

Our ref.: 5114-21/IPCC/P53bis

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs
(if no focal point has been designated)

Geneva, 16 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), I am addressing you on the subject of the Fifty-Third (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53bis) proposed to be held from **22 – 26 March 2021** by electronic means.

Following the consultation conducted with IPCC Focal Points on the format, date and agenda of the Fifty-Third (bis) Session of the IPCC (Letter 5109-21/IPCC/P53bis), the Secretariat has received 31 written responses and has taken note of the feedback and views received. All the responses received have been made available on the IPCC Focal Point Portal. The distribution of the responses from Member countries according to WMO Regions as well as agenda items is attached as Annex 1.

The responses received have been carefully taken into consideration and show that Member countries agreed on the proposed dates for the session (one country is not able to participate due to conflicting dates).

Given the current situation caused by the global pandemic and in view of minimizing further disruption to the IPCC process as much as possible, Member countries (except from one) expressed their support on the necessity of holding the IPCC-53bis in the virtual format.

As for the agenda items, the most cited to be discussed during the session are as follows:

- 1 – Progress reportsⁱ
- 2 – AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule
- 3 – Review of Principles Governing IPCC Work

In view of the above, the Panel at IPCC-53bis will be invited to consider the agenda items on the AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule; the Review of Principles Governing IPCC work, as well as the Draft Report of the 52nd Session of the IPCC. As suggested by many of you, there will be no live discussion on progress reports, which are informational agenda item documents. They will be made available on PaperSmart ahead of the meeting for Member countries to submit views in writing. In this way, we will focus the Panel live discussion on three agenda items, as initially proposed.

The majority of Member countries support the suspension of Rule 14 to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, but suggested exploring ways to facilitate simultaneous interpretation for forthcoming online meetings (three countries suggested translation in 6 UN languages). However, in order to ensure inclusiveness in the participation of Member countries, please be informed that simultaneous interpretation in the official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be provided during the session, despite the significant cost burden on the IPCC Trust Fund. Meeting documents will be in English only.

Further information about IPCC-53bis, including the provisional agenda, meeting documents and an explanatory note regarding the organization of the session, as well as the process for the discussion of documents will be made available on the IPCC website www.ipcc.ch as soon as possible.

You are hereby cordially invited to nominate representative(s) of your Government to the Session (preferably one per delegation and an alternate if needed). Please transmit your nominations, with the name and affiliation of the participant **no later than Monday 1st March 2021**. These nominations should be sent to the Secretary of the IPCC, c/o World Meteorological Organization, P.O. Box 2300, 7bis Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, or attached to an email message addressed to ipcc-sec@wmo.int. Nominations should be made on official letterhead, as nominations by simple e-mail will not be accepted.

To facilitate the process during the electronic session we kindly invite you to consider having one representative per delegation, with an alternate if needed. Should there be more than one delegate nominated per delegation, please indicate who will be the head of delegation. The head of delegation will have access to provide comments on documents in PaperSmart. Please register as soon as possible in order to get access to PaperSmart.

Please pre-register each designated participant, no later than **Monday 15 March 2021**, at the following website: <https://apps.ipcc.ch/register>, using the unique credentials sent to all Focal Points in advance of the previous session. Please inform the Secretariat if there have been changes to the name of the Focal Point.

Please ensure your connectivity arrangements enable you to attend the entire meeting. For representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, if this is not the case, please get in touch with the IPCC Secretariat at ipcc-sec@wmo.int no later than **Friday 26 February 2021**.

Also, please note that WMO/IPCC shall not be held responsible for any health problems or accidents that the participants may have. Participants shall make their own arrangements for life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate.

A copy of this letter is being sent for information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Permanent Representatives from your country to the World Meteorological Organization and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

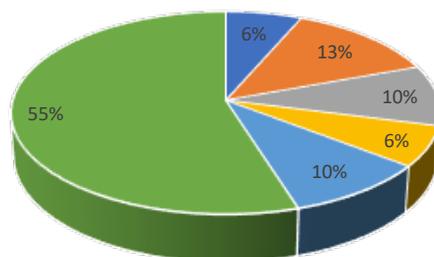
Yours sincerely,



(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC

ⁱ This includes updates on Working Group contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report and the Synthesis Report, the TFI and progress on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers, gender, TG-Data, communication and outreach, staffing of the IPCC Secretariat, and matters related to UNFCCC and Other International Bodies.

31 Countries' Responses: Distribution by WMO Regions



- Region I - Africa
- Region II - Asia
- Region III - South America
- Region IV - North America, Central America and the Caribbean
- Region V - South-West Pacific
- Region VI - Europe

Agenda items*	Number of Member countries supporting the agenda items
Progress reports	15
AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule	15
Review of principles Governing IPCC Work	12
Timing of approval sessions with focus on WGI	4
Draft report of IPCC-52	3
Transition to the IPCC 7th Cycle (AR7)	2
IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget	1
Future work of the IPCC in light of the Global stocktake	1
Admission of Observer Organizations	1

* Some agenda items such as the transition to the AR7. were either proposed as a stand-alone or were merged with other agenda items.