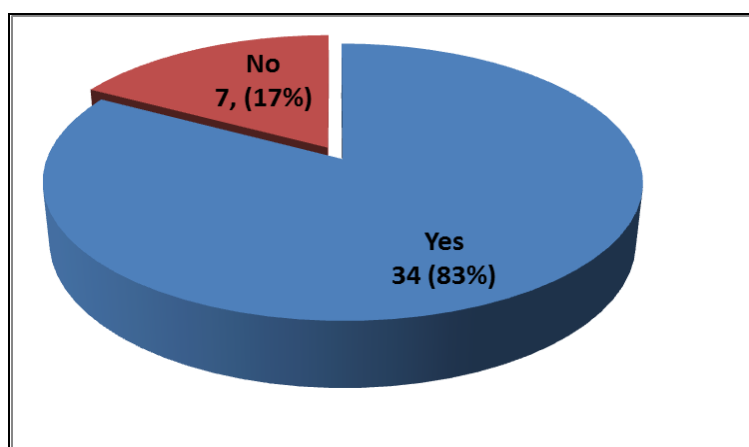
Comments/Suggestions
<p>Excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should not be repeated at each plenary. • A video film could be made to inform new people in the IPCC. • The presentations should also be present online for future reference. • A version with the spoken presentation might also be a good short YouTube video (if nothing similar is already on the IPCC channel) • The presentations should be sustained because they enlightened the participants and set the stage for the real session.
<p>Satisfactory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though this was my first IPCC session, .was already familiar with most IPCC procedures before arriving to Guadalajara. The presentations really helped build on previous knowledge. However, they were maybe a little too complex for other newcomers. • Although familiar with IPCC processes and rules, but the items 'introduction to IPCC-45 agenda items' and 'other logistics and facilities' are important areas to cover to support broad participation in IPCC plenary sessions. • Share the presentations with Focal Points before the session. • Give more detailed information on the IPCC organization itself but to focus on procedures during the sessions. • More general information on the actual agenda items and how they are dealt with would have been useful. • More time will enable detailed presentations to bring new participants up to speed with the IPCC procedures and rules. • Include information about how the IPCC regional distributions are made and detailed information on how the structure of the IPCC is composed.
<p>Not Satisfactory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the presentations and use more colorful slides and ways of presenting the rather dry facts. In addition, some of the information provided was not entirely correct, e.g. the cycles length is 7 not 5 years. • Do not find it useful to frame the Col-policy in the context of the 2010 communication crisis, which was also described in a very negative way ("errors found"). For newcomers the information should be provided in more neutral way. • Aside from a read-through of the Panel meeting agenda and a walkthrough of the papersmart system, there was little content targeted toward new members. • During the briefing, the majority of interventions were comments from countries who are well familiar with the activities and procedures of the IPCC. This appeared to be used as an opportunity for more time for these countries to express their positions.

3. With regards to the time allocated to the session, 78% submitted that the half-day was adequate for sharing of relevant information whereas 22% felt the time was not enough.



