

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING
Teleconference, 2 December 2020

CONCLUSIONS & 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), Debra Roberts (WGII Co-Chair), Hans-Otto Pörtner (WGII Co-Chair), Jim Skea (WGIII Co-Chair), Priyadarshi Shukla (WGIII Co-Chair), Eduardo Calvo (TFI Co-Chair), Kiyoto Tanabe (TFI Co-Chair), Joy Pereira (WGII Vice-Chair).

Advisory members:

Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Roger Fradera (WGIII TSU Head of Operations), Sandro Federici (TFI TSU Head), Noemie Leprince-Ringuet (SYR TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary).

IPCC Secretariat:

Ermira Fida (IPCC Deputy Secretary), Jonathan Lynn (Head of Communications), Jennifer Lew Schneider (Legal Officer), Nina Peeva, Laura Biagioni, Mxolisi Shongwe, Joelle Fernandez, Jesbin Baidya, Melissa Walsh, Oksana Ekzarko, Judith Ewa.

Invited:

Clothilde Pean (WGI TSU), Elvira Poloczanska (TSU WGII).

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXXXVIII/Doc. 1) as attached in Annex 1 was adopted with additions as follows: The timing of IPCC-53bis under Agenda Item 5.1 and the next steps of Working Group I timeline, under Agenda item 5.2.

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 no new requests have been received for changes to the Strategic Planning Schedule (SPS). Also, the Secretariat informed the Executive Committee (ExCom) that it started a process of seeking Panel's approval by correspondence for the proposed changes to the Working Group I (WGI) as introduced at ExCom-87.

Working Group I (WGI) Co-Chair requested the Secretariat to include in the letter to IPCC Focal Points information on WGI to host informal webinars at the start of the final government reviews.

The Chair suggested the separation of the plans of holding the informal webinar from the WGI proposed schedule changes.

The ExCom took note of the update provided by the Secretariat.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat reported on the Communication activities as presented in the written report highlighting a press release on the Working Group II (WGII) Second Order Draft, a note on the Expert Reviewers posted in the website on social media and a note from Working Group III (WGIII) about stakeholder involvement and a series of webinars with different stakeholders.

ExCom members suggested that the presentations/materials from webinars be available to view after the events either on the website or on YouTube and to enhance the participation in the Final Government Draft (FGD) review process for WGI, the Secretariat could organize a virtual event for Focal Points.

The Secretariat responded that there are videos already available on the website.

The ExCom took note of the report.

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 the ExCom that since ExCom-87 they had received one new error claim that was assigned to Working Group III. He noted that one case has been closed and thanked Working Group II colleagues.

They have requested the relevant Technical Support Unit (TSU) to work on the pending cases as indicated in the report sent to the ExCom before the meeting.

WGI Co-Chair stated that the WGI Science Officer is working on an error claim and following consultation with the Legal Officer that one claim is not an error.

WGIII Co-Chair highlighted that their Science Officers will be able to start on the claim in early 2021.

The Secretariat highlighted that it is up to the Working Groups to decide what system of action is to be warranted.

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

The Secretary presented an update on the upcoming 53rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53) including the structure and process of the hybrid session, taking into consideration the different time-zones and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Financial Task Team (FiTT). IPCC-53 has been divided into two parts, the first with an agenda to discuss the budget to be held in December 2020 and the second part to be held in the first quarter in 2021. The adoption of the provisional agenda and a draft decision of the FiTT will be subject to silence procedure with its details found in the Explanatory Note prepared by the Secretariat.

ExCom members emphasized the need for the approval of a contingency budget to divert travel funds to technical support for virtual participation and costs relating to health aspects. The WGI Co-Chair asked the Secretariat to consider a discussion first in the Operations Action Team (OAT) to ensure all report preparation steps are taken into account when planning for the next Bureau meeting and IPCC-53bis.

