

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING
Teleconference, 8 April 2020

CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Hoesung Lee

Members:

Ko Barrett (IPCC Vice-Chair), Youba Sokona (IPCC Vice-Chair), Valérie Masson-Delmotte (WGI Co-Chair), Panmao Zhai (WGI Co-Chair), Hans-Otto Pörtner (WGII Co-Chair), Jim Skea (WGIII Co-Chair), Priyadarshi Shukla (WGIII Co-Chair), Eduardo Calvo (TFI Co-Chair), Kiyoto Tanabe (TFI Co-Chair)

Advisory members:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Katie Kissick (WGIII TSU Head of Operations), Sandro Federici (TFI TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary)

IPCC Secretariat:

Jesbin Baidya, Judith Ewa, Joëlle Fernandez, Jonathan Lynn (IPCC Head of Communications), Nina Peeva, Mxolisi Shongwe

Invited:

Elvira Poloczanska

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXXVI/Doc. 1), as attached in Annex 1, was adopted.

2. URGENT ISSUES RELATED TO IPCC PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK THAT REQUIRE PROMPT ATTENTION BY THE IPCC BETWEEN PANEL SESSIONS

2.1 Coronavirus-related issues

The Chair informed the ExCom that the Informal Group on Strategic Planning had met several times to consider the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the work programme and prepared the revised Strategic Planning Schedule circulated ahead of the meeting. He thanked the Heads of the Technical Support Units and Secretary for their input.

The Chair invited the Technical Support Unit (TSU) Heads and Secretary to present the document.

For Working Group II (WGII) the next milestone is the delivery of the Second Order Draft on 10 July 2020. Authors have indicated this deadline is now difficult. The TSU proposes shifting the schedule from the SOD submission to approval by 4 months, with approval in February 2022.

Working Group I (WGI) also sees its schedule shifting by 4 months, with approval moving to August 2021, but that is the bare minimum and it may still be challenging to meet deadlines in 2021. It proposes running a “pre-LAM” session over June-September to meet the original 4th Lead Author Meeting (LAM4) objectives, with LAM4 itself moving to January 2021. The TSU is discussing with the host country whether it can host the LAM at the later date next year.

Working Group III (WGIII) is preparing for its “e-LAM” next week replacing LAM3, and is not currently planning to delay the Second Order Draft (SOD), but the TSU expects a delay to LAM4, an 8-week delay of the Final Government Draft and knock-on effect on the approval session. This is not yet endorsed by the WGIII Co-Chairs or Bureau, who will have a clearer idea what is possible after next week’s e-LAM has been evaluated.

The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) plans to postpone the first two Expert Meetings on Short-Lived Climate Forcers by 5 months. The EFDB editorial board and software meetings would retain their dates. But the 4th SLCF Expert Meeting would need to move to March 2022 from October 2021 as it can only take place after the approval of WGs I and III.

The Chair noted that the Synthesis Report would be affected by changes to the WG schedule, as SYR CWT3 can only take place after the approval of the last WG report (WGII – now with a preliminary rescheduling of February 2022). So there is a knock-on effect of 4 months on the SYR schedule. This would take approval to October 2022, still within the mandated 12-18 months following the first WG report approval (WGI in August 2021).

The new preliminary schedule reflects current information available and best judgment, but may need to be revised further as the situation changes.

The Secretary said the next Bureau session would take place in May as a virtual meeting, with the following Bureau session and 53rd Session of the Panel taking place in Nairobi in late September/early October respectively. However, the UNFCCC’s postponement of SB52 to October meant these dates needed to be reviewed. The Secretariat will discuss this with UNEP.

The Secretary said the preliminary schedule depended on the willingness of host countries to host meetings, and of authors to extend their commitment. While the budget is in place for this year, member states face demands because of the pandemic and the IPCC will need to resume resource mobilization. Other questions include the evolving situation in developing countries, TSU staffing and hosting, and the plans of other UN agencies including the timing of the next COP.

The Chair concluded that the IPCC needed to be prepared for any impact on the Trust Fund, and informed that the Republic of Korea had confirmed continued funding for the SYR TSU for the completion of the SYR.

Noting that willingness by host governments to extend support for WG TSUs are still informal, members recognized the need to secure a formal commitment from such governments.

The Chair requested the Secretary to prepare a letter to all member governments informing them about that the schedule of the work programme is likely to change due to COVID-19 and seeking continued support through to the end of the assessment cycle. He invited members to send particular points of emphasis to the Secretary, and asked the Secretary to take potential savings from changed activities as well as additional costs into account.

The Chair, noting that the preliminary schedule under discussion was based on the best information available, proposed transmitting it to the Bureau for their consideration at the meeting in May, in line with normal timing for submitting documents to the Bureau, and including the assumptions underlying the proposals with the caveats that further revisions would be unavoidable as the situation evolves under uncertainty and that schedule changes would affect the work of each WG differently, which could require urgent notifications to lead authors.

The Chair informed members that extreme urgent matters can be dealt with through written ExCom procedure.

The ExCom agreed to the Chair's proposal on the basis discussed, and approved the proposed changes to the Working Group II milestones for 2020, pending final indication of the new dates by Working Group II Co-Chairs in writing to ExCom (Annex 2).

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

Jonathan Lynn, IPCC Head of Communications, informed the ExCom about the postponement or cancellation of most outreach activities in recent weeks and coming months because of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing work on outreach materials, recent statements and press releases, work among the TSUs and Secretariat on communications strategies for the WG assessments, and the proposal by WGI to develop a contest for early career scientists to develop video material based on IPCC reports.

The Chair indicated that the Panel would need to approve the introduction of a contest managed by the IPCC and with a prize awarded by the IPCC. Panel approval would not be necessary if the contest were structured as a derivative product through a third party. The Chair invited members to send comments on the proposal to J. Lynn and A. Pirani to help develop it as a third party-based derivative product.

The ExCom was informed that WGIII would hold a virtual outreach event in Ecuador following the e-LAM replacing the LAM3 originally planned to take place there.

The ExCom took note of the oral report by the Head of Communication.

4. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ERRORS IN COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER IPCC PRODUCTS

4.1 Update on the implementation of the Error Protocol and follow-up

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the ExCom of 5 claims closed by WGI and 5 groups of pending claims. He thanked the Working Groups concerned for their work to close claims and urged them to handle the pending ones.

Members noted the need to make errata more visible and to translate those that affect translated materials such as the Summary for Policymakers.

The ExCom took note of the update.

5. COORDINATION BETWEEN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS

5.1 Update on forthcoming meetings

The Secretary informed the ExCom that the next Bureau session would take place in a virtual format, in two 3-hour sessions on consecutive days, preceded by a discussion the previous week by email or shared document similar to the remote discussions in Task Groups.

To facilitate this the draft agenda circulated ahead of the meeting would classify agenda items into three groups: essential items for discussion over the 2 days, items to be covered through correspondence in the previous week, and items that can be postponed.

The essential items include the review of IPCC principles, the selection of the SYR CWT, the update to the AR6 schedule, and matters delegated to the Bureau by the last Session of the Panel such as Secretariat staffing. Items to be dealt in advance of the meeting include approval of the agenda, approval of the draft report of the previous session and admission of observers.

The Secretariat is already contacting Bureau members, especially in regions where there may be problems communicating via Internet, to establish the best remote tools.

The ExCom noted the need to include the following items in advance of the meeting:

The progress reports of the Working Groups and TFI, information relevant to the selection of the CWT and report from the Informal Group on Risk and Uncertainty and Reproducibility of the Burning Embers Diagram for agenda item 8.1 (Consideration of Scientific Matters at IPCC Bureau sessions). The ExCom agreed dropping the opening session to save time.

The ExCom took note of the information.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

The next meeting would be on the first Wednesday of May and the Secretariat is to confirm the date through a doodle poll.

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

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EXCOM-LXXVI/Doc. 1
(2.4.2020)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 2. URGENT ISSUES RELATED TO IPCC PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK THAT REQUIRE PROMPT ATTENTION BY THE IPCC BETWEEN PANEL SESSIONS**
 - 2.1 Coronavirus related issues
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 Ongoing and planned activities
- 4. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ERRORS IN COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER IPCC PRODUCTS**
 - 4.1 Update on the implementation of the Error Protocol and follow-up
- 5. COORDINATION BETWEEN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS**
 - 5.1 Update on forthcoming meetings
- 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Postponement of the upcoming AR6 Working Group II specific milestones in response to Covid-19 as submitted in writing to ExCom by Working Group II Co-Chairs on 15 April 2020.

Given the current unfolding of the Covid-19 pandemic, based on the discussion of the Informal Group on Strategic Planning and consultation with Working Group II Bureau and chapter teams, the Working Group II Co-Chairs propose a 4-month extension resulting in the following changes to the upcoming Working Group II timeline:

- Literature submission cut-off postponed from 1 July to 1 November 2020
- Second Order Draft delivery deadline postponed from 10 July to 6 November 2020
- Expert and Government Review postponed from 7 August - 2 October 2020 to 4 December 2020 - 29 January 2021
- Fourth Lead Author Meeting postponed from 1-7 November 2020 to 1-7 March 2021 (dates to be confirmed in consultation with host and pending sufficient health and safety measures are in place to prevent infection)

Due to current situation the schedule may need to be adapted in the future.