

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – NINTIETH MEETING
Teleconference, 3 February 2021

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:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), 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, Jesbin Baidya, Judith Ewa, Melissa Walsh, Werani Zabula, Oksana Ekzarkho, Joelle Fernandez.

Invited:

Clothilde Pean (WGI TSU), Elvira Poloczanska (WGII TSU), Raphael Slade (WGIII TSU).

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-XC/Doc. 1) as attached in Annex 1 was adopted with the addition of one item under Agenda Item 5.4 on the report back of the meeting with UNEP Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD).

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

- **Update on the changes to the schedule of Working Group I**

The Secretariat has sent a letter to Bureau members on 6 January 2021 with a deadline for comments by 14 January. There were no objections from Bureau members and the Secretariat then sent a letter to IPCC Focal Points seeking approval of the changes and set a deadline for 21 February 2021. There were 13 support letters received with no objections. However, one country suggested to extend the duration of the 54th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-54) by one week and one country acknowledged the changes as long as IPCC-54 would be held physically as it gives developing countries a chance to fully engage in the

review and finalization process of the report. As there are no objections to the proposed changes, the Secretariat finds that this is approved by the Panel.

Working Group III (WGIII) Co-Chair informed the Executive Committee (ExCom) that the WGIII schedule may shift due to the recent decision to hold a fully virtual Lead Author Meeting (LAM) and the demanding timetable could postpone the Final Government Draft.

The Chair noted the information provided by the WGIII Co-Chair.

The ExCom took note of the approval by the Panel for the agreed changes to the WGI schedule as reported by the Secretariat.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat reported on the Communication activities and updated the ExCom on two items. The first a call with the Co-Chairs to update them on the plan for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Communications and the review of the Communications Strategy, which will be circulated with the ExCom before the next meeting. The second item relates to the Communications Strategy about how impact of communications work is measured. The Secretariat added that in a recent study on backlinks, which is the number of organizations that link back to your website, the IPCC ranks 17th out of 120 international organizations.

The ExCom took note of the report.

3.2 Update on the IPCC Communications Strategy

The Chair noted that the update on the IPCC Communications Strategy will be reported at the next meeting of ExCom.

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 the last 89th Meeting of the ExCom (ExCom-89) no cases have been closed and there are no new error claims. There are three pending error claims. The Secretariat sought the help of relevant TSUs towards the closure of the pending cases.

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:

- **60th Session and 60th (bis) Session of the IPCC Bureau**
- **53rd (Bis) Session of the IPCC**

The Secretary presented the roadmap to three upcoming events, 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53 bis), the 60th Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR-60) which goes up until April 2021, format and tentative agenda for each meeting.

The Secretary summarized the outcome of feedback received from 31 Focal Points on the dates, format, interpretation and agenda of the IPCC-53 bis. The majority supported suspensions of Rule 14 of the Principles Governing IPCC work. Three countries suggested translations in six UN languages. Only one country objected to holding IPCC-53 bis in a virtual format. A tentative agenda for IPCC-53 bis was shown reflecting the most proposed items from the responses of the 31 Focal Points: the approval of the draft report of the 52nd Session of the IPCC, AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule, Review of Principles guiding IPCC work and the Progress Reports from Working Groups (WGs), Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), Synthesis Report (SYR), Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessment (TG-Data), communications and outreach, gender, staffing of the Secretariat and matters related to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Other International Bodies.

The BUR-60 agenda will consider the standing agenda items whereas BUR-60bis will consider preparations for the 54th Session of the IPCC and the place and date for the 61st Session of the IPCC Bureau.

The ExCom commented on the timing of agenda items and made a suggestion to use automatic translations, requested to refer to the 14th Session of Working Group I (WGI) when mentioning IPCC-54 and noted how TG-Data reports to the Bureau and not to the Panel. The Secretariat was thanked for their transparency on the feedback from Focal Points.

The Secretary responded that the Secretariat is exploring options with automatic translations but there are some countries that are requesting for the six UN languages. Regarding confidentiality, it should be legally sound, and the rules should be observed. TG-Data will be included in the agenda for BUR-60 rather than BUR-60bis.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for exploring all options dealing with translations.

