

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTY-FIFTH MEETING

Teleconference, 2 September 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 (WG I Co-Chair), Panmao Zhai (WGI Co-Chair), Debra Roberts (WG II Co-Chair), Hans-Otto Pörtner (WG II Co-Chair), Jim Skea (WGIII Co-Chair), Priyadarshi Shukla (WG III Co-Chair), Eduardo Calvo (TFI Co-Chair), Kiyoto Tanabe (TFI Co-Chair), Joy Pereira (WG II Vice-Chair).

Advisory members:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), Melinda Tignor (WG II TSU Head), Roger Fradera (WGIII TSU Head of Operations), Raphael Slade (WG III TSU Head of Science), Sandro Federici (TFI TSU Head), Noemie Leprince-Ringuet (SYR TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary), Elvira Poloczanska (TSU WGII).

IPCC Secretariat:

Ermira Fida (Deputy Secretary of IPCC), Jonathan Lynn (IPCC Head of Communications), Nina Peeva, Laura Biagioni, Mxolisi Shongwe, Jesbin Baidya, Melissa Walsh.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXXXV/Doc. 1), as attached in Annex 1, was adopted with three additions as follows: the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) request for a schedule change will be dealt under agenda item 2.1 and the Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data) under agenda item 6.1 and the IPCC youth and children visual art contest, under agenda item 3.

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 – TFI Schedule

The TFI Co-Chair noted that the Task Force Bureau (TFB) has two issues, the changes in the workplan for this year and the proposal to consider the schedule for the final stage on the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

The TFI was planning to have three meetings later this year but the TFB has decided to change this plan due to the current situation. The first meeting to collect the feedback from the Emission Factor Database (EFDB) and software users and which was planned for December 2020 in Japan. The TFB decided to cancel this meeting. The Expert Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF) was also planned for December 2020 in Turkey and the TFB decided to postpone this meeting until next year. The TFB Meeting was also planned for December 2020 in Turkey and the TFB has decided to have it online, possibly in November 2020.

The ExCom supported and agreed to the changes for the TFI workplan.

The TFI Co-Chair raised the issue about the timing of the approval of outline of the methodology reports of the TFB and plans to hold this approval session after the AR6 Synthesis Report (SYR) approval - the first panel session after the approval of the SYR and before the session to hold elections. He stated that this issue is not only a TFI matter and would like to discuss the plan of the plenary session after the SYR approval and sought clarification on the 52nd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-52) decision on the future work of the IPCC in light of the global stocktake.

The Secretary said that no consensus was reached at IPCC-52 on the future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake and the Panel decided that the mandate of the Task Group Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (TG-FWLGST) was completed.

Other ExCom members shared concerns about the implications from COVID 19 to the overall planning for the IPCC approval plenary sessions. Some ExCom members raised the importance of the engagement of IPCC Focal Points on these matters and called for a transparent and inclusive process.

Noting the concerns raised, the ExCom invited the Secretariat to convene the Operation Action Team (OAT) with the view to identify modalities in engaging with IPCC Focal Points on these matters and the Chair requested the secretariat to convene the next OAT meeting on the modalities to engaging IPCC Focal Points on this matters.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat reported on the communication and outreach activities since the last ExCom. A press release on the changes to the Working Group III (WGIII) schedule was issued.

The Secretariat updated the ExCom on the IPCC youth and children visual arts contest for young people and how it could be endorsed, and how the IPCC would present it.

The Secretariat expressed that there could be pushback from the Panel after the event and that we are going beyond our mandate and there are legal concerns regarding the Bureau and the Panel. Although it is in the ExCom mandate to approve communications activities, this project doesn't fit directly in the framework of the Communications Strategy and raises issues around the liability of the IPCC and the risks of reputational damage if things go wrong.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to refine this project under the CAT and find the best way to make this project a reality within the boundaries of the IPCC rules and procedures.

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 reporting, the five error claims which were highlighted in the report that was sent to ExCom were closed. The Working Group III Technical Support Unit (TSU) was appreciated for closing the cases. No new error claims were received. The Secretariat sought the help of the relevant TSUs to help work towards the closure of the pending cases.

Working Group I (WGI) have engaged the IPCC Legal Officer for guidance on claim 281. It was expected that the claim would be processed a few weeks after the reporting. A letter has been sent to the Focal Points, requesting governments to delegate to ExCom the approval of the errata related to claim 285.

The ExCom took note of the report.

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 – IPCC-53 planning

The Secretary informed the ExCom on the progress of the upcoming meetings of the IPCC. The 59th Session of the Bureau (BUR-59) will take place on 13th and 14th October 2020 on Zoom. BUR-59 will be held virtually building on the experience and lessons learned from the first virtual Bureau session (BUR-58). There will be a reduced agenda and it will be colour coded in red and yellow.

At the 83rd meeting of the ExCom the Secretariat advised on four options for IPCC-53. The ExCom suggested that the IPCC Focal Points be consulted on their views regarding the format of IPCC-53. The informal feedback from some Focal Points was to have a hybrid meeting consisting of virtual and written elements. The Secretariat explained how such hybrid session would work and that the dates 7-11 December have been targeted but are not yet final and all conflicting dates will be considered. A letter will be sent to the Focal Points.

The Chair noted that it is in the Secretariat's mandate to decide on the format of meetings including IPCC-53.

The ExCom requested if options for face to face meetings as well as virtual approval sessions could be explored and if so, could discussions start at the next Bureau meeting.

The Secretary noted that the situation is evolving and there is enough time to consider this for December and to open and include any agenda item about this during the time between October and December.

The ExCom appreciated the efforts by the Secretary and his staff, and the ExCom took note of the options presented by the Secretariat.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1 TG-Data membership

The Secretariat updated the ExCom on the TG-Data Membership. Following the presentation of the updated list of the TG-Data and ex-officio members during 58th Session of the IPCC Bureau in May 2020, an issue was raised about ineligible, ex-officio members. It was perceived as a violation of the article 3.5 of the Terms of Reference (TORs) that the "Data Distribution Center (DDC) managers and relevant TSU staff are ex-official members of the TG-Data and are invited to share their views and experiences." The Secretariat committed to address this issue with the relevant WGs and this has been done. There were two experts that were neither DDC staff nor TSU staff. To close this case, an updated list with only eligible ex-officio members should be presented at the 59th Session of the IPCC Bureau and also to the Panel. WG colleagues were kindly requested to consult all relevant experts in their community who they think have the expertise and experience relevant for the work of the of the TG-Data without being seen as violating the Task Group TORs.

The ExCom requested if the IPCC Legal Officer could clarify the fact that the TORs preclude having an invited person to represent Working Group Co-Chairs and can TSU members represent Working Group Co-Chairs for logistical and operational aspects. And clarify TORs which say oversight on behalf of Co-Chairs and on the links between the Bureau and the TG-Data be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to inform the ExCom of the legal opinion offline.

The ExCom took note of the update.

The next meeting of the ExCom will be held on the first Wednesday of October.

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EXCOM-LXXXV/Doc. 1
(31.08.2020)
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
- 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**
 - 6.1 TG-Data membership