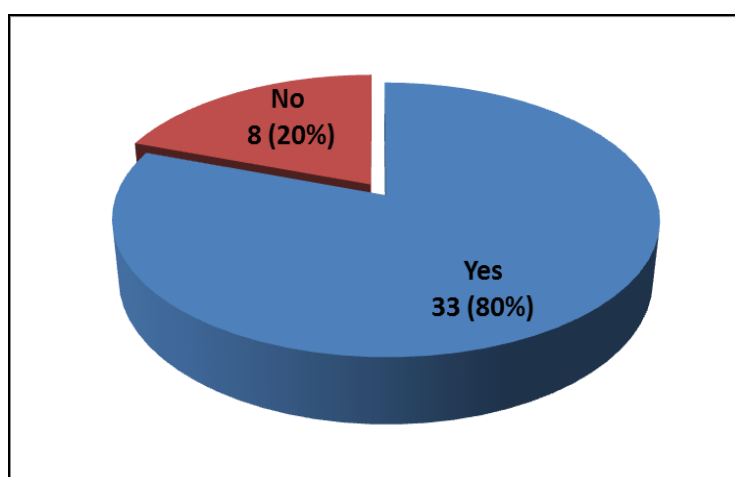
Comments/Suggestions	
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duration should be squeezed and that the meeting could take place the same morning as the start of the plenary from 8h to 10h or 9h to 11h or that in the margin of the plenary small workshops on specific issues could be organized for those that are not familiar with the IPCC. • Given the resource implications of these sessions, consideration should be given to items that could be covered electronically in advance of plenary meetings. IPCC tutorial presentations such as the information on the 'nomination of authors, review editors, and other experts' could be shared by email in parallel to the call for nomination letters. • A half day was good for this session, but the most useful material could be covered in much less time. • The time was reasonable. However, judging from the interest and a series of questions asked, we might need more time in future.
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time could be extended so that participants could ask more questions to clarify anything that might not be clear. • If possible a full day program with better in-depth scrutiny of the agenda would be better. • Pre-Plenary session should be held over a whole day, to allow more time to learn the process and briefings on outcomes of various Working Group and Committees' meetings held in between the IPCC sessions. • A full day would be sufficient and can give delegates time to go through the agenda in preparation of the next day. • A full day would allow for substantive discussions amongst groups or regions. • The key information such as the walkthrough of the papersmart system was covered in under an hour, and communication of this information could be achieved prior to the 10am opening of the first plenary session.

4. About 83% of the respondents submitted that the session placed their country/organization in a better position to participate in IPCC activities, while 17% felt the session did not impact on their ability to get involved in IPCC work.



Comments/Suggestions	
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session helps in getting everyone on the same ground before starting the main session. • Attendance the session provided a new options how to track/follow the whole IPCC work and its products. • We were made aware of some nice new ways to work in the papersmart system. • We need more opportunities like this as there are lot of issues that we need to understand to be able to represent well IPCC to our countries.
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good to meet colleagues before the plenary to exchange views but the main work should be done at home before the plenary: reading the documents, collecting views and information from other experts at home and prepare a 'preliminary' country standpoint, flexible for adaptation as discussions go on. • Most information was not new, the information provided is available on the IPCC website.

5. About 80% of the respondents suggested that the Pre-Plenary Briefing Sessions should be continued in future, while 20% were of the view that the sessions should not continue.



Comments/Suggestions	
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater engagement and discussion is needed on how to increase participation from less represented countries. • Future sessions covering the nomination process should offer more details to countries on how to identify and encourage high potential candidates to apply as authors, review editors or as experts. • Consideration should be given to the appropriate duration and frequency of these sessions. The hour before the opening of the first day of plenary could potentially be used for pre-briefing purposes. • It would be worthwhile to have briefings on IPCC that target an external audience to better engage relevant stakeholders across sectors. • The IPCC Secretariat should revise agenda setting in order to incorporate timely issues.

- One briefing every 2 or 3 sessions would be enough to ensure that there are enough new/recent delegates attending.
- The pre-plenary sessions should continue and be open to everyone as this will increase the capacity of especially developing countries to participate in IPCC sessions.
- Highly recommended as sometimes, there are new government officials coming to the meeting in case the Focal Points cannot make it.
- It would be beneficial if the pre-briefings are held before every IPCC session.
- Such an event is not needed for every plenary, and that once in a while is sufficient. Maybe, arrange one briefing session every third/forth year.
- This initiative need to be sustained throughout the AR6 cycle. It is also the means of facilitating enhanced communication of the activities and importance of IPCC by building the capacity of Focal Points.

No

- It can be interesting to organize small workshops on particular issues for people that are not familiar with the IPCC in the margin of the plenary. In a time that the IPCC is struggling with the budget, ways have to be identified that do not increase the budget.
- Not needed.
- In times of financial crisis, the IPCC cannot afford briefing sessions for delegates. We are not aware of any other intergovernmental body which does this kind of activity.
- The most useful aspects could be covered more efficiently without the need for an extra half day at every meeting.
- Instead of briefing session, have a meeting of National Focal Points during a lunch time, and at the beginning of each plenary, have the Secretariat present the document that outlines the expectations under each agenda item - this is very helpful for all delegates to hear and should help the plenary sessions to run more smoothly.
- Given the 70,000 CHF expense of the pre-briefing session, pre-plenary briefing sessions are not recommended.