The ExCom took note on the update of the preparation of forthcoming meetings.

- **Possible implications resulting from COVID-19 on IPCC Plenary Sessions**

The Deputy Secretary presented the 4th version of the Note on possible implications resulting from COVID-19 on IPCC Plenary Sessions noting that the Secretariat has been working closely with WGI in addressing the comments received by the ExCom following its presentation at the ExCom-89.

In summary, these changes included a clear explanation of the purpose of the note and more clarity on the Option 1 + 2 which builds on the positive aspects of Option 1 and 2. She noted the change to the title of the note from Note by the Secretariat to the Background Note emphasising that the Note is now a joint product of the Secretariat and ExCom.

The Deputy Secretary noted that the Secretariat and WGI would like to post the document for one more week seeking final input from the ExCom and the Operations Action Team (OAT). After the final round of comments, the aim is to take the document to BUR-60.

WGI Co-Chair made comments on updating figures related to WGI and WGIII to reflect the recent changes. She sought advice from the Secretariat and ExCom members on how to hold webinars before the Final Government Review and requested if the webinars could be added to the schedule.

The Deputy Secretary suggested to consult with the WG Technical Support Units (TSUs) for how to add these to the schedule.

The Chair clarified that this Version 4.0 is now an implementation plan rather than an update on the previous version. The document will be shared with the OAT and the ExCom for further comments, with a deadline for comments of one week.

The ExCom took note of the update.

5.2 Protocol for conditional participation in global assessments

The Legal Officer updated the ExCom on a request for a formal protocol for conditionality for participation in external activities.

The draft protocol provides a brief assessment of the risks and impact of engagement with external entities and focuses on mitigation through a precautionary approach. It provides steps for consideration if an invitation is sent to participate in interagency scientific assessment or conferences. The protocol includes language, which essentially defaults to the existing IPCC communication strategy and implementation plan. More information about the protocol is provided in Annex 2 of this document.

The ExCom asked for guidance for participation in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD) and the status of UNEP vis-a-vis the IPCC and clarification on what is meant by a participant, does it extend to authors and classified as personal invitations.

The Legal Officer responded that UNEP is classified as a third party, the IPCC is a separate entity and has its mandate. If anyone is invited to represent the IPCC conceptually, there should be some engagement and there should be a conditionality clause.

If it is a personal invitation and they are not engaging because of their work with the IPCC, that would need to be discussed and explored. If it is not engaging the IPCC logo, and/or IPCC products and materials, then the conditionality disclaimer would not be required.

The Chair clarified that the Protocol for conditionality clause applies to IPCC participants in external activities to protect the IPCC and IPCC participants. Future external events will rely on this conditionality procedure.

The ExCom took note of the protocol

5.3 IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop

The Legal Officer updated the ExCom on the issues raised at the 89th Meeting of the ExCom (ExCom-89) on the IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop and whether the workshop contravened the applicable rules and mandate with respect to the conduct of the workshop, as well as the format of the workshop report outcome, as in Annex 3.

She noted there are two steps to the brief. The first is the procedural jurisdictional approach concerning whether ExCom has the authority to address the issue, and the second is to questions raised about the conduct of the workshop and format of the report outcome.

The IPCC provided for IPCC representatives within the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), as set out in IPCC-LII/INF.7. The SSC representatives of the IPCC are thus accountable to the IPCC. ExCom is not a member of the SSC that exercises authority on planning and implementation of the co-sponsored workshop and thus ExCom is not the body to advise on the conduct and the format of the outcomes of the co-sponsored workshop.

The IPCC Principles Appendix A, Section 7.2. set out the factors considered and extending co-sponsorship. They include funding, expert participation, the publication of the workshop proceedings and timings, disclosures and disclaimers; no specific factors are provided for conduct or format of outcomes.

To the extent that there are concerns on the conduct and format of the outcomes, these concerns are to be addressed to the IPCC, as the owner of the Principles Governing IPCC work and their implementation, for further clarification.

The ExCom commented that the finding was silent on what the proceedings of what the workshop should be and highlighted there is a need to be attentive to producing some proceedings in line with what expectations have been and that sign off on future workshops could be affected.

Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chair thanked the Legal Officer for the clarification and updated the ExCom on the outcome of the workshop. Assurances were made to the ExCom that the rules and procedures are being followed and those who are involved will be informed accordingly.

The Chair concluded that IPCC needs to be cautious about extending the co-sponsorship in the future, as does the ExCom on this matter. The SSC is entirely responsible for the planning, implementation and management of the workshop, and the ExCom has no oversight role over the SSC.

The ExCom took note of the report.

5.4 Update on the Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD)

WGIII Co-Chair reported on a meeting held with UNEP Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD). The agenda was a roundtable on where each of the assessments stood in terms of progress. The key elements that came out of the meeting were how information is shared and protecting the integrity of individual entity mandates, timetable, glossary and common definitions. He noted that an earlier response from the Legal Officer about UNEP being a third party helped define the legal position.

The ExCom took note of the report.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Secretary updated the ExCom that next meeting will be the first Wednesday in March 2021.

The Chair thanked the ExCom for their contributions.

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EXCOM-XC/Doc. 1
(1.02.2021)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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 - 2.1 Coronavirus related issues: Impact on AR6 schedules and products
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- 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:
 - 60th Session and 60th (bis) Session of the IPCC Bureau
 - 53rd (Bis) Session of the IPCC
 - Possible implications resulting from COVID-19 on IPCC Plenary Sessions
 - 5.2 Protocol for conditional participation in global assessments
 - 5.3 Joint IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop
- 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Protocol on IPCC engagement on global scientific assessments and outside events

The overarching purpose of this protocol is to ensure consistent messaging and use of IPCC products by third parties, with a particular focus on global scientific assessments and outside events. This protocol assumes use of and reference to the IPCC Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Risk and impact

External entities, including NGOs and other intergovernmental organizations, may produce their own global assessments and reports as related to climate change, and in doing so either reference IPCC product and materials or seek to have the IPCC participate in outside events towards the development of these assessments and reports. Risks include presentation of IPCC material that is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; incorrect or incomplete attribution; with a subsequent impact to the reputation of the IPCC and/or a dilution of the IPCC brand.

Mitigation through a precautionary approach

A precautionary approach to participation of the IPCC in scientific assessments and outside events can support the integrity of the IPCC process and its products by ensuring consistency in treatment of IPCC products and processes, including by outside entities that are engaged in production of their own assessments. To prevent possible dilution of the IPCC product and its brand as the premier source of scientific information for climate policy development and input for international climate change negotiations, the use of IPCC products in outside events producing assessments and reports should be subject to conditions that ensure that any IPCC products, either with or without the logo, remain distinct, unaltered and attributed to the IPCC.

I. Inter-agency scientific global assessments

IPCC participants may receive invitations for participation in inter-agency scientific assessments/global assessments or conferences. External entities, including NGOs and other intergovernmental organizations, may produce their own global assessments and reports as related to climate change, and in doing so either reference IPCC products and materials and/or logo, or seek to have the IPCC participate in inter-agency scientific assessments.

The following steps should be considered:

- An invitation is received by an IPCC participant either for an Inter-agency scientific global assessments/collaborative activities;

- The invitation received is communicated to the IPCC Secretariat (Communications, Legal) which will provide a conditionality clause on IPCC representation and participation to be transmitted by the recipient of the invitation to its sender.

The conditionality clause for consideration is as highlighted and set out below:

“Without limitation to any other rights that may be asserted on the IPCC logo, its products or materials, any participation of the IPCC is conditional on no changes being made to IPCC products or materials in relation to the outcomes of the global scientific assessment without prior consultation with the IPCC representative, with any decisions on use of IPCC logo and products, including presentation and appearance of IPCC material to be taken by consensus.

A disclaimer is to be included on all outcomes of the global assessment synthesis report indicating that use of IPCC materials does not imply IPCC endorsement or approval of the proceedings, or any recommendations, conclusions or outcomes, including the synthesis report, contained therein.”

II. Conferences and Communications events

Participation in communications events, including conferences, is covered by the IPCC Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan. This strategy summarizes essential considerations including goals, principles, methods and tools, the IPCC spokespeople and resources.

