

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

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PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN IPCC ACTIVITIES

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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Background

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 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. The Panel proposed that the briefing session takes place, as a pilot, 1 day before the 45th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-45). In order to free up resources for this briefing and to account for concerns over the number of journeys for IPCC-46, the number of journeys were reduced from 240 to 180. 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.

Pre-Plenary Briefing Session

A half-day Pre-Plenary Briefing Session was held 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.

The session featured oral 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.

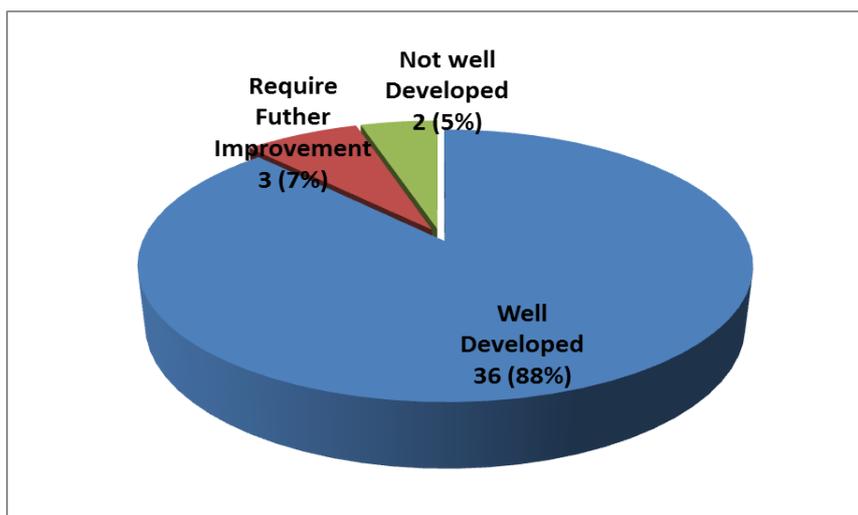
Evaluation of the Pre-Plenary Briefing Session

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:

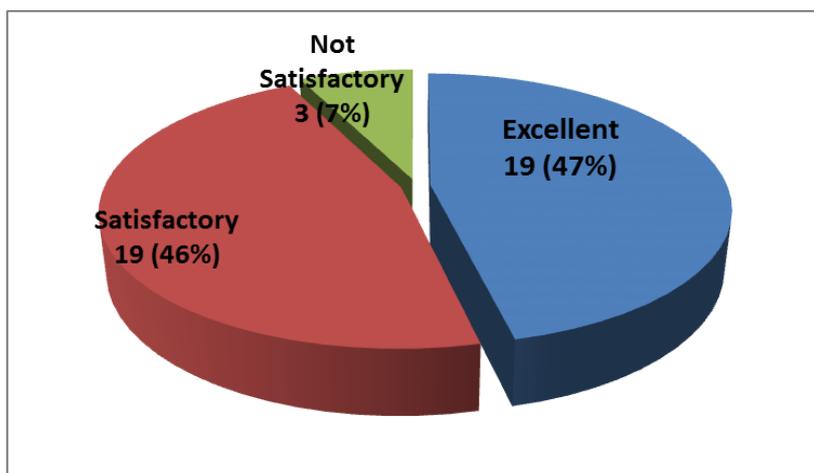
1. Was the agenda developed in a manner which allowed sharing of all relevant information to delegates?
2. Did the presentations meet the needs of delegates, particularly those who are not very familiar with IPCC procedures and rules?
3. Was the time allocated to the session adequate for sharing of relevant 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.

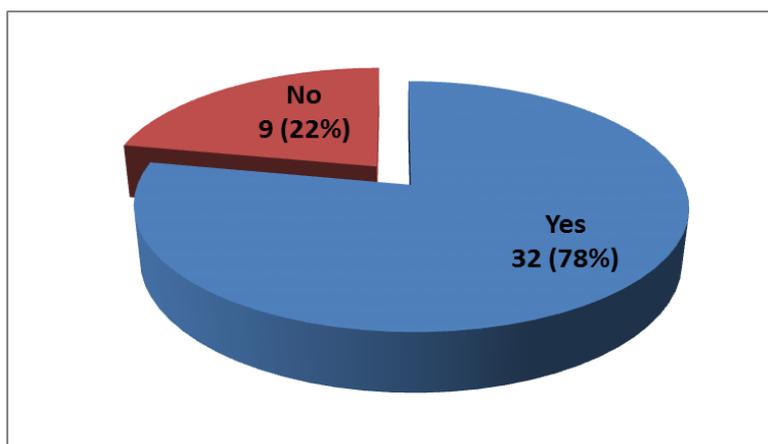
1. Regarding whether agenda was developed in a manner which allowed sharing of all relevant information to delegates, 88% of the respondents submitted that it was well developed, 7% suggested that further improvements are required and the remainder 5% felt it was not well developed.



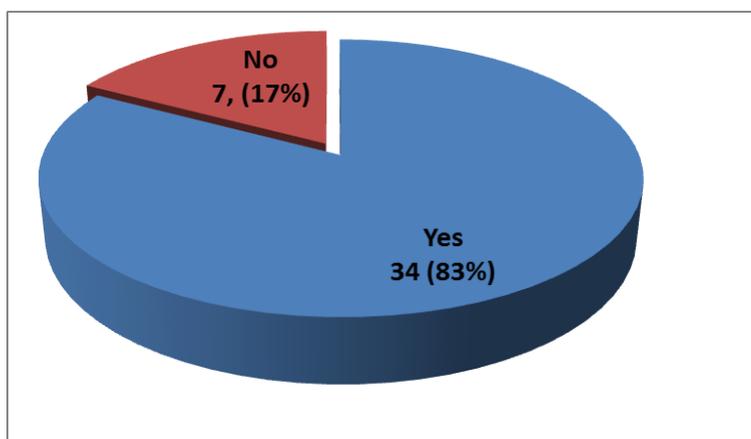
2. In response to the question on whether the presentations met the needs of delegates, particularly those who are not very familiar with IPCC procedures and rules, about 46% found the presentations excellent, another 46% thought they were satisfactory, while 7% felt they were not satisfactory.



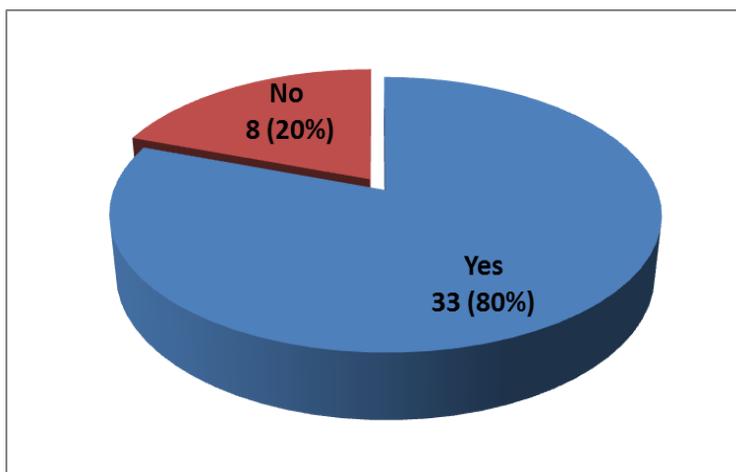
3. With regards to the time allocated to the session, 78% submitted that the half-day was adequate for sharing of relevant information whereas 22% felt the time was not enough.



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.



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.



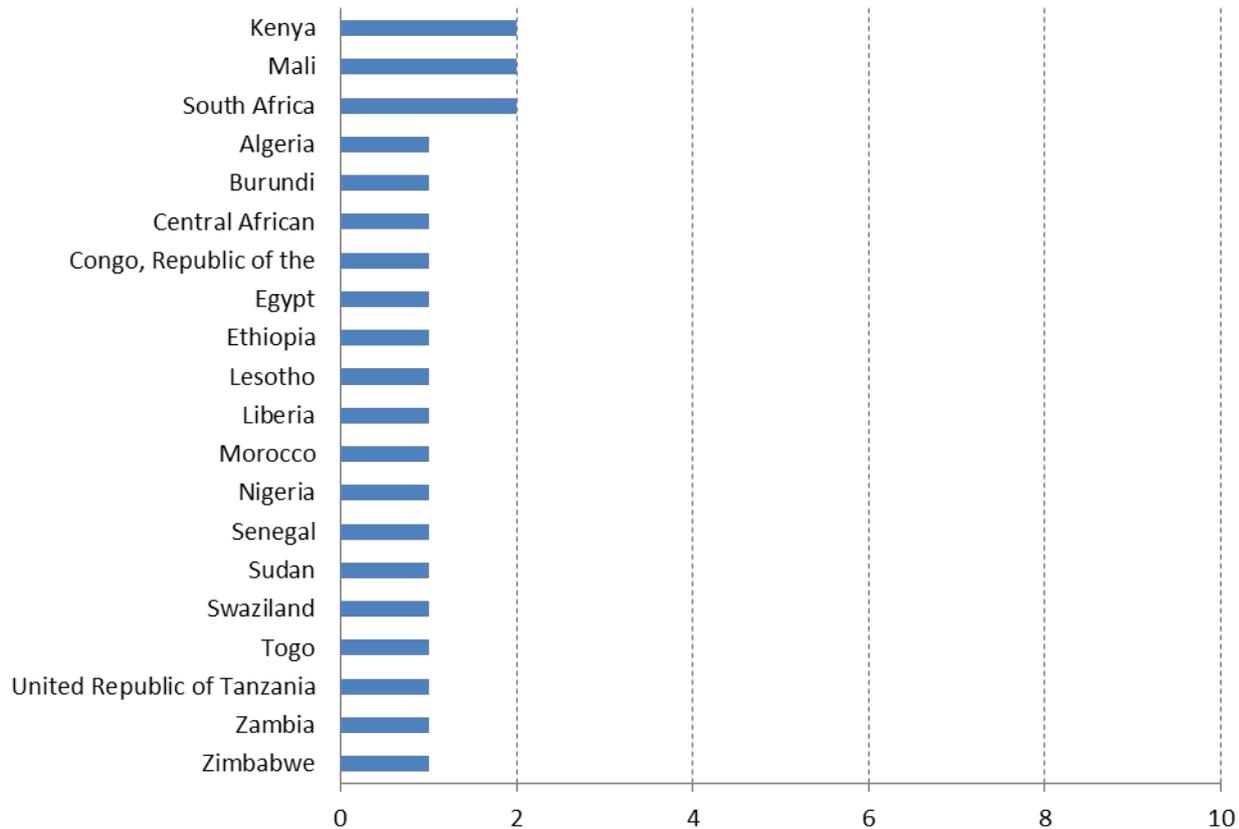
Conclusion

The survey conducted has revealed that a majority of the delegates who responded to the questionnaire appreciated the Pre-Plenary Session and suggested that it should be continued in subsequent IPCC Sessions.

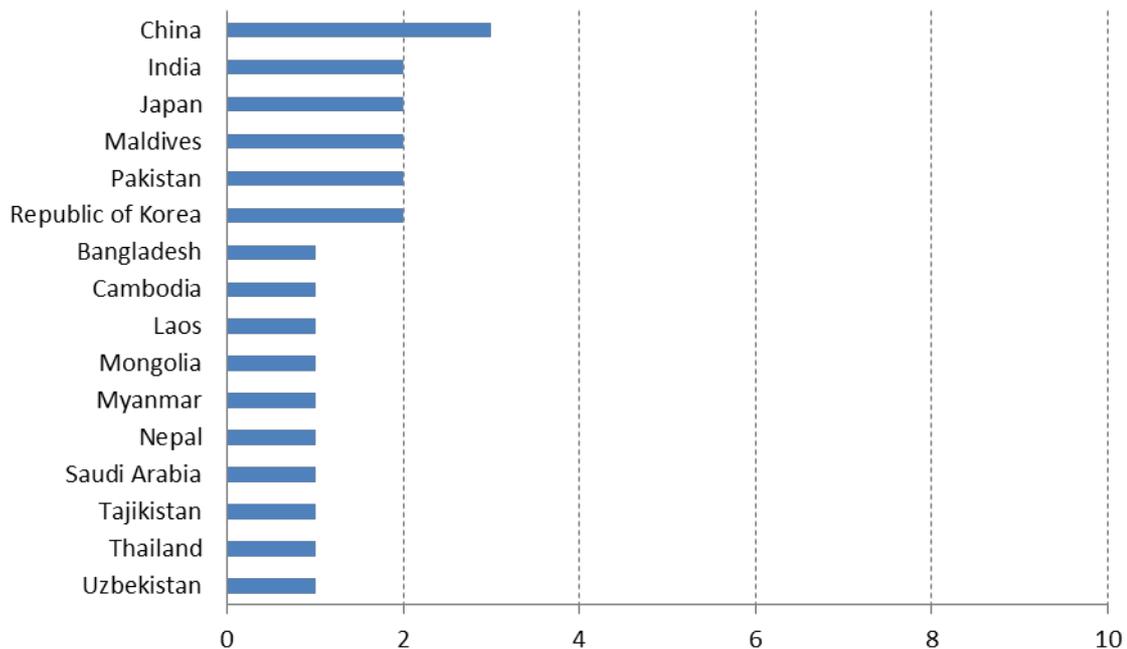
The Panel could consider the results from the survey, and in conjunction with existing resource constraints, suggest feasible means to ensure that the involvement of developing countries in IPCC activities continues to be enhanced.

Regional Distribution of Participants

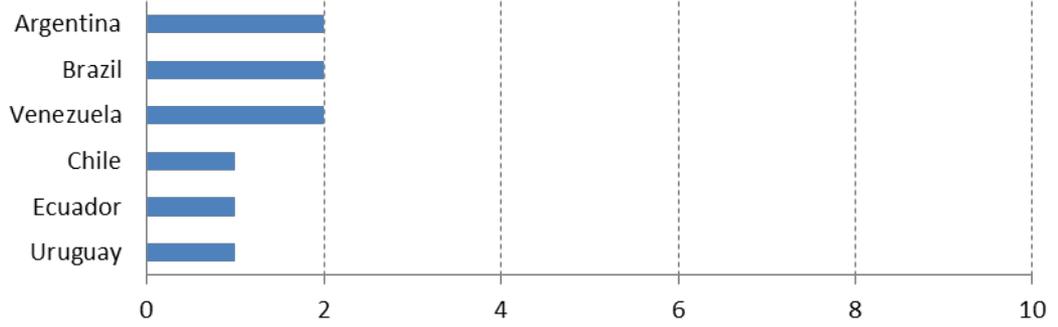
Africa (Region I)



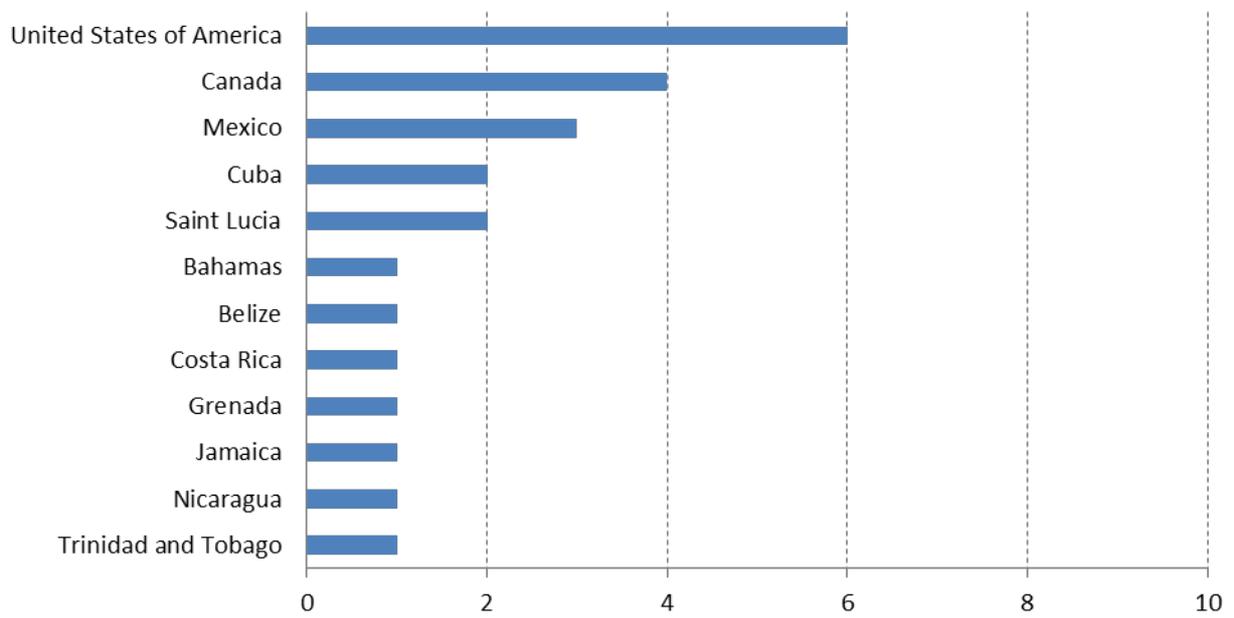
Asia (Region II)



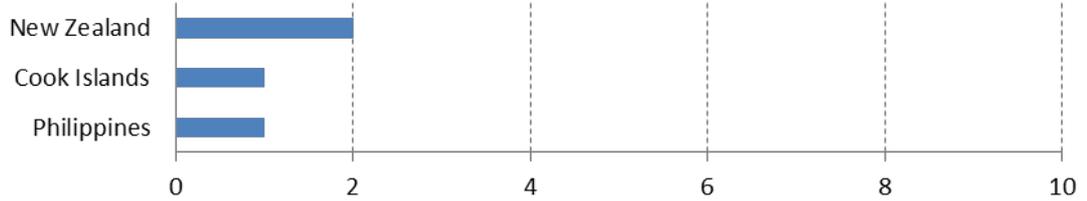
South America (Region III)



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



South-West Pacific (Region V)



Europe (Region VI)