Other Suggestions

Yes

- Greater engagement and discussion is needed on how to increase participation from less represented countries.
- Future sessions covering the nomination process should offer more details to countries on how to identify and encourage high potential candidates to apply as authors, review editors or as experts.
- It could be useful if some more Focal Points could make a presentation, with slides that explain how the IPCC work is organized in their countries: nominations, preparations of meetings, outreach, etc.
- The briefing sessions are an excellent idea as they help to familiarize new delegates with the rules, roles and functions of the IPCC. However, the time needs to be extended a bit so that the presentations could go slower and also allow participants to ask questions.
- Include a presentation in relation to challenges, successes and expectations. This would enable the delegates to develop short/long-term strategies for the implementation of IPCC activities.
- There might be two different objectives for these pre-session: 1) as it was, to make delegates familiar with the functioning of the session. This is particularly relevant for new delegates; and 2) to communicate on IPCC activities towards people of the hosting country. Some of the presentations could be identical, but the discussion would be different.
- IPCC should have the authority in considering the majority's voice even if there is no consensus on a particular issue.

- There is very poor participation from many Pacific Island nations. Probably, IPCC could consider attendance in these meetings mandatory.
- The pre-plenary briefing sessions should be sustained and participation encouraged.
- Such a pre-briefing should also focus on trying to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. This time it did not really contribute to this, but if one have this focus when planning the session and in presentations given, it can be more fruitful.
- Thanks for the Secretariat for organizing this session.
- Presentations should elaborate on some acronyms which are used.
- Developing countries need to have separate coordination on substance.
- Pre-plenary briefing session is useful, if continued, will enhance the awareness of the participants and also allow the countries to increase their participation in different IPCC activities as they know the activities of IPCC and also know how they could participate.
- The pre-session briefings should be considered as a standing/continuous activities for IPCC sessions as they assist in the understanding and enhancing for active participation of developing countries in the session.
- This is very useful for Focal Points from developing countries, who in most cases are a one-man delegation in most of the sessions. It is therefore important that the capacity of Focal Points is enhanced through various means including the pre-plenary briefing sessions.
- Need to train Focal Points on what they need to do in their countries to mobilize resources for IPCC-related activities

No

- Have the session in the early morning at the same day of the main session, in order to cut costs of having participants for an extra day.
- Should not be further pursued.
- The Secretariat could provide a briefing document - like a guidance document for new comers which helps to get familiar with the way the IPCC works.
- The "Introduction to IPCC" material is good and useful, but probably does not need repeating every meeting. It could be provided to new Focal Points and delegations.
- The short "Introduction to IPCC-45 agenda items" is very helpful, and could be included at the start of the plenary instead of in a pre-briefing.
- Instead of half-day briefing, the introductory material could be presented to new delegates one hour before the plenary opening. The introduction to agenda items could be given at the start of the plenary (after the agenda is adopted).
- A separate meeting of Focal Points to share experiences and regional issues, in the margin of the plenary, might be useful.
- Clear notification of when meeting documents are posted on the IPCC website is crucial and would go a long way toward preparation of all participants in the IPCC.

