

53rd SESSION OF THE IPCC
7 – 14 December 2020 (Electronic and written)

Decisions adopted by the Panel

Decision IPCC-LIII-1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

Documents: IPCC-LIII/Doc.1 and IPCC-LIII/Doc.1, Add.1

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd Session adopts the provisional agenda as contained in document IPCC-LIII/Doc.1.

Decision IPCC-LIII-2. IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Document: IPCC-LIII/Doc. 2, Rev. 1

Based on the recommendations of the Financial Task Team (FiTT), the 53rd Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:

1. Takes into account the current exceptional circumstances related to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and without setting a precedent;
2. Notes that discussions and agenda items on several issues have been postponed owing to circumstances related to the global COVID-19 pandemic;
3. Appreciates the support that the Secretariat of the IPCC provides to the IPCC process, while especially noting the challenges imposed by the global COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Appreciates the extraordinary contribution and commitment of authors, Working Group Bureaux, Task Force Bureau on GHG Inventories, Technical Support Units, and the Scientific Steering Committee to the Synthesis Report, including working through virtual means, under these exceptionally challenging circumstances;
5. Approves the revised budget for 2020, as contained in **Annex 1**, while recognizing the exceptional circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a lower utilization of the budget;
6. Approves the revised proposed budget for 2021, as contained in **Annex 2**;
7. Notes the forecast budget for 2022, as contained in **Annex 3**;
8. Notes the indicative budget for 2023, as contained in **Annex 4**;
9. Welcomes with gratitude all contributions and pledges from members, especially from developing countries, UN bodies and intergovernmental organizations and encourages all members of the IPCC to maintain or increase their financial support, also through multi-year pledges, so as to ensure the financial stability of the IPCC;
10. Encourages members to make first-time contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund in order to broaden the donor base;
11. Expresses its gratitude to members that support the Technical Support Units (TSUs) and a number of IPCC activities, including data centres, meetings and outreach activities;
12. Encourages members to transfer funds as soon as practical, while noting that contributions from IPCC members are due on 1 January of each calendar year, noting that when transferring funds to WMO, members should indicate that the contribution is “for the IPCC Trust Fund” to ensure proper identification of the recipient;

13. Expresses its gratitude to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their cash contribution to the Trust Fund, financing one Secretariat position each, and to WMO for hosting the Secretariat and for its continuing support for the IPCC;
14. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for its contribution to the IPCC Trust Fund;
15. Decides to continue preparing the budget of the IPCC Trust Fund using the standard costs, bearing in mind that expenditures may be lower than the budget;
16. Requests that the Secretariat presents, in addition to statements according to IPSAS, the statement of financial position and financial performance on a modified cash basis which categorizes expenditures per activity as well as by natural account;
17. Requests the Secretariat to provide the Panel with interim statements of expenditure covering the first six months of the year, as well as the projection of expenditure for the rest of the year;
18. Requests the Secretariat to provide detailed information on expenditures for activities held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those related to connectivity in the budget document presented to the Panel at the next session;
19. Notes the basis for the significant reduction in the 2020 budget is due to implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including travel restrictions and the inability to hold meetings in-person, which resulted in meetings either being held in virtual mode, being cancelled or being postponed to 2021;
20. Notes the budgetary implications related to IPCC-53 *bis* which was introduced by the IPCC Chair's letter (Ref: 5406-20/IPCC/P53 dated 7 December 2020) (attached as **Annex 5**).