The following steps should be considered:

- When considering engagement in any communication event, guidance may be sought from the IPCC Communications Programme;
- Confer with the Secretariat and the Senior Communications Manager to identify support for representation to the event in question, to evaluate outcomes and benefits for engagement, and review of possible IPCC materials under consideration;
- Where outside organizations use IPCC materials without consulting the IPCC on usages, the IPCC Communications Officer may provide issuance of rebuttal statements, with further engagement through the Secretariat for matters that may raise diplomatic concerns.

Legal review of IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop

I. Executive Summary

1. A question has been raised within the 89th Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting as to whether the joint collaboration of an IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop of 14-17 December 2020 contravened applicable rules and mandates, specifically with respect to conduct of the workshop, as well as format of the workshop report outcome.
2. While ExCom may address issues related to IPCC products and programme of work, its ToRs do not provide blanket authority to review co-sponsored workshops. Authority for planning and implementation for co-sponsored workshops may be mandated to IPCC representatives and others within a Scientific Steering Committee, with these IPCC representatives accountable to the authority that approved the workshop. ExCom is not a member of the SSC that exercises full authority on planning and implementation of the co-sponsored workshop, and it follows that ExCom is not the body to advise on the conduct and format of outcomes of the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop.
3. Principles Governing IPCC Work, Appendix A, Section 7.2 sets out factors to be considered in extending co-sponsorship, including funding sources, expert participation, publication of workshop proceedings and timing, and disclosures and disclaimers for these proceedings; no specific factors are provided for conduct or format of outcomes. Additionally, customary practices as reported in ExCom do not provide definitive guidance.
4. From a legal and procedural perspective, IPCC applicable rules were not contravened. Further concerns on conduct and format of outcomes for co-sponsored workshops may be addressed to the IPCC as the owner of the Principles Governing IPCC Work for further clarification.

II. Background and issue

5. The co-sponsored workshop between IPBES and IPCC was held on 14-17 December 2020. The focus of the workshop was to provide an overview of the relationships between biodiversity and climate change, and focus on opportunities and risks through building on scientific, local and indigenous knowledge. Papers were prepared in advance of the event, as developed chapters by the participating authors who were selected by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The subject matter included nature-based/ecosystem-based solutions. These papers constituted the final workshop report outcome.
6. This collaboration between IPBES and the IPCC was initially proposed by the IPBES as a joint collaboration on a technical paper. This was considered by the Panel at both its 49th Session (Kyoto, Japan, May 2019) and its 50th Session (Geneva, Switzerland, August 2019). Referred for discussion at the 57th Session of the IPCC Bureau (Singapore, October 2019), the Bureau agreed, in principle, to a co-

sponsored workshop, subject to Section 7.2 of the IPCC Procedures Appendix A. The IPCC Bureau further mandated the WG II Co-Chairs to explore the modalities for the workshop and the IPCC ExCom to approve these modalities. The final proposal was presented to the Panel (IPCC-LII/INF.7) at its 52nd Session (Paris, France, February 2020) which took note of the presentation.

7. An IPCC Vice-Chair who participated in the workshop questioned both the conduct process as well as the format of the workshop report. She noted that the process involved working on pre-prepared/pre-drafted papers instead of being an exchange of views, and that the workshop report was more of a technical paper instead of being a report on the proceedings exchange of views, with reference to past practice.
8. The legal issues for consideration are the authority of ExCom to review the process and outcome of the co-sponsored workshop, and whether these contravened applicable IPCC rules and mandates.