Proposed action

The Panel may wish to take a decision along the following lines;

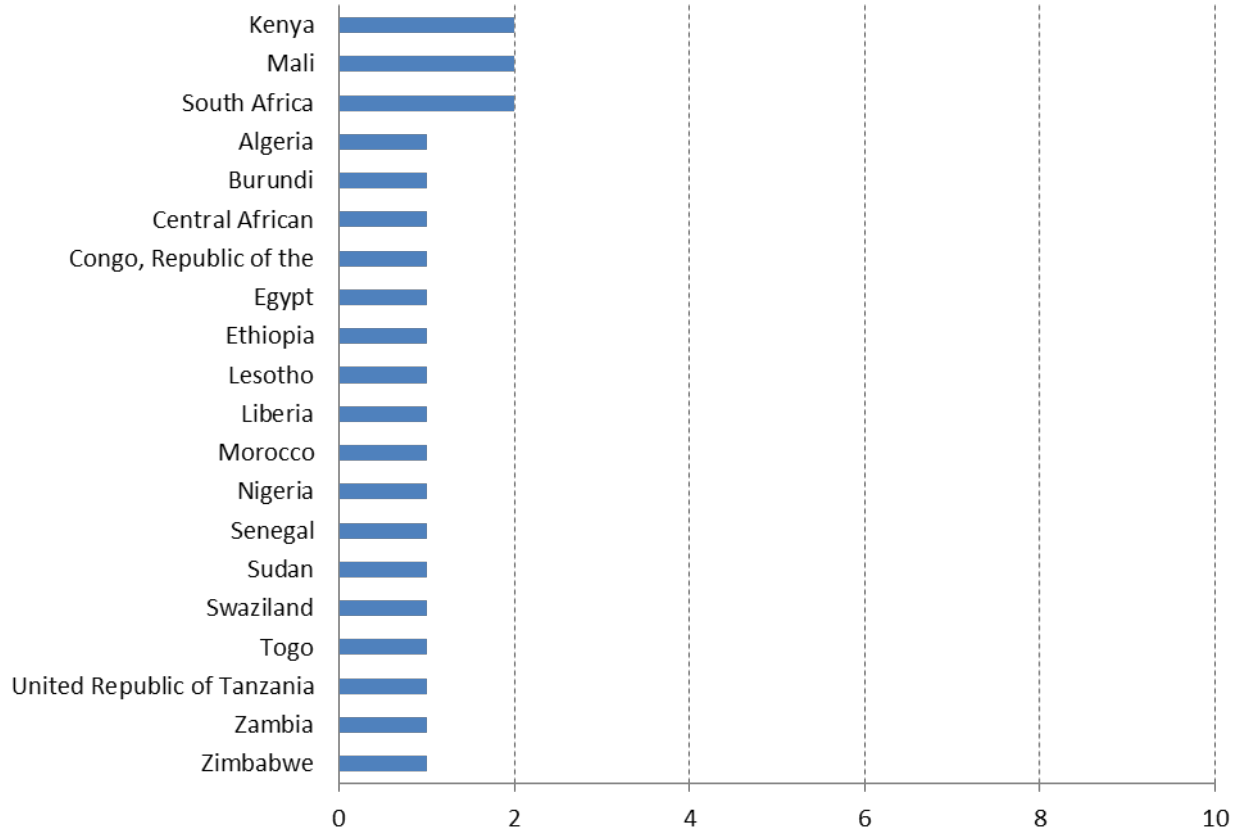
The Panel;

Notes that the survey conducted indicates support for pre-Plenary briefing sessions, while also offering suggestions for improvement;

