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REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING IPCC WORK

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretary)

REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING IPCC WORK

1. Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide information to the Fifty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regarding the possible review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work¹ (hereafter referred to as the 'Principles').

The Principles contain information on the IPCC role, organization, participation, and procedures including three annexes as follows:

- Appendix A: Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of IPCC Reports. Appendix A includes three annexes outlining the Tasks and Responsibilities for Lead Authors, Coordinating Lead Authors, Contributing Authors, Expert Reviewers and Review Editors of IPCC Reports and Government Focal Points (Annex 1); the Procedure on the Use of Literature in IPCC reports (Annex 2); and the Protocol for Addressing Possible Errors in IPCC Assessment Reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports (Annex 3)².
- Appendix B: Financial Procedures for the IPCC³.
- Appendix C: Procedures for the Election of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau⁴.

2. Background

The Principles stipulate that they should be reviewed at least every five years and amended as appropriate. In accordance with this, the Principles including the three annexes have been reviewed and revised several times as necessary by the Panel since their respective adoptions. For instance, the Principles were adopted at the Fourteenth Session of the IPCC (Vienna, Austria, 1-3 October 1998) and subsequently amended several times with the latest update conducted at the Thirty-Seventh Session of the IPCC (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013). The three annexes have also been updated several times with the latest amendment being of Appendix C (Nairobi, Kenya, 24-27 February 2015).

During its Forty-Seventh Session (Paris, France, 13 – 16 March 2018), the Panel noted that the IPCC has established a practice to review parts of the Principles, including its three Annexes, whenever needed. As the last amendment of Appendix C, was done in 2015, the Panel agreed that this would imply that a next review, if any, would have to take place in 2020⁵.

3. Proposed Next Steps

During the Fifty-Second Session of the IPCC (Paris, France, 24-28 February 2020), the Panel will be invited to decide on whether to start the review of the Principles Governing the IPCC work.

In case the Panel decides to initiate the review of the Principles, it will be also invited to agree on an appropriate process for undertaking this review.

A possible way forward is for the Panel to consider establishing a Task Group with a mandate to identify the potential elements which need to be reviewed, and if so, to present suggestions to the Panel.

¹ [Principles Governing IPCC Work](#).

² [Appendix A](#).

³ [Appendix B](#).

⁴ [Appendix C](#).

⁵ [Report of the Forty-Seventh Session of the IPCC, p.14, page 17](#).

If this approach is acceptable to the Panel, proposed draft Terms of Reference of the Task Group are included in Annex 1 for its consideration, review and adoption. All the elements in Annex 1 serve as a reference to facilitate the discussions by the Panel during the Fifty-Second Session of the IPCC.

Annex 1 . Draft Terms of Reference
Task Group on the Review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Task Group on the Review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work (TG-Principles) is to identify the potential elements in the Principles Governing IPCC Work and its appendixes to be reviewed, and if need be amended, and to prepare a document outlining a work plan and a proposal for a way forward to be presented for approval to the Panel.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Group is open to participation by the members of the IPCC. Through a show of hands before the closing of the Fifty-Second Session of the IPCC, participation in the Group will be agreed and list of its members provided.

The Group will seek advice as necessary from the IPCC Chair, the IPCC Vice-Chairs, Working Group and TFI Co-Chairs and the IPCC Secretary.

The Group is co-chaired by one developed and one developing country representatives. Two rapporteurs will take note of the discussions and help draft proposals. The Co-Chairs and the Rapporteurs will be appointed before the closing of the Fifty-Second Session of the IPCC.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Group will have the following main tasks and responsibilities:

- To prepare and distribute a survey to IPCC Members in order to collect their views on the potential elements in the Principles Governing IPCC Work and its appendixes to be reviewed and if need be amended.
- To prepare a document to be submitted to the Panel which will:
 - summarize the views expressed via the survey, including a list of possible elements to be reviewed and if need be amended;
 - propose next steps, including a draft work plan with timeline, specific actions and relevant tasks to be undertaken.

IPCC members will be invited to provide comments on the first draft of the document by a date allowing for preparation of a revised draft for consideration by the Panel at its next Session, when the document will be presented by the Group's Co-Chairs.

4. MODUS OPERANDI

The Group will work under the leadership of its Co-Chairs to establish a work plan, and communicate preferentially via electronic correspondence.

The group will hold teleconferences as appropriate and required for the advancement of the work. The group will meet in person if need be during Panel Sessions for which and in case its mandate is extended.

The Secretariat of the IPCC will provide advisory, legal and administrative support to the TG, as needed.

5. TERM

The Group will initiate its work immediately after the Fifty-Second Session of the IPCC and continue its activities until the time of the Fifty-Third Session of the IPCC. At this Session its terms of reference will be reviewed.