Concerning the budget, the Secretariat is using the scenario to request the maximum amount of the budget to accommodate all necessary resources. The Secretariat informed that it is consulting internally on the feasibility of supporting connectivity, testing and vaccines, noting the legal and practical requirements that need to be considered.

The Chair asked if there was some discretionary power that can be exercised by the Secretariat to use the Trust Fund under exceptional circumstances without needing Panel approval.

The Secretary responded that they use a strict approach to expenditure in the IPCC.

The Secretariat took note of the comments by the ExCom.

The ExCom took note on the update of the preparation of IPCC-53.

- **COVID-19 implications to Plenary Sessions**

The Deputy Secretary presented a summary of the changes made to the 2nd draft of the Note by the Secretariat on COVID-19 implications to Plenary Sessions including three options for approval sessions as follows: Option 1 – hybrid with multiple rounds of review comments; Option 2 – hybrid with extended approval session and Option 3 – a physical session, as well as an analysis of their advantages, disadvantages and risks. The Deputy Secretary acknowledged the need to look at the staffing needs of the Secretariat which even without COVID-19 are currently insufficient.

She noted that the Secretariat had extensively consulted with other organizations such as UNEP¹, UNFCCC², UNSCEAR³, UNECE⁴, UNCBD⁵, Green Climate Fund, and IPBES⁶ to learn from their practices.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme

² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

³ United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

⁴ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

⁵ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

⁶ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

A preference for Option 2 was shared by ExCom members with Options 1 and 3 being too difficult because of timing and multiple rounds for review comments. Concerns for connectivity in the Global South and the idea of a strategic group to work on Option 2 and to develop it before it is put forward to the Panel were also shared.

If there is the possibility to hold a physical meeting, high-quality event management with small rooms and filtered air-conditioning should be considered. Another aspect could be to do a test run for an approval process.

Holding an extraordinary meeting of ExCom to talk about the plenary and budgetary issues was also suggested.

The Secretary highlighted that they have noted the preference for some options and will consider the comments received. He suggested to develop, as a first stage, an extended Operations Action Team (OAT) meeting with a Co-Chair from each Working Group and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) and then think about a deliverable to arise from this OAT and taking into consideration all of the ideas and comments from this ExCom.

The Chair thanked the ExCom for their input on Version 2.0 of the document and noted the convergence of opinions regarding the next level of a document. He invited the Secretariat to prepare a Version 3.0 reflecting all the comments and suggestions, that will be considered at the next ExCom or extraordinary ExCom, depending on the timing of readiness of this Version 3.0.

The ExCom took note of the note Version 2.0 and the plan for a note Version 3.0.

- **Timing of the IPCC-53 (bis)**

The Deputy Secretary updated the ExCom on the plan and mechanism for coordination between the Secretariat and the TSUs of the Working Groups, the TFI and the Synthesis Report (WG/TFI/SYR TSUs) regarding the timing of the IPCC-53bis. The second issue of the newsletter will be released before IPCC-53 and will be used to consult with the Focal Points on the timing of the IPCC-53bis after consultations with the WG/TFI/SYR TSUs.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for outlining the plan for enhanced coordination with the WG/TFI/SYR TSUs regarding the timing of the IPCC-53bis and stated that this is an appropriate approach.

The ExCom took note of the update by the Secretariat.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Gender Action Team (GAT) membership

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the GAT including an invitation sent to WMO and UNEP seeking their nominations to the GAT. As per the Terms of Reference for the GAT, it is comprised of elected members of the ExCom, a representative from the IPCC Secretariat, and two additional members with appropriate expertise appointed by UNEP and WMO. The GAT will have its first meeting to plan its work modalities, once the parent organizations will send their nominations.

The ExCom took note of the update on the Gender Implementation Plan.

Next meeting of the 89th Meeting of the ExCom

The Secretary informed the ExCom that the next meeting will be the first Wednesday in January 2021.

The Chair thanked the ExCom for their contributions. The meeting finished at 16:25.

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EXCOM-LXXXVIII/Doc. 1
(26.11.2020)
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 Gender Action Team (GAT) membership