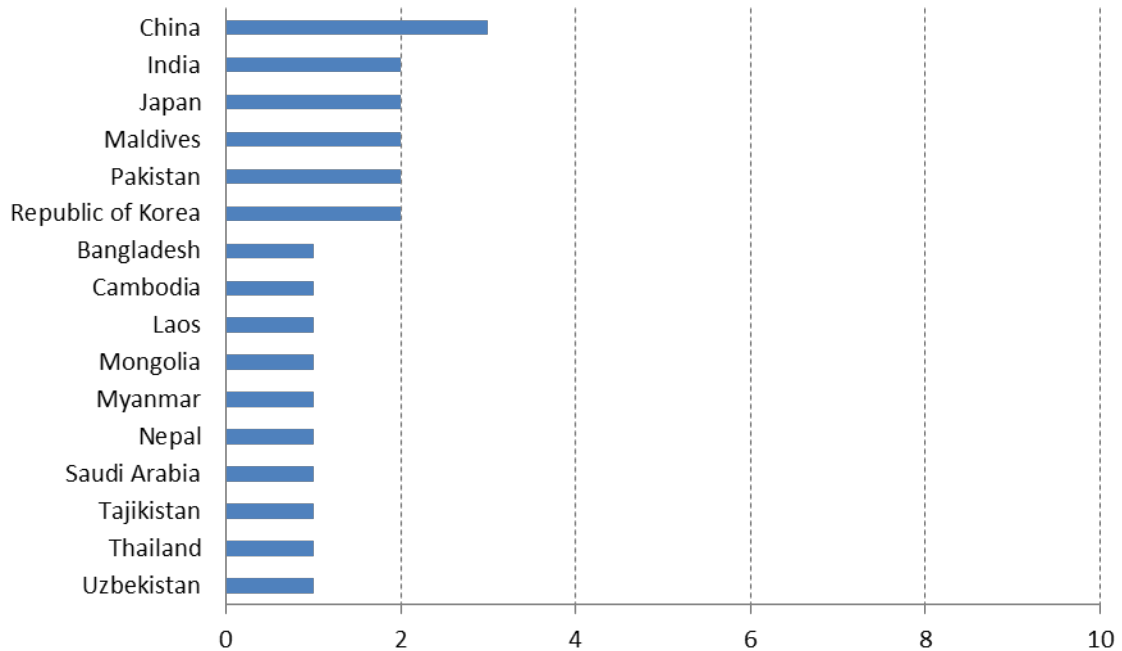
Recommends, based on the results from the survey that pre-Plenary briefing sessions be organized when feasible and within existing available resources, so as to enable effective involvement of developing countries in IPCC activities.

Regional Distribution of Participants

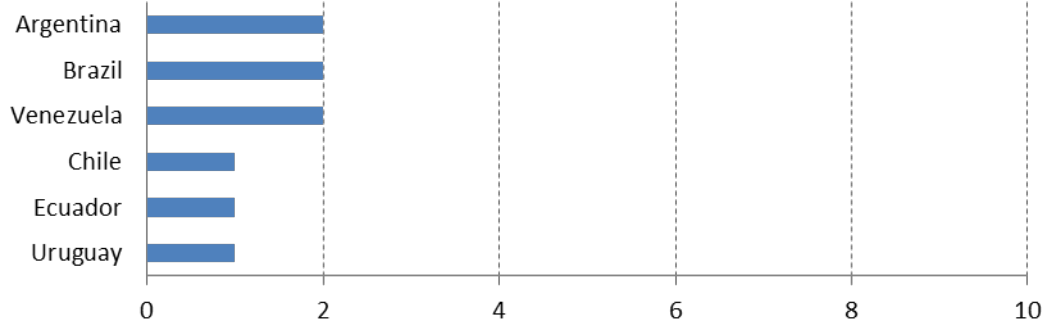
Africa (Region I)



