

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING
Teleconference, 1 July 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-LXXXI/Doc. 1), as attached in Annex 1, was adopted, with the addition of one item for agenda item 5 on cross-cutting issues and ongoing activities across the three Working Groups.

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

- Working Group III schedule proposal

The Co-Chairs of IPCC Working Group III (WGIII) informed the ExCom on the outcome of the consultations with authors and review editors, whether a credible Second Order Draft (SOD) could be prepared by the scheduled submission date of 19 October 2020, which concluded that most chapters are unable to make the October deadline, implying a delay in the approval plenary date, past the UNFCCC COP26 rescheduled in November 2021. WGIII has circulated two options for rescheduling the WGIII schedule.

The ExCom took note of the update from the WGIII and decided to send a letter to the IPCC Bureau and National Focal Points informing them that WGIII will not deliver the SOD by 19 October 2020. The ExCom noted that the Operations Action Team will coordinate further review of AR6 schedules.

- IPCC-SBSTA Joint Working Group

The Secretariat informed the ExCom on the briefing paper shared by the UNFCCC Secretariat with the view to convening a meeting of the SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group (JWG). Due to the COVID 19, the JWG would be held virtually at a time of mutual convenience.

The ExCom took note of the briefing paper and noted that the Secretariat would work further on the potential dates and agenda of the meeting.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat reported on outreach and communication activities implemented since ExCom-80. Communication activities continue running, though at a slower pace than usual because of the pandemic. Since the last meeting, the Secretariat issued a press release and an obituary. On the outreach side, the Secretariat is stepping up on the social media activities. The Secretariat is supporting two upcoming events which include the IPCC–SBSTA JWG and the Geneva Environment Network where Co-Chairs of WGI and WGIII will be presenting on the impact of COVID 19 to the work of IPCC.

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

3.2 Treatment of SPM figures in versions of SPM for visually impaired audiences

The Secretariat reported on its work regarding the production of an audio for visually impaired people. In that effect some text is required that explains to the listener what the figure is about which requires input and support from WG Co-Chairs, Technical Support Units (TSUs) and authors. The Secretariat noted that governments may be sensitive to additional text that summarizes or is seen to interpret a figure and whether such text would be part of an approved report, or supplementary material (such as Frequently Asked Questions).

The ExCom welcomed the work of the Secretariat on this matter noting the additional efforts needed to produce such text and advised the Secretariat to consider it as part of the overarching communication strategy.

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 Secretariat informed that since the last ExCom, no case was closed. Five error claims are already processed but not considered closed because the claimants are not yet notified. Three new error claims were received. Two of these were registered. After reviewing the 3rd claim, the Secretariat suggested to the relevant TSU to make a minor correction without applying the error protocol. The Secretariat sought the help of relevant TSUs towards the closure of the pending cases.

The ExCom noted the need for legal advice in processing error claims within the error protocol. The Secretariat advised that the new IPCC legal officer is expected to be available from mid-August.

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 informed the ExCom that the next Bureau and Panel sessions are very likely to be held virtually and that they are working on the new dates with the view to avoid any clashes with a holiday in China. Mid-October / November at the earliest looks realistic for the Bureau session and December for the Panel. The Secretariat needs to decide on some essential agenda items such as the budget, for Panel's consideration by the end of the year.

The ExCom took note of the update.

5.2 Cross-cutting issues and ongoing activities across the three Working Groups

The Chair congratulated the WG Co-Chairs for the work done in putting together a document on on-going activities to handle cross-cutting issues of the AR6 assessment, and acknowledged that the document addressed the concerns expressed by the Panel at its 46th Session.

The ExCom took note of the document.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Update on the Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report (SYR)

The Chair provided an update on the status of the SYR TSU. He informed the ExCom on the selection of Noémie Leprince-Ringuet as the Head of the SYR TSU, and announced the appointment of Myles Allen and Rob Stavins as science advisors.

The Secretariat updated the ExCom on the four replacements for the Core Writing Team (CWT). The Secretariat will send a request to the Bureau for their agreement on the changes. When the Bureau agrees on the changes, the Secretary will send a letter to the IPCC member governments and observer organizations informing them of the selection of the CWT. The Chair will send a welcome letter to the CWT members. A press release will then follow.

The ExCom took note of the updates and information provided.

6.2 Intellectual property rights of IPCC products

The Co-Chair of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories raised the question of whether intellectual property and copyright of IPCC products are vested in the IPCC or WMO and UNEP, as recently advised by the legal officer of WMO.

ExCom noted that the practice used so far with regards to IPCC products should be followed.

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

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EXCOM-LXXXI/Doc. 1
(30.6.2020)
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: Impact on AR6 schedules and products, including consideration of:

- Working Group III schedule proposal (Annex 1)
- IPCC-SBSTA Joint Working Group (Annex 2)

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

3.2 Treatment of SPM figures in versions of SPM for visually impaired audiences

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

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