III. Advice regarding co-sponsored workshop conduct and outcomes

9. An initial consideration is whether ExCom is the body to advise on the conduct and outcomes of this co-sponsored workshop. The scope of ExCom authority is set out in their Terms of Reference (ToRs) and extends to IPCC products and programme of work.¹
10. One dimension to consider is whether the co-sponsored workshop is an IPCC product or programme. Relevant in this regard are the Principles Governing IPCC Work (“Principles”), Appendix A, Section 7 which set out rules applicable to workshops and expert meetings (see Annex I) and the IPBES/IPCC workshop modalities set out in the Panel noted IPCC-LII/INF.7.
11. The Principles differentiate between designated “IPCC workshops” and “co-sponsored workshops”, with “IPCC workshops” useful or necessary for completion of a workplan.² Other distinguishing factors for co-sponsored workshops include requirements for disclaimers, i.e. co-sponsored workshops must specify non-implication of IPCC endorsement or approval, sources of funding, as well as accountability for the selection process of participating experts.³
12. For the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop, IPCC-LII/INF.7 further provides:
 - The objective of the workshop was to explore synergies and trade-offs on biodiversity and climate change, with the resulting report to provide information relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, amongst others, with no reference to necessity for completion of workplans, e.g. Working Group workplans of the IPCC;
 - The co-sponsored workshop confirmed compliance with all criteria of Section 7.2 rules specifically for co-sponsored workshops, including with respect to disclaimers;

¹ IPCC 33rd Session (Abu Dhabi, 10-13 May 2011) Governance and Management, IPCC Executive Committee, para. 1.

² Principles Governing IPCC Work (“Principles”), Appendix A, Section 7.1.

³ Principles, Appendix A, Section 7.2.

- Full funding for the co-sponsored workshop that created no financial implications for the IPCC was in alignment with requirements in Section 7.2 rules specifically for co-sponsored workshops;
 - A Scientific Steering Committee was established, with the members of the SSC solely responsible for selection of the participating experts, i.e. with no requirement for report to the IPCC Bureau or Panel on the selection process.
13. Per the distinguishing factors above, the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop is not an “IPCC workshop” nor necessary for the completion of a Working Group workplan. As such, it cannot be clearly characterized as an IPCC product or programme of work with reference to ExCom ToRs.
14. A second dimension to consider is the authority for decisions respecting management and implementation of the workshop. As noted above, IPCC-LII/INF.7 provided for establishment of the SSC, along with full authority of the SSC for the workshop in terms of i) expert participant selection; ii) planning; and iii) management of the conduct of the co-sponsored workshop and its proceedings.⁴ On this basis, SSC decisions taken in setting workshop priorities and prior preparation of documents by the selected expert participants were in exercise of this full responsibility and authority. It may be further noted that the SSC role with respect to management arrangements follows past practice in the IPCC with regard to co-sponsored workshops.⁵
15. The SSC includes representatives of IPBES and IPCC, with designated contacts of WG II Co-Chairs and scientific expertise from WGII TSU and other WG Bureaux; the SSC does not include ExCom in its members. As ExCom is not a member of the SSC, actions undertaken by the SSC, including on conduct and proceedings subject to advice by its members, does not include review by ExCom. In line with the establishment of the SSC through IPCC-LII/INF.7, advice to and accountability for the SSC actions, as regards IPCC concerns, rests with the WGII Co-Chairs.
16. In view of the above, the co-sponsored workshop does not fall within the scope of ExCom’s ToRs as an IPCC product or programme. Further, as ExCom is not a member of the SSC that exercises full authority on planning and implementation of the co-sponsored workshop, it may be concluded that ExCom is not the body to advise on the conduct and outcomes of the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop. In view of the foregoing, the authority to advise rests with the WGII Co-Chairs, who remain accountable to the Panel for IPCC related SSC actions.

IV. Workshop conduct and format under applicable rules and mandates

17. Material questions remain as to whether the process and format of the outcomes of the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop contravene applicable IPCC rules and mandates. For purposes of this review, consideration is also given on customary practices as raised in the 89th ExCom meeting.
18. With respect to written rules, the Principles Governing IPCC Work, Appendix A, Section 7 applies to workshops and expert meetings, with Section 7.2 separately

⁴ IPCC-LII/INF.7, p.5.

⁵ See Forty-Fourth Session of the IPCC (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 October 2016): Decision IPCC/XLIV-6. Workshop on Climate Change and the Cities.

setting out factors to be considered in extending co-sponsorship, including funding sources, expert participation, publication of workshop proceedings and timing, and disclosures and disclaimers for these proceedings.