REVISED 2020 BUDGET ADOPTED BY IPCC-LIII

Activity	Purpose	DC/EIT support	Other Expenditure	Sub-total
Governing Bodies				
IPCC-52 5 days		480,000 120 journeys	100,000	580,000
IPCC-53 4 days		0	5,000	5,000
Bureau 4 days	2 sessions	0	5,000	5,000
TFB	1 session	0 9 journeys	0	0
UNFCCC and other UN meetings		0 20 journeys	0	0
SUB-TOTAL				590,000
Lead Authors, Scoping, Expert Meetings and Workshops				
WG I AR6 LAM 4	CLA/LA meeting (moved to 2021)	0 110 journeys	0	0
WG I AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (moved to 2021)	0 30 journeys	0	0
WG II AR6 LAM 3 and LAM 4	CLA/LA meeting (LAM 4 moved to 2021)	460,000 115 journeys	0	460,000
WG III AR6 LAM 3	CLA/LA meeting (LAM 4 moved to 2021)	460,000 115 journeys	0	460,000
Expert Meeting - Science of Communicating Science	1 meeting (moved to 2021)	0 20 journeys	0	0
SYR AR6	CWT-1 (moved to 2021) CWT-2 (moved to 2021)	0 15 journeys	0	0
TG-Data	1 meeting	0 12 journeys	0	0
EFDB Editorial Board	1 meeting	0 24 journeys	0	0
EFDB Data meeting	1 meeting	0 10 journeys	0	0
EFDB and Software Users Feedback (Japan)	1 meeting	0 22 journeys	0	0
TFI Expert Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers	2 meetings (moved to 2021)	0 80 journeys	0	0
TFI Expert meeting	1 meeting (contingency)	0 25 journeys	0	0
SUB-TOTAL				920,000
Other Expenditure				
2006 GL software	maintenance/development			18,000
EFDB maintenance	update/management			7,000
Publications/Translations	IPCC publications			200,000
Communication I	AR6 material/travel/events			105,000
Communication II	AR6 outreach events*			3,960
Distribution	IPCC publications			100,000
IT Infrastructure	web hosting/cloudflare/upgrades			50,628
External Audit	fee			20,000
Advisory Services	Conflict of Interest			15,000
Co-Chairs	support			200,000
SUB-TOTAL				719,588
Secretariat				
Secretariat	staff costs/misc expenses			2,037,500
Resource Mobilization	travel costs (Phase II: 2020-2022)			0
SUB-TOTAL				2,037,500
TOTAL				4,267,088

All activities subject to Panel approval in IPCC-53

* Regional/local events

Revised/new activity

REVISED PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET ADOPTED BY IPCC-LIII

Activity	Purpose	DC/EIT support	Other Expenditure	Sub-total
Governing bodies				
IPCC-53 bis¹ 4 days		480,000 120 journeys	280,000	760,000
IPCC-54 5 days	AR6 WG I	480,000 120 journeys	350,000	830,000
IPCC-55 5 days	AR6 WG III	480,000 120 journeys	350,000	830,000
IPCC-56 5 days	AR6 WG II (moved to 2022)	0 120 journeys	0	0
Bureau 6 days	3 sessions	432,000 108 journeys	180,000	612,000
TFB	1 session	36,000 9 journeys	6,120	42,120
UNFCCC and other UN meetings		80,000 20 journeys	0	80,000
SUB-TOTAL				3,154,120
Lead Authors, scoping, expert meetings and workshops				
WG I AR6 LAM 4	CLA/LA meeting	440,000 110 journeys	74,800	514,800
WG I AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting I	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (moved from 2020)	120,000 30 journeys	20,400	140,400
WG I AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting II	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (back-to-back P-54)	120,000 30 journeys	20,400	140,400
WG II AR6 LAM 4	CLA/LA meeting	460,000 115 journeys	78,200	538,200
WG II AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting I	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs	140,000 35 journeys	23,800	163,800
WG II AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting II	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (back-to-back P-56) (moved to 2022)	0 35 journeys	0	0
WG III AR6 LAM 4	CLA/LA meeting (moved from 2020)	460,000 115 journeys	78,200	538,200
WG III AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting I	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs	120,000 30 journeys	20,400	140,400
WG III AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting II	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (back-to-back P-55)	120,000 30 journeys	20,400	140,400
SYR AR6	CWT-1 meeting (moved from 2020)	144,000 36 journeys	24,480	168,480
SYR AR6	CWT-2 meeting (moved from 2020)	144,000 36 journeys	24,480	168,480
SYR AR6	CWT-3 meeting	164,000 41 journeys	27,880	191,880
SYR AR6	CWT-4 & CWT-4 bis meetings (moved to 2022)	0 30 journeys	0	0
Expert Meeting - Science of Communicating Science	1 meeting (moved from 2020)	80,000 20 journeys	13,600	93,600
TG-Data	1 meeting	48,000 12 journeys	8,160	56,160
EFDB Editorial Board	1 meeting	96,000 24 journeys	16,320	112,320
EFDB Data meeting	1 meeting	40,000 10 journeys	6,800	46,800
EFDB and Software Users Feedback (Japan)	1 meeting	88,000 22 journeys	0	88,000
TFI Expert Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers	3 meetings	480,000 120 journeys	81,600	561,600
TFI Expert meeting	1 meeting (contingency)	100,000 25 journeys	17,000	117,000
SUB-TOTAL				3,920,920
Other Expenditure				
2006 GL software	maintenance/development			15,000
EFDB maintenance	update/management			35,000
Publications/Translations	IPCC publications (WG I/III/TFI/SRs)			1,000,000
Communication I	AR6 material/travel/events			672,040
Communication II	AR6 outreach events*			153,960
Distribution	IPCC publications			100,000
IT Infrastructure	web hosting/cloudflare/upgrades			40,628
External Audit	fee			20,000
Advisory Services	Conflict of Interest			15,000
Co-Chairs	support			200,000
SUB-TOTAL				2,251,628
Secretariat				
Secretariat	staff costs/misc expenses			2,037,500
Resource Mobilization	travel costs (Phase II: 2020-2022)			15,800
SUB-TOTAL				2,053,300
TOTAL				11,379,968

All activities subject to Panel approval in IPCC-53

* Regional/local events

Revised/new activity

Footnote

¹ The details and modalities will be determined through consultations with Panel members.