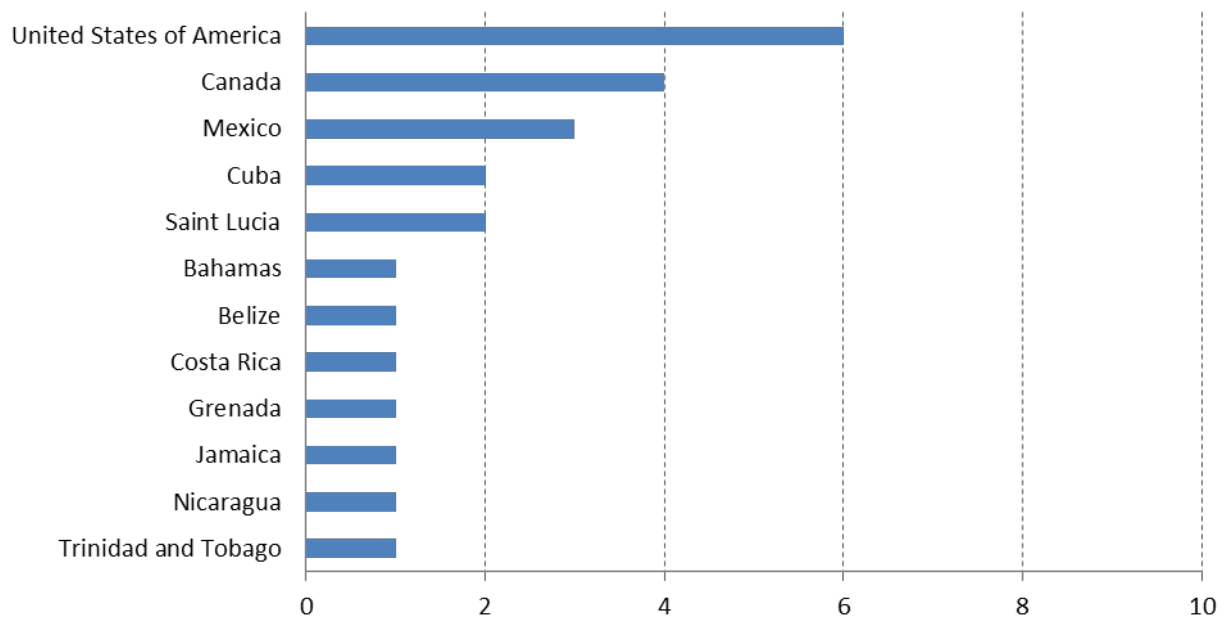
Asia (Region II)



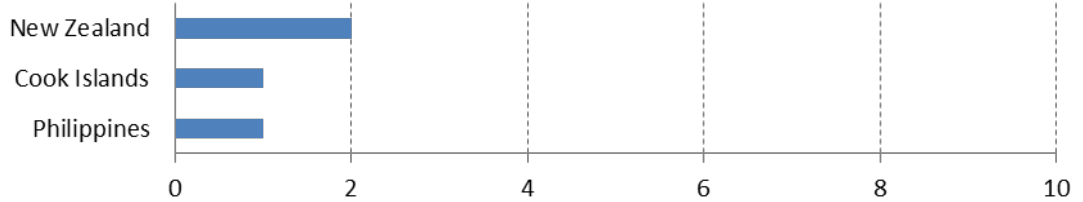
South America (Region III)



