

**FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya, 24-27 February 2015**

IPCC-XLI/Doc. 4
(28.I.2015)
Agenda Item: 5.1
ENGLISH ONLY

FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC

Consideration of the recommendations by the task group on Future Work of the IPCC

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Task Group)

FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC

Consideration of the recommendations by the task group on Future Work of the IPCC

Draft recommendations

At its 37th Session (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013) the Panel decided to set up a Task Group (TG) on the Future Work of the IPCC. The mandate of this TG, which was co-chaired by New Zealand and Saudi Arabia, was to develop options and recommendations for consideration by the Panel on:

- Future products of the IPCC;
- Appropriate structure and modus operandi for the production of these IPCC products;
- Ways to enhance the participation and contribution of developing countries in the future work of the IPCC.

In undertaking this work the TG has held three meetings. The first meeting took place back-to-back with the 39th Panel Session (Berlin, Germany, 6 April 2014), the second meeting was held from 16 to 17 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland and the third meeting was held back-to-back with the 40th Panel Session (Copenhagen, Denmark, 26 October 2014).

In accordance with its terms of reference (TOR) the TG drew from multiple sources and sought the perspectives of member governments, scientists involved in the preparation of IPCC reports, IPCC observer organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including the Technical Support Units (TSUs) and the Secretariat.

The TG Co-Chairs prepared an Options Paper for consideration by the TG at its second meeting and a refined Options Paper for consideration at the third TG meeting. A further refined options paper (document IPCC-XL/Doc.13, Add.1) was submitted to the 40th Session for consideration and further guidance. Governments were invited to submit views on this document by 19 December 2014.

The TG was requested to submit to the 41st Session recommendations which are derived from the options paper submitted to the 40th Session, the comments made at that Session and further submissions by governments. Further, according to Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Panel at its 41st Session will have to decide on structure, composition and size of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau (TFB). This requires a decision on structure and mandate of the Working Groups/TF at that Session.

It has become clear from the submissions that with regards to a number of issues broad consensus seems to emerge or clear options can be identified. On other matters the range of views is still wide, or questions of implementation are raised. On a number of topics governments noted that further input or consideration would be required, either by the next Bureau or in the course of the scoping process for the next assessment. With regards to some of these options input from the current Bureau and Executive Committee in terms of lessons learnt could be useful.

The recommendations paper is therefore structured in a way in which to provide decision text or options for decisions to be taken at the 41st Session, either in square brackets or differently formulated options, depending on the range of views submitted. Some options may be combined while others offer clear alternatives. Some recommendations contain options which suggest further work or input. Other recommendations may just provide guidance to the next Bureau or for the scoping of the next assessment.

It should be noted that the different options for the IPCC should be in accordance with its role as described in paragraph 2 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work, stating that: *'The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.'* Future work of the IPCC should continue to realize this role.

1. IPCC Products, their timing and their usability

With regards to IPCC product types and their timing the Panel decides:

- 1) It will continue to prepare every 5-7 years comprehensive Assessment Reports (AR), together with the three-stage review process, supplemented by Special Reports. In determining its future reports and their timing the IPCC will take into account the work of the UNFCCC.

Supplementary Option 1

The identification of Special Reports prepared during an assessment cycle should to the extent feasible be done at the beginning of the cycle in the context of the scoping of all deliverables of the cycle. Should new requests be received, in particular from the UNFCCC, they will be dealt with consistent with the "Decision Framework for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers".

Supplementary Option 2

To supplement the ARs and better serve main user groups rapid updates will be prepared.

Supplementary Option 3

To supplement the ARs dedicated regional reports will be prepared.

- 2) [Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs) of the Working Group (WG) reports and the Synthesis Report (SYR) are the main products of the IPCC, for which the scoping on cross-cutting issues should start at an early stage.]
- 3) That it emphasizes the increasing importance of enhanced cross-working group cooperation and requests the new Bureau to pay particular attention to that matter and to initiate work on cross cutting matters at an early stage, taking into consideration lessons learnt in previous assessments.
- 4) *Option a*
All parts of an AR should be released within one year, with staggering of the release of the WG reports of a few months.

