

# REPORT OF THE 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC

Yokohama, Japan, 25-29 March 2014

## 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

*Document: [IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.1](#)*

Mr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked the Government of Japan for the hospitality and support. In particular, he referred with appreciation to the generous contribution of Japan to the IPCC over the years. Japan is hosting the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), which has done very valuable work over the years. The Chair thanked also the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), its Chairman and its President for the support provided to the TFI and to the IPCC in general. The Chair stressed the importance of the report of the IPCC Working Group II (WGII) that was in front of the session for approval/adoption.

H.E. Mr Nobuteru Ishihara, Minister of the Environment of Japan, took the floor on behalf of the Host Country. He welcomed the participants, recognized the crucial relevance of the work of the IPCC and its WGII and stressed the importance of the adaptation measures Japan is committed to undertake and the mitigation policies already initiated that it will steadily continue to implement.

The following representatives then took the floor:

- Mr Jeremiah Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (Video-recorded message)
- Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Video-recorded message)
- Ms Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Video-recorded message)
- Mr Christopher Field, Co-Chair, IPCC WGII
- Mr Vicente Barros, Co-Chair, IPCC WGII

All the above statements can be accessed through the IPCC website.

Tribute was paid to Prof. Yuri Izrael, former IPCC Vice-Chair, who passed away on 23 January 2014. Prof. Yuri Izrael was an outstanding scientist in the fields of nuclear geophysics, atmospheric physics, oceanology, and applied ecology and climatology; national coordinator of IPCC-related issues in the USSR and subsequently Russia; for 20 years member of the Bureau of the IPCC, and, since the First Session of the Panel in 1988, Chair of WG II. One minute of silence in Professor Izrael's memory was observed by the session.

The provisional agenda of the meeting, contained in document IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.1, was adopted (attached as **Annex 1** to this document)

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 37<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

*Document: [IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.2](#)*

The draft report of IPCC-37 was approved without change.

### 3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE TENTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP II

*Document: [IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.3](#), [IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.3, Add. 1](#), [IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc.4, Corr.2](#)*

The Chair invited the Panel to accept the actions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of WGII.

The Panel accepted the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the WGII contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and noted the changes to the underlying scientific-technical assessment to ensure consistency between the underlying report and the approved SPM.

The Chair voiced his gratitude to the WGII Co-Chairs and authors, to the Governments and others who had contributed to the successful conclusion of the report.

Several delegations took the floor to express their appreciation for this important achievement. One delegation, in particular, expressed its deep appreciation of the work of the IPCC with regards to adaptation and stressed the importance of the participation of developing countries in the IPCC process.

The delegation of Brazil made a statement in relation to the references to bioenergy and biofuels contained in the approved report (see **Annex 2**), and requested that the statement be included in the report of the session.

The delegation of UK, while expressing full support for the approved report, requested that full consistency be ensured between the agreed SPM and the accepted underlying chapters, in particular Chapter 10. As requested by the Chair, the delegation of UK would transmit their specific comments to the WGII Technical Support Unit (TSU).

Mr Ismail Elghizouli, IPCC Vice-Chair, expressed his appreciation to the Government of Japan for its outstanding and warm hospitality and thanked the IPCC Secretariat for making the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the WGII a success. He observed with concerns that several African countries representatives had to leave the Plenary before closure and reiterated his plea to allow more flexibility on travel bookings and purchase of tickets.

The delegation of Peru proposed to dedicate the AR5 WGII volume to Prof. Yuri Izrael. The Chair renewed his tribute to the outstanding work and numerous services rendered by this dedicated scientist and indicated that the proposal was accepted and approved. He further specified that standard procedure will be followed and the AR5 WGII volume will carry the name and dedication to Prof. Yuri Izrael.

Three delegations requested the floor with regards to the use of geographical denominations and maps in IPCC reports, namely China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. As requested by the delegations, their statements are attached to this report (**Annexes 3, 4 and 5**)

The Secretary of the IPCC reiterated that the IPCC follows the practice of the UN with regard to the geographical denominations that are used in its reports. Consultations take place regularly with the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) at UN Headquarters for this purpose. In addition, also in line with UN practice, a disclaimer is included in the front matters of IPCC reports to indicate that “the designations employed and the presentation of material on maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the IPCC concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.”

#### **4. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

The Secretary of the IPCC expressed her gratitude to the Government of Japan for its kind and generous hospitality. She referred with appreciation to the invaluable assistance and support of the local staff and the flexibility shown by the interpreters. She paid tribute to the WGII authors for their voluntary and tireless contribution over the years to prepare the report, to the WGII TSU and to Mr Vicente Barros and Mr Chris Field, Co-Chairs, WGII.