Ref IPCC Chair's letter 5406-20/IPCC/P53 dated 7 December 2020

FORECAST 2022 BUDGET NOTED BY IPCC-LIII

Activity	Purpose	DC/EIT support	Other Expenditure	Sub-total
Governing bodies				
IPCC-56 ² 5 days	WG II	480,000 120 journeys	350,000	830,000
IPCC-57 5 days	SYR AR6	480,000 120 journeys	350,000	830,000
IPCC-58 4 days		480,000 120 journeys	280,000	760,000
IPCC-59 ³ 4 days	(contingency)	480,000 120 journeys	280,000	760,000
Bureau 4 days	2 sessions	288,000 72 journeys	120,000	408,000
TFB	1 session	36,000 9 journeys	6,120	42,120
UNFCCC and other UN meetings		80,000 20 journeys	0	80,000
SUB-TOTAL				3,710,120
Lead Authors, scoping, expert meetings and workshops				
WG II AR6 SPM Drafting Meeting II	CLA, drafting authors, Co-Chairs (back-to-back P-56) (moved from 2021)	140,000 35 journeys	23,800	163,800
SYR AR6	CWT-4 meeting (moved from 2021)	164,000 41 journeys	27,880	191,880
TG-Data	1 meeting	48,000 12 journeys	8,160	56,160
EFDB Editorial Board	1 meeting	96,000 24 journeys	16,320	112,320
EFDB Data meeting	2 meetings	80,000 20 journeys	13,600	93,600
EFDB and Software Users Feedback (Japan)	1 meeting	44,000 11 journeys	0	44,000
TFI Expert Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers	1 meeting	160,000 40 journeys	27,200	187,200
TFI Scoping Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers	1 meeting	160,000 40 journeys	27,200	187,200
TFI Expert meeting	1 meeting (contingency)	100,000 25 journeys	17,000	117,000
SUB-TOTAL				1,153,160
Other Expenditure				
2006 GL software	maintenance/development			15,000
EFDB maintenance	update/management			35,000
Publications/Translations	IPCC publications (WG II/SYR)			400,000
Communication I	AR6 material/travel/events			672,040
Communication II	AR6 outreach events*			150,000
Distribution	IPCC publications			100,000
IT Infrastructure	web hosting/cloudflare/upgrades			13,128
External Audit	fee			20,000
Advisory Services	Conflict of Interest			15,000
Co-Chairs	support			200,000
SUB-TOTAL				1,620,168
Secretariat				
Secretariat	staff costs/misc expenses			2,037,500
Resource Mobilization	travel costs (Phase II: 2020-2022)			15,800
SUB-TOTAL				2,053,300
TOTAL				8,536,748

All activities subject to Panel approval in IPCC-55

* Regional/local events

Revised/new activity

Footnotes

² This meeting was originally scheduled for 2021 but due to COVID-19 it has been tentatively moved to 2022 (dates are to be confirmed).

³ Dates are to be confirmed.

INDICATIVE 2023 BUDGET NOTED BY IPCC-LIII

Activity	Purpose	DC/EIT support	Other Expenditure	Sub-total
Governing bodies				
IPCC-60 4 days		480,000 120 journeys	280,000	760,000
IPCC-61 4 days		480,000 120 journeys	280,000	760,000
Bureau 4 days	2 sessions	288,000 72 journeys	120,000	408,000
TFB	1 session	36,000 9 journeys	6,120	42,120
UNFCCC and other UN meetings		80,000 20 journeys	0	80,000
SUB-TOTAL				2,050,120
Lead Authors, scoping, expert meetings and workshops				
TG-Data	1 meeting	48,000 12 journeys	8,160	56,160
EFDB Editorial Board	1 meeting	96,000 24 journeys	16,320	112,320
EFDB Data meeting	2 meetings	80,000 20 journeys	13,600	93,600
EFDB and Software Users Feedback (Japan)	1 meeting	44,000 11 journeys	0	44,000
TFI Expert meeting	1 meeting (contingency)	100,000 25 journeys	17,000	117,000
SUB-TOTAL				423,080
Other Expenditure				
2006 GL software	maintenance/development			6,000
EFDB maintenance	update/management			7,000
Publications/Translations	IPCC publications (SYR)			200,000
Communication	AR6 material/travel/events			745,000
Distribution	IPCC publications			100,000
IT Infrastructure	web hosting/cloudflare/upgrades			13,128
External Audit	fee			20,000
Advisory Services	Conflict of Interest			15,000
Co-Chairs	support			200,000
SUB-TOTAL				1,306,128
Secretariat				
Secretariat	staff costs/misc expenses			2,037,500
Resource Mobilization	travel costs (Phase II: 2020-2022)			15,800
SUB-TOTAL				2,053,300
TOTAL				5,832,628

All activities subject to Panel approval in IPCC-55

* Regional/local events

Revised/new activity



Hoesung Lee
Chair

Our ref.: 5406-20/IPCC/P53

To Delegates from Member Countries
and IPCC Observer Organizations

Seoul, 7 December 2020

**Subject: Fifty-third Session of the IPCC, 7-14 December 2020
Opening of the Session**

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to this 53rd Session of the IPCC.

In the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, which make it impossible to meet in person, we are making IPCC history: this is the first time that we have convened a virtual meeting of the Panel.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to you, our Members, for showing the necessary flexibility to enable us to convene the Panel in this way in order to transact urgent business.

In doing so, we have had to surmount several challenges, to ensure that our meeting has a sound legal foundation, and to make sure that our technology solutions do not disadvantage any delegates because of problems with connectivity, or because we are participating in different time zones.

We have found a way of meeting that is consistent with the Principles and Procedures of the IPCC. I would like to thank the Secretary and his staff for putting this meeting on a robust legal basis, consulting extensively on best practice with other intergovernmental bodies and agencies in the UN system, including our sponsoring organizations, determining the most appropriate technology solutions and processes, and working with delegates to make you familiar and comfortable with the online platforms through a series of pre-Session briefings

Their determination to keep the business of the IPCC flowing smoothly parallels the huge efforts and creativity of the Working Groups and their authors and Technical Support Units to advance work on the Sixth Assessment Report despite the pandemic.

As you know, we are holding our meeting in a hybrid format blending written and virtual means. Our Plenary Session will be conducted in writing: this letter to you, formally opening the Session, is part of that process.

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But we will also hold some discussions – in this case the meetings of the Financial Task Team, or FiTT – by virtual means.

This meeting will have one single substantive agenda item: consideration of the IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget; we have found a consensus to proceed on that basis.

There are many other urgent items of business that merit consideration by the Panel. This Session will therefore reconvene, with a tentative date in March next year, to consider such items, and we will consult further with you on the dates. And that Session will benefit from the lessons we learn from running this hybrid meeting.

At the 59th Session of the Bureau held in October, members made suggestions for agenda items for the Panel. Preparation of the agenda for IPCC-53-bis will start after this meeting: we will not discuss possible agenda items for 53-bis during this meeting, in order to focus on the budget.

This letter serves to open the Session and to submit the provisional agenda for adoption. We will be using all the legal tools afforded by this hybrid format, with use of a silence procedure applying a 72-hour window for adoption of all decisions of the Panel. During this window we will proceed to operate on the basis of the provisional agenda. Further details on the silence procedure may be found in the [Explanatory Note](#).

With this letter opening the Session, I am also inviting the Co-Chairs of the FiTT, Amjad Abdulla (Maldives) and Helen Plume (New Zealand), to convene the FiTT and to report back to Plenary when their deliberations are complete. The FiTT will operate according to its Terms of Reference, which are paragraphs 6 and 7 of [Appendix B](#) to the Principles Governing IPCC Work.

The FiTT will meet in an online format, deliberating in three sessions of two hours each, with a fourth optional session if needed. These FiTT sessions will not be extended.

As you also know, participation in the FiTT is open to all delegations.

I strongly urge all of you to take part in the FiTT discussions this week. In order to facilitate broad participation in the discussion, we have scheduled the three meetings of the FiTT taking into account different time zones.

We are planning for final comments on the draft decision document to be submitted by Thursday, 10 December.

The Plenary Session will reconvene in writing to consider the draft decision of the FiTT. The draft decision will be shared with you as a letter by email, and also posted in the Paper Smart system, for your approval by silence procedure of 72 hours.

I believe we have found a good way to continue implementing the IPCC Work Programme in these challenging conditions, and to provide the institutional preconditions for bringing the assessment to completion.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank those Members that have contributed to the Trust Fund, in some cases with significant increases in contribution. This too is an essential way of putting the work of the IPCC on a sound footing.

I thank you again for your flexibility and collegial spirit, and wish you positive and fruitful deliberations at this Session of the IPCC.

Yours faithfully,



Hoesung Lee
Chair of the IPCC