Option b

The staggering between the WG reports should be longer to allow for information presented by one WG to be adequately reflected by the other WGs and the SYR.

- 5) It will continue to prepare Methodology Reports on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
- 6) In order to enable and assist countries and regions in preparing regional and/or national scientific assessments the IPCC will [develop][further consider whether to develop] specific Methodology Reports or good practice guidance reports.

- 7) It will further explore ways to enhance collaboration with other relevant international organizations and assessment bodies (UNEP, WMO, IPBES, etc.) including producing reports [or Technical Papers] in partnership with those bodies.

With regards to further enhancing the usability of IPCC reports the Panel decides:

- 1) To request the IPCC Secretariat to facilitate and enhance further the consistent and coherent use of up to date digital technology to for sharing and disseminating information.
- 2) *Option a*
To enhance the readability of SPMs assistance and advice from communications special should be sought.

Option b
It will further consider whether and how communications specialists could assist in making SPMs more readable.
- 3) To better reflect non-English language literature in IPCC reports and recommended to the upcoming Bureau to consider the following measures:
 - Establish (or use existing) regional committees or networks to improve access to non-English language literature.
 - Approach authors of such literature to provide expert opinion or specific inputs on particular topics.
 - Identify, in consultation with governments and international agencies, relevant government reports and literature published in languages other than English, in particular from Developing Countries (DCs). A UN-based language service could assist in translating such documents and authors of such literature could be approached to provide expert opinion or specific inputs on relevant topics.

2. Organization of the IPCC

With regards to IPCC Structure the Panel decides:

- 1) *Option a*
The current structure, composition and size of the Bureau and the Task Force Bureau will be retained.

Option b
Structure and composition of the IPCC Bureau are amended as follows:
.....
Structure, composition and size of the TFB will be retained.
- 2) *Option a*
Current structure and mandate of the three Working Groups will be retained.

Option b
Current structure of the three Working Groups will be retained but the mandates of the Working Groups will be amended as follows:
.....
- 3) The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) will be retained with current mandate and structure.

- 4) *Subject to a decision on item 1.6) with regards to further Methodology Reports the following options may be considered:*

Option a

A new Task Force on methodologies and good practice guidance for national and regional assessments will be established, consistent with IPCC principles and procedures.

Option b

It will further consider the governance structure for preparing methodology and good practice guidance reports for national and regional assessments, including through the establishment of a dedicated Task Force.

- 5) The Panel decided that the TGICA shall continue [with current mandate] [and agreed that the mandate will be amended as follows ...] [but agreed to revisit tis mandate at its .. Session.]

With respect to administrative matters and respective roles of the IPCC Secretariat and IPCC Technical Support Units (TSU) the Panel decides:

- 1) The administrative arrangements for the IPCC Secretariat remain as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between WMO and UNEP on the establishment of the IPCC. The functions of the IPCC Secretariat remain as decided by IPCC at its 35th Session.

- 2) A Technical Support Unit (TSU) is an operational unit established for the support of the work of an IPCC Working Group or a Task Force. The Panel may decide, as required, to establish additional TSUs to support e.g. the preparation of the Synthesis Report, a Special Report or the TGICA.

{Note: There is no definition of what constitutes an IPCC TSU and clarity would be desirable}

The functions of the TSUs remain as decided by IPCC at its 35th Session.

- 3) Based on the general descriptions of functions agreed at the 35th Session further clarification of the respective roles and responsibilities between the IPCC Secretariat and TSUs and among TSUs is required to enhance efficiency and remove redundancies and overlaps. This will be laid down in Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Secretariat and the TSUs or their host organizations at the beginning of the assessment cycle. The Panel will be informed about these agreements.

- 4) *Option a*

To request future TSU hosts to recruit professional staff internationally and to aim for regional representation, including from developing countries in order to enhance the involvement of more regional diversity, in particular from developing countries. Selection, performance appraisal and contract extension of TSU staff will be done jointly by both Co-Chairs of a WG/TF. In case of the recruitment of the TSU head the IPCC Chair and Secretary of the IPCC will be consulted.

Option b

Selection of staff of the TSU and staff management will be carried out by the TSU hosting institution/country, consistent with their respective rules and legal framework.

- 5) *Option a*

The TSU for a Working Group or Task Force (WG/TF) is hosted and managed by the country of [a] [the developed country] Working Group or Task Force Bureau Co-chair. It should be located close to its funding source.

Option b

A TSU can be comprised of both developing and developed country institutions and managed jointly by the two Co-Chairs of a WG/TF or the IPCC Chair in case of the SYR TSU. Financing could be sourced from several countries [and the IPCC Trust Fund] and be managed and coordinated by the institutions involved [and][or] the IPCC Secretariat.

[To facilitate the development of such arrangements for the upcoming cycle the Panel established a task group comprised of experts in finance and administration from UNEP and WMO and [representatives from ...] to provide guidance and assistance to countries considering to establish a TSU and countries considering to offer joint arrangements, to ensure sustainable structures throughout the assessment cycle.]

Option c (based on IPBES model)

A TSU can be established to support a WG/TF or any other activity agreed by the Panel, based on offers received from governments. The TSUs will report to [the Secretary of the IPCC][the Co-chairs of the WG/TF or IPCC Chair in case of the SYR TSU].

With respect to options for the selection of and support to Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Lead Authors (LAs) and improving the writing and review process the Panel decides:

1) *Option a*

The current system of nominations by governments and observer organizations will be retained.

Option b

For the next assessment cycle an open (online) process to identify experts (in addition to the current government-led practice of nominations by IPCC) will be launched to broaden and increase inclusiveness in the selection of experts.

Option c

It will further consider the matter of broadening the nomination process in particular with respect to implications for the intergovernmental nature of the IPCC and funding, taking into consideration the results of the questionnaire sent out by the IPCC Secretariat.

- 2) In order to support the task of CLAs and LAs the enhanced use of research assistants or chapter scientists is encouraged, as well as assistance through IT technology, for instance with reference management. Financial implications for the IPCC Trust Fund or TSU hosts will have to be further considered and clarified.
- 3) It will explore the possibility of providing financial assistance to [CLAs][LAs] [from developing countries] to identify specific needs and financial implications for the IPCC Trust Fund. [It agreed to explore alternative funding sources for this purpose.]

3. Involvement of developing countries

A number of recommendations and options listed under sections 1 and 2 are intended to enhance the involvement of developing countries and are not repeated here.

The Panel further agreed 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:

- 1) Give more responsibility to Co-Chairs and other Bureau members to engage DCs in TSUs, author teams and as reviewers and amend the term of reference of the Bureau as required.
- 2) [Increase the number of Expert Meetings and Workshops in DCs to enhance the visibility of the IPCC.]
- 3) Arrange briefings and training sessions for government representatives e.g. before sessions of the IPCC.
- 4) In the context of communication and outreach activities provide experts with information about the IPCC process and how they can participate in IPCC work.

The Panel also considered options for support and training of (young) scientists, while reaffirming that training and capacity building is outside the mandate of the IPCC.

To improve the participation of authors from DCs, the following options were mentioned by governments:

- 1) Provide funding to young scientists in DCs to participate in IPCC work.
- 2) Increase the number of young scientists from DCs in the staff of TSUs.
- 3) Provide support to DC scientists and experts to enhance and share regional research and knowledge as part of IPCC outreach activities.
- 4) Offer young skilled researchers from DCs to work as intern or junior scientific staff in TSUs.
- 5) Encourage organizations better suited and more experienced in this area, such as UNFCCC, WMO, UNEP, UNESCO, the Future Earth Secretariat, and existing regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and academic institutions to support young scientists in climate change related research.
- 6) Encourage students who received IPCC scholarships to get involved in IPCC assessment work.