

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTIETH MEETING
Teleconference, 10 June 2020

CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Hoesung Lee

Members:

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

Advisory members:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), Elvira Poloczanska (WGII Science Advisor), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Roger Fradera (WGIII TSU Head of Operations), Raph Slade (WGIII Head of Science), Sandro Federici (TFI TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary)

IPCC Secretariat:

Laura Biagioni, Judith Ewa, Joëlle Fernandez, Ermira Fida, (Deputy Secretary), Jonathan Lynn (IPCC Head of Communications), Mxolisi Shongwe.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXXX/Doc. 1), as attached in Annex 1, was adopted, with the addition of three items for agenda item 6 (Any Other Matters), ICOMOS-IPCC Co-Sponsorship Proposal, AR6 Synthesis Report, Publication of AR6 reports, as well as three agenda items for item 5, Debriefing on virtual meetings, Planning on cross working Group Coordination and SBSTA Chair information event with the Scientific Community.

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: Impact on AR6 schedules and products

The Secretariat informed that Working Group III (WGIII) is expected to decide on the schedule changes at the end of June and the Operations Action Team will resume its activities shortly.

The Secretariat informed that the dates for the 53rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53), initially agreed for early October 2020 need to be reviewed to avoid any clash with Chinese National Holidays and with UNFCCC Subsidiary Body meetings already postponed to early October 2020. The Secretariat will assess the feasibility of a physical plenary session before a decision on the dates will be made.

The Chair reaffirmed the ExCom mandate that the ExCom is the only body that can make an urgent decision that requires action in between panel sessions. The ExCom was reminded that following the last Bureau meeting, the Bureau's guidance on specific issues related to the changes in schedules is required.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

Jonathan Lynn, IPCC Head of Communications reported on outreach and communication activities implemented since ExCom-78. On the outreach side, the Secretariat is stepping up on the social media activities in the absence of physical meetings. On the communication side, governments, media and the public are kept aware of any changes in schedules due to COVID-19.

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

Mxolisi Shongwe informed that five groups of claims remain outstanding and that three new ones, two under the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) and one on the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, were received.

The ExCom was informed of an error claim with a threatening tone and the need for legal advice on such occurrence. The ExCom was informed of the status of the recruitment of legal officer.

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 Secretariat noted that the timing and format of the IPCC-53 were discussed under agenda 2.1, Coronavirus related issues.

The ExCom took note of the information.

5.2 Debriefing on virtual meetings

The ExCom was informed that pre-LAM activities of Working Group I (WGI) have already started and include 50 coordination meetings with some of them (plenary and breakout sessions) duplicated to serve two time zones, that report on virtual meetings of WGIII would be made available soon, that Working Group II (WGII) is also moving into the era of virtual meetings with the first meeting held on 9 June 2020 with many more planned for the future, that the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) plans to hold a virtual meeting of Emission Factor Database editorial board in mid-September originally planned to take place in India, and that challenges facing virtual meetings can be mitigated by multiple approaches such as video recording, meeting materials as well as detailed meeting reports shared within 24 hours with participants.

The ExCom took note of their briefings on this agenda item.

5.3 Planning on cross working Group Coordination

The ExCom was informed on the coordination activities that are currently taking place across Working Groups. They include topics such as temperature levels, assessment of trajectories compatible with various levels of warming, scenarios, risks and regional information. The ExCom noted the value of a systematic approach involving coordination across three working groups on the issues that cut across all three working groups.

5.4 SBSTA Chair information event with the Scientific Community

The Secretariat provided a summary of the virtual SBSTA event that took place on 8 June 2020 in the margins of the June Momentum for Climate Change”, a series of virtual UNFCCC events that took place from 1-10 June 2020. Valérie Masson-Delmotte and Jim Skea presented the implications of COVID 19 on the work of IPCC. They provided updates on various changes to the schedules and how the emerging research about the pandemic can be brought into the assessments. Other organizations including WMO provided an update on how the pandemic is affecting observation systems and other aspects of observational work involving human activity especially in developing countries.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte noted the implications from the pandemic on data collected by air which is already affecting the quality of weather forecast which could be assessed in the WGI report. She further referred to a virtual symposium co-sponsored by WMO on climate, environment and COVID-19 to be held from 4-6 August which could be relevance of WGI authors. Youba Sokona informed that he attended to see how various observation systems can inform work of WGI and II and seek the possibility of having an expert meeting on some of the aspects of relevance to AR6. Hans-Otto Pörtner informed the ExCom on the input provided to Q&A paper on the impact of COVID -19 which is also the theme of the upcoming co-sponsored meeting with IPBES.

The ExCom took note of the information.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1 ICOMOS-IPCC Co-Sponsorship Proposal

The Secretariat introduced the invitation letter received from International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on January 2020 on a co-sponsored joint expert meeting to be held in late 2020. The Secretariat informed the ExCom on the process of assessing whether such a proposal fits with IPCC procedures (para 7.2 of Appendix A of the procedures).

The Chair reaffirmed the procedure which includes the Secretariat seeking the formal endorsement of the proposal by relevant Working Groups (WGs), namely WGI and II and certifying the fulfillment of the requirements under para 7.2 of Appendix A of the procedures for such meetings.

The Secretariat informed the ExCom that the new Deputy Secretary is still working on a shared-time basis between the UNEP and IPCC and will be moving to full time with the IPCC in the coming weeks and that her relocation to Geneva has been affected by COVID 19.

6.2 AR6 Synthesis Report

The Chair provided an update on the status of the Synthesis Report (SYR) Technical Support Unit (TSU) set up. He informed the ExCom that the final decision on the selection of the TSU head will be shared soon following the completion of the interviews held last month. He also informed that the TSU will be established in June. The Chair emphasized collaboration across the three WGs

towards agreeable timelines for the SYR, given the impact the changes in WG timelines will have on the SYR.

The Chair informed the ExCom that a few Review Editors (Res) for the SYR will be replaced and replacement nominations will be sent to the Bureau for its agreement. After the Bureau agreement, the Secretary will send a letter to the member governments informing the selection of the Core Writing Team (CWT) and the IPCC Chair will send a welcoming letter to the CWT members. The IPCC communications office will then issue a press release on the CWT launch.

The Chair informed the ExCom that the extended CWT will be considered once the drafting of SYR begins and author teams may seek additional input, through extended CWT, which is not accessible within the current pool of expertise.

6.3 Publication of AR6 reports

Roger Fradera provided an update on the status of the publication of the AR6 special reports. Cambridge University Press has expressed interest in providing the publication services and provided a quotation. An agreement will be finalized between the IPCC Secretariat, Imperial College London and Cambridge University Press. Publication specifications are expected to be finalized soon and shared with Cambridge University Press for the review by the end of the month.

The ExCom noted that the Secretariat will see how the publication of the special reports will proceed before making a decision on the publication of the main reports, and also noted the need to reactivate the informal group on publications.

The next ExCom meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of July 2020. The Secretariat will send a doodle poll to confirm the date.

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