Before closing, the IPCC Chair expressed his appreciation for the quality of the new WGII report and reiterated his deepest thanks to the Government of Japan for the outstanding hosting of the meeting.

#### **5. PARTICIPANTS**

The Tenth Session of Working Group II and 38<sup>th</sup> Session of IPCC was attended by 271 delegates from 115 national delegations, and 57 observers from 21 organizations, including 5 UN Organizations (the list of participants is attached as **Annex 6**).

**ANNEX 1**

**THIRTY- EIGHTH SESSION OF THE IPCC  
Yokohama, Japan, 25-29 March 2014**

IPCC-XXXVIII/Doc. 1  
(6.I.2014)  
Agenda Item: 1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**  
The session will convene after the completion of the Working Group II Tenth Session.
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 37<sup>th</sup> SESSION**
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE TENTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP II**
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 5. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 6. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

**NOTE:**

Delegates can register at the Pacifico Yokohama (Pacific Convention Plaza Yokohama), 1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Japan, from 16:00 to 18:00 hours on Monday, 24 March 2014 and from 08:00 hours on Tuesday, 25 March 2014 onwards.

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Statement of Brazil at the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC WGI

Brazil would like to express its reservations regarding several references to bioenergy and biofuels in the contribution of the WGII to the 5th Assessment Report, which are not in line with the most recent and widespread literature on the issue, including IPCC reviewed literature and especially the Special Report "Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation".

Such biased references do not present a comprehensive, objective, and balanced view. They do not deal objectively with all scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the production and use of bioenergy and biofuels and therefore go against the Principles Governing the IPCC.

Currently, close to 85% of the world's biofuel production comes from the United States, Brazil and the European Union, countries that are also major food producers and exporters and where food production has steadily increased alongside biofuel production. The observed data clearly indicates that food security is not threatened by the sustainable production of biofuels.

Brazil's experience with large scale energy crop production demonstrates that, with appropriate policies and agroecological practices, there is no competition with food crops but rather a complementation, that is: food and energy crops being planted alternatively using land management techniques. The expansion of biofuels cultivation areas do not pressure land-use change in Brazil since it re-purposes degraded pasturelands. For that, Brazil has strict implementation of legal land tenure arrangements, through "Agroecological Sugarcane Zoning" for instance.

Regarding the debate on the so-called "indirect land use change" (iLUC), the report relies on studies that depict iLUC as irrefutable, while neglecting that iLUC studies are currently dependent on models that seriously lack accurate methodology to measure and

produce precise results. One of such studies, in fact, grossly overstates deforestation rates in Brazil in many orders of magnitude above the observed data. Several authors have reported significant statistical difficulties to link biofuel production to deforestation, rendering assessments of the indirect land use change associated with biofuel production highly uncertain. The report should clearly state that iLUC is not something verified nor verifiable. These limitations, however, were overlooked throughout the report.

The potential benefits of biofuels cannot be disregarded. Concrete examples over decades of experience in Brazil have been demonstrating that the production of bioenergy in a sustainable manner is a driver for economic, social and environmental development, reducing the dependence on fossil fuels. Bioenergy is also recognized as an important energy alternative that can provide significant reductions of GHG emissions thus contributing to combat climate change.

Brazil's acceptance of the WGII contribution to AR5 and its Technical Summary is based on the understanding that references to bioenergy and biofuels will be corrected prior to the publication of the WGII contribution to AR5, with a view to ensure consistency throughout the AR5 with the Summary for Policymakers that we have approved and the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation with regards to the alleged impacts of biofuels and bioenergy.

**Statement by the Delegation of China  
at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC, Yokohama, Japan, 30 March 2014**

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair,

The Chinese government would like to appreciate and thank Co-Chairs, authors, expert reviewers and TSU of Working Group II as well as IPCC Secretariat for their arduous efforts in accomplishing the WG II Contribution to AR5. We would also like to express our congratulations to the Tenth Session of the Working Group II because it is going to adopt the Summary for Policy Makers of the WGII Contribution to AR5 and accept its full report in a moment.

Before the plenary takes above action, the Chinese government would like to make the following statement on a number of its concerns:

In the current full text of the underlying report submitted to the governments and plenary, some names concerning China's provinces, autonomous regions and Special Administrative Regions are misrepresented, and controversial maps are found in some figures. We did point out these issues in our comments on the second draft of the report made last May and on draft for Summary for Policymakers made on 19 December 2013, and in a letter sent to Co-Chairs and head of TSU on 14 February 2014. During this session, we have submitted to WGII TSU our proposed revision on those unsettled issues, and have been informed that positive consideration has been given, to which we are grateful. Unfortunately, by far, not all these issues have been settled. We understand that, according to the IPCC's rules, Working Group II will modify the underlying report in line with the approved Summary for Policymakers. We hope the above-mentioned issues can be completely resolved in the modification process:

- 1) We hope all names involving China's provinces, autonomous regions and Special Administration Regions will be aligned with the relevant representations recognized by the Chinese government (please refer to the specific changes proposed by the Chinese government);
- 2) Avoid, as far as possible, the use of maps with national borders;
- 3) If it is not evitable, standard maps recognized by the United Nations should be used with a note indicating no support to any claim for a border: "Maps contained in this report are only for the purpose of geographic information reference, and shall not prejudice the official position of the member states of the IPCC on territorial issue".

We hope the above statement can be put on record at the plenary, and the problems we pointed out can be resolved in the final publication of Working Group II Contribution to AR5.

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea  
at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC, Yokohama, Japan, 30 March 2014**

The Korean delegation expresses its regrets for the single notation of the sea name, “Sea of Japan/Japan Sea” in the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5), and would like to request once again that “East Sea” be used concurrently with “Sea of Japan” or “Japan Sea”.

We have found 9 places of single notation of the “Sea of Japan” or “Japan Sea” in AR5. On page 28 of the Summary for Policy Makers, on page 37 of the Technical Summary, on page 50 of Chapter 6 and on page 6 of Chapter 24 of the Underlying Report, the final drafts employ the sole use of “Sea of Japan”, and also on page 132 of Chapter 6, on page 68 and 83 of Chapter 18, on page 56 of Chapter 24 and on page 104 of Chapter 30 of the Underlying Report, only “Japan Sea” is displayed to indicate the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese archipelago.

As the Korean Delegation emphasized at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC and the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary of IPCC Working Group I, which was held in Stockholm in September 2013, and at the Contact Group Meeting for the review of Table SPM A1 of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary of IPCC Working Group II on 28 March 2014, “a general rule of international cartography” set out by the resolution of the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) is to use different names for a shared geographical feature pending agreement for a common name. No other organizations or institutions in the United Nations but the UNCSGN are authoritative for the notation of geographical names. Therefore, the IPCC should follow the decision of the UNCSGN, not the practice of the UN secretariat when geographical naming issues are in question.

By now “East Sea” is used in numerous maps and publications world-widely including online maps such as Google map and Bing map. The recent increase in the use of “East Sea” in the international community is clear evidence to a growing international acceptance for “East Sea”.

On top of that, for the IPCC to better perform its unique function of providing rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers, the concurrent use of the names “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” is much more suitable. The sole use of “Sea of Japan” would provide incomplete information with which to clarify the sea area in question.

Therefore, we would like to reiterate that the concurrent use of the names “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” is the most logical and equitable solution to this question.

Thank you.



**Statement by the Delegation of Japan  
at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC, Yokohama, Japan, 30 March 2014**

With regard to the intervention made by the delegation of the Republic of Korea on the term “Sea of Japan,” the Government of Japan considers it regrettable that this issue was raised again.

We would like to remind the distinguished participants that the name “Sea of Japan” is the only internationally established term for the sea area concerned. Moreover, the Secretariat of the United Nations recognizes “Sea of Japan” as the standard geographical term. This is the official recognition by WMO, the superior body of IPCC. The secretariat of the IPCC confirmed this point clearly during the deliberation of the IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR5) at WGI in Stockholm and at WGII in Yokohama.

Furthermore, the UN policy states that the standard geographical term be used in all official UN publications. This UN standard practice has been followed in the previous reports and documents of the IPCC and, in keeping with this official UN policy, it must be followed in the AR5 as well.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea has mentioned the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) Resolution, but the UNCSGN resolution presumes that the geographical feature concerned is under the sovereignty of two or more countries, such as in the case of a bay or strait, and does not apply to the high seas such as Sea of Japan. Thus, there are no grounds for the assertion made by the Republic of Korea. If multiple names were to be used for the Atlantic Ocean or the Pacific Ocean simply because of an objection by one country bordering those oceans, it would lead to unmanageable confusion. The international community cannot accept an argument that leads to such confusion.

The IPCC is a forum on the science of climate change and non-science related politically driven issues should not be brought to this forum. The delegation of the Republic of Korea raised this issue not only in this session but also in the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the IPCC. We are concerned that the IPCC is losing precious time for the discussion on the science of climate change for non-science related politically driven issues.

We would like to urge all the participants including the distinguished delegation from the Republic of Korea to respect the UN standard practices and policy, to refrain from making unnecessary confusions by challenging the UN standard practices and policy and to concentrate on scientific discussion in this forum.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**TENTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP II AND 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
Yokohama, 25-29 March 2014**

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