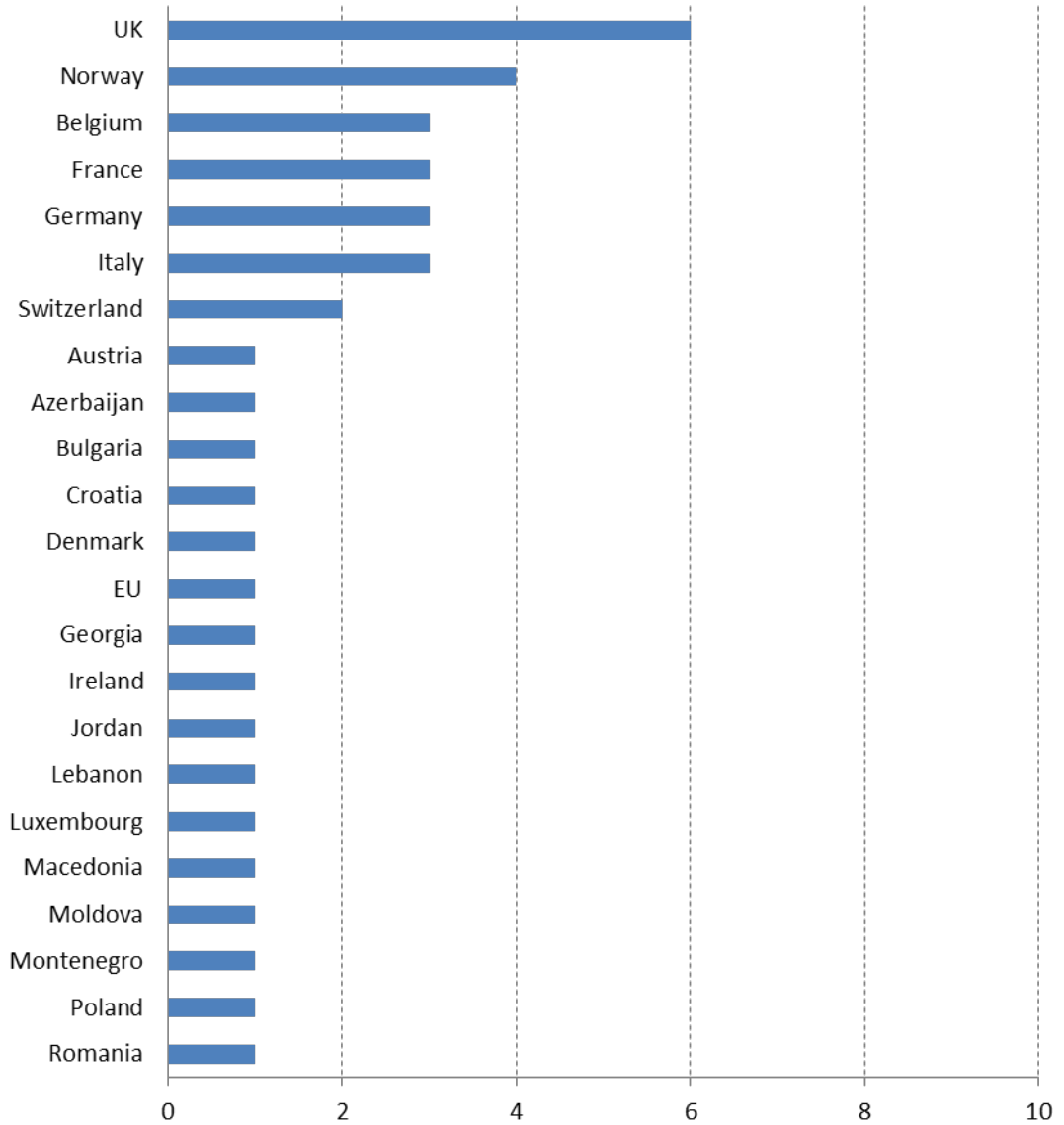
North America, Central America and the Caribbean (Region IV)



South-West Pacific (Region V)



Europe (Region VI)



Pre-Plenary Briefing Session
Guadalajara, Mexico, 27 March 2017

Questionnaire

The aim of this questionnaire is to help in the evaluation of the half-day Pre-Plenary Briefing Session held in Guadalajara, Mexico on 27 March 2017.

At the 44th Session of the IPCC, the Panel recognized the importance of organizing a 1-day briefing session to reinforce capacity and enhance participation of developing countries in the IPCC process, noting that this briefing should be open to all member countries. It was proposed that the briefing session takes place, as a pilot, 1 day before the IPCC-45. The outcome of the briefing session will be evaluated and a decision will be taken as to whether the activity should continue as in-session briefings at future Plenary sessions

This questionnaire will provide information relevant for the evaluation and reporting back to the Panel.

Personal Information

<i>Name</i>	
<i>Country/Observer Organisation</i>	
<i>Are you IPCC Focal Point?</i>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did you participate in the Pre-Plenary Briefing Session?</i>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1. Was the agenda developed in a manner which allowed sharing of all relevant information to delegates?

Not well developed

<i>Suggestions</i>	
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2. Did the presentations meet the needs of delegates, particularly those who are not very familiar with IPCC procedures and rules?

Presentations were not satisfactory

<i>Suggestions</i>	
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3. Was the time allocated to the session adequate for sharing of relevant information?

<i>Half-day sufficient?</i>	No	
<i>Suggestions</i>		

4. If you attended the session, is your country/ organization in a better position to participate in IPCC activities?

<i>In a better position?</i>	Yes	
<i>Suggestions</i>		

5. Should the Pre-Plenary Briefing Sessions be continued in subsequent IPCC Sessions?

<i>Continued</i>	Yes	
<i>Suggestions</i>		

6. Additional remarks and suggestions

<i>Suggestions</i>		
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