19. Practices on document preparation or workshop report elements of process, specifically the pre-drafting of papers for developed chapters by expert participants prior to the workshop, are not addressed in Section 7.2. While Section 7.2 specifies what must be included in a co-sponsored workshop proceedings document, the rules do not provide a prescribed template nor define what constitutes meeting proceedings, whether as an exchange of views or as a collection of scientific papers proceeding from the meeting.
20. Moreover, the workshop conduct and proceedings document format were as produced in alignment with IPCC-LII/INF.7 that established the SSC to organize and manage the workshop as noted herein. Consequently, did not give rise to a contravention of the IPCC applicable rules to co-sponsored workshops.
21. Further relevant in this regard are customary practices which may rise to the level of precedent.⁶ Such customary practices may provide additional criteria for review, with the practices noted herein reflecting input from participants at the 89th ExCom meeting. Regarding both process and report outcomes on IPCC co-sponsored workshop past practice, IPCC Vice-Chairs and Working Group and Task Group Co-Chairs in the forum of the 89th ExCom meeting observed that past practice involved discussions and exchanges of views – and not work on pre-prepared developed papers; additionally, that past practice on proceedings documents produced reports on the process used for the exchange of views, rather than a collection of scientific papers. Finally, it was observed that the workshop report proceedings did not meet the common definition of proceedings.⁷
22. However, the WGII Co-Chair representing the IPCC on the SSC expressed alternative views as to these customary practices, noting precedent as evolving, and as to the understanding of such co-sponsored workshops. Consequently, no definitive view as to past practice could be determined within the limited forum of the 89th ExCom meeting.

V. Conclusion and steps forward

23. As set out herein, the IPBES/IPCC joint workshop was conducted in alignment with the parameters set forth in the Panel noted IPCC-LII/INF.7. Further, there was no contravention of the Principles Governing IPCC Work applicable rules to co-sponsored workshops. Decisions taken concerning conduct and format of outcomes of the co-sponsored workshop were in alignment with the authority granted to the SSC, not within the scope of ExCom's authority to advise. This authority to advise rests with the WGII Co-Chairs, who nonetheless remain accountable to the Panel as representatives for the interests of the IPCC, including for IPCC-related SSC actions.

⁶ The use of past practice as precedent provides points of convergence for consensus decisions despite diverging preferences. ILC Report, A/74/10, 2019.

⁷ See "Proceeding." "An official record of things said or done; events, happenings." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/proceeding>. Accessed 29 Jan. 2021.

24. As regards the interpretation and implementation of IPCC rules and mandates, as well as IPCC customary practice, the IPCC is the owner of the Principles Governing IPCC Work and their implementation. Consequently, it is for the IPCC to review and make recommendations including with respect to customary practices where the Principles Governing IPCC Work do not provide certain guidance.
25. Bearing in mind that the Principles Governing IPCC Work do not specifically address the questions on the conduct of co-sponsored workshops and/or format of its workshop report, and that, as noted, there are dissenting views on customary practice, from a legal and procedural perspective, these concerns may be addressed to the Panel for further clarification.

Annex I

Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, Section 7

7. WORKSHOPS AND EXPERT MEETINGS

7. 1 IPCC Workshops and Expert Meetings

IPCC Workshops and Expert Meetings are those that have been agreed upon in advance by an IPCC Working Group, or by the Panel as useful or necessary for the completion of the work plan of a Working Group, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories or a task of the IPCC. Only such activities may be designated as "IPCC" Workshops or Expert Meetings. Their funding should include full and complete provision for participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

An IPCC Expert Meeting focuses on a specific topic bringing together a limited number of relevant experts. The relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureaux, or the IPCC Chair, will identify and select participants to Expert Meetings.

An IPCC Workshop considers cross-cutting or complex topics requiring input from a broad community of experts. It requires nominations by Government Focal Points and, as appropriate, observer organisations. The relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureaux, or the IPCC Chair, may also nominate experts and will select the participants to the Workshop.

Proposals for IPCC Workshops or Expert Meetings will be submitted to the Panel for its decision through the relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureaux, or the IPCC Chair. The proposals will include descriptions of the topic(s), and clarify the choice for an Expert Meeting or a Workshop.

The composition of participants to Expert Meetings and Workshops shall aim to reflect: - The relevant range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and expertise, - Geographical representation as appropriate, - A mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC, - Gender balance.

The relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureaