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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

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IPCC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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IPCC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Background

At the 44th Session of the IPCC (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 October 2016), the Scholarship Programme Science Board presented a review report of the IPCC Scholarship Programme from the 1st round of awards (2011-2013) to the 3rd round (2015-2017). The review was based on the complete list of awardees and an assessment of success rates, a statement of the income and expenditure of the Scholarship Programme Trust Fund, funding partners, governance and management of the Scholarship Programme, and other lessons learnt.

Existing challenges and options to address them were presented to the Panel. Identified challenges included:

- Scrutinizing a large amount of applications for each award round poses logistical challenges for the Secretariat;
- The two-year duration of awards is not sufficient to enable students complete their PhD studies. In a majority of cases the funding provided through the Programme ran out before the students completed their degrees. They had to seek other sources of funding or rely on the funding they had before being awarded the scholarship by the IPCC. Under these circumstances, the intended impact of the Programme is not realized;
- The amount of the grant is sometimes insufficient to guarantee the enrolment in some PhD programs forcing additional fundraising need by the awarded students before enrolling;
- It is difficult to closely monitor the awarded projects/students, including challenges associated with keeping track of beneficiaries after completion of their studies;.
- Even when candidates provide proof of enrolment in a PhD programme at the time of applying to the Scholarship Programme, it is sometimes difficult to integrate the awarded study within the PhD Programme;
- The management of the Scholarship Programme is highly demanding in terms of staff time at the IPCC Secretariat;
- During the last 10 years or so, a large number of other climate change-related scholarships have emerged and support a much larger number of students than the IPCC;
- Of the 24 students awarded scholarships during the first two rounds (i.e. 2011-2013 and 2013-2015), 13 (more than 50%) had not yet graduated in October 2016;
- Additional fundraising efforts would demand allocation of human resources not currently available at the IPCC Secretariat;
- Identifying potential Trustees has proven to be a difficult task. Compounding this difficulty is the uncertainty on whether those who may be identified would accept to committedly serve in the Board; and
- No students were funded directly by the IPCC Trust Fund during the 3rd round of awards.

The following options for ensuring a continued strong Scholarship programme were proposed:

a) Scaling up the current Scholarship Programme: Authorising the allocation of 1 FTE¹ in order to enhance the fundraising capabilities of the IPCC Secretariat and the scaling up of the Scholarship Programme to improve its performance in terms of support provided to students, number of students awarded and monitoring capabilities at the IPCC Secretariat to enable the programme make the intended impact;

b) Partnerships/Delegation: Requesting the Science Board to identify an academic institution or Foundation with a large scale and reputed climate change related scholarship programme in order to establish a partnership for the use of the IPCC Scholarship Programme Funds.

¹ Full time equivalent

c) Alternative options: In the light of the in-depth review of the IPCC Scholarship Programme, request the Science Board to assess and make proposals on other capacity building activities in developing countries, in line with the general aim of the Fund, that could be supported by the Fund as mentioned in the second indent of paragraph 3 of the Trust Deed and to make proposals in this regard to the 45th Session of the IPCC. In this regard also; request the Secretary of the IPCC to review the Trust Deed in line with its paragraph 8 and to make any proposal which may be considered by the IPCC at its 45th Session.

The Panel supported the review and continuation of the Scholarship Programme and decided (Decision IPCC/XLIV-11) to request the Science Board to consider options for the future of the IPCC Scholarship Programme in light of the findings of the review, the views expressed by members of the Panel and consultations with partner organizations, and to submit proposals for consideration by the Panel at its 45th Session.

Consultations with Partner Organizations

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has provided financial support for the Scholarship Programme since the 1st round of awards. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has generously funded seven scholarships offering 30.000 € for each beneficiary student for the duration of his/her research work up to a maximum period of two years. The Cuomo Foundation, also based in Monaco, has generously offered funding for six and three scholarships, during the second and third rounds of awards, respectively. The amount of funds allocated to each student and the maximum duration of the award are similar to those set by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

As mandated by the Panel, the Science Board held separate bilateral meetings with each of the Foundations on 7 December 2016. The review report of the Scholarship Programme was presented and discussed. The Foundations supported the review and pledged their willingness to continue supporting the Programme in its current form or with improvements, which are consistent with the overarching objective of providing opportunities for young scientists from developing countries to undertake studies that would not be possible without the intervention of the financial support.

Immediate next steps

On the basis of the consultations with the funding partners, the Science Board, with the support of the Secretariat, will explore measures to ensure the sustainability of the partnerships with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Cuomo Foundation. Immediate and near-term steps include the following:

- Notifying the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Cuomo Foundation, respectively, of the intention to issue a call for applications for the 4th round of awards (2017-2019);
- Identifying priority themes or fields of study the 4th round should focus on;
- Revising the eligibility criteria for applicants taking into consideration some of the existing challenges;
- Issuing a call for applications for the 4th round of awards; and
- Inviting IPCC experts who contributed in the preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) as Lead Authors and Review Editors to volunteer as reviewers of the applications.

Over the next few months, the Science Board will oversee the selection process, which will entail:

- The IPCC secretariat undertaking a first technical screening of the applications received within the deadline, assessing the completeness of the applications and fulfilment of the eligibility criteria;
- The preparation of guidelines for reviewers and a system for rating the candidates by the Secretariat;
- The Secretariat transmitting applications to IPCC expert reviewers who will evaluate the scientific / technical merits and prepare reports for the consideration of the Science Board;
- The Science Board will proceed with the selection of candidates and recommend them to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Cuomo Foundation;
- The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Cuomo Foundation will then decide on the number of scholarships to award in the current round;
- The Science Board in consultation with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Cuomo Foundation will strengthen the mechanism for monitoring the progress made by awardees; and
- The Science Board will report to the Panel at the 46th Session of the IPCC.

Subsequent steps

The Science Board, with the support of the Secretariat, will continue to explore further options for improvement as suggested by members of the Panel at the 44th Session of the IPCC. Viable options include:

1. Identifying more partnerships
 - Preliminary negotiations have been initiated with the Energy Academy Europe to possibly partner with the IPCC Scholarship Programme. The outcome of the negotiations, after they have been concluded, will be presented to the Panel in subsequent sessions of the IPCC.
2. Awarding funding to applicants including young meteorologists to pursue programmes other than PhD degrees, such as post-doctoral fellowships.
3. Devising strategies to offer scholarships to non-English speaking applicants.
4. Ensuring linkages between scholarship recipients and the IPCC process.