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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

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REPORTS

IPCC Carbon Footprint

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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IPCC Carbon Footprint

Background

At its 37th Session (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013), the Panel discussed the issue of reducing the carbon footprint of IPCC activities. It was decided that the Secretariat would continue studying and mapping out options and alternative models to reduce the carbon footprint of IPCC activities and that the Panel would eventually decide how to move forward on this subject, based on further information as to next steps. The Secretariat has presented updates on options and measures to reduce the carbon footprint of IPCC activities at the 39th Session ([IPCC-XXXIX/Doc. 8](#)), the 40th Session ([IPCC-XL/Doc. 11](#)) and the 44th Session ([IPCC-XLIV/INF. 5](#)).

Greening the Blue

The UN system as a whole has been working to measure and reduce its environmental footprint over the past decade, with a focus on climate change, as a result of the UN's 2007 Climate Neutral Strategy. The UN Climate Neutral Strategy covers UN system emission related to facilities and operations, including travel. Within these boundaries, the strategy concerns all activities causing emissions over which the UN has financial and/or operational control (i.e. activities that are being paid or controlled directly by the organization).

In recent years, the efforts made by UN agencies, funds and programmes have expanded from an initial focus on greenhouse gas emissions to include other environmental impacts. This has been supported by a more systematic approach which sees the inclusion of environmental sustainability goals in strategies, policies, programmes and projects in addition to environmental measures taken at the level of facilities and operations. The overall sequence is based on three fundamental pillars with the goal to reach climate neutrality across the UN by 2020: 1. Measuring and reporting environmental impacts 2. Undertaking efforts to systematically manage and reduce them 3. Offsetting unavoidable emissions.

The UN Environment Management Group together with the Sustainable United Nations facility is tasked with coordinating the UN's efforts to move towards climate neutrality, and it works through a network of focal points from each organization. The agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, including the host organizations of the IPCC – WMO and UN Environment – are members of the UN Environment Management Group. UN Environment also provides the secretariat for the EMG.

The EMG Secretariat oversees the [Issue Management Group \(IMG\) on Environmental Sustainability Management](#), which includes representatives from most UN organizations and meets on average three times a year, online and face-to-face. The IMG has established a harmonized, UN-wide approach to measuring the greenhouse gas emissions from all UN agencies, funds and programmes and shared emissions reduction plans and efforts. Each year the results are published in the [Greening the Blue Report](#).

The intention is for the IPCC to work together with the Environment Management Group and to join the Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management in order to contribute to, in close cooperation with WMO and UN Environment, the implementation of, and moving towards, a climate-neutral United Nations.

The IPCC will also continue to bundle missions and arrange for back-to-back meetings so as to cover more than one meeting or objectives in one single ticket, in particular for long-haul travel. For example, during the AR6 cycle all Bureau meetings will be held back-to-back with Panel Sessions. For any meeting, whenever possible and feasible, due consideration will be given to setting it up as a teleconference rather than as a face-to-face meeting, so as to avoid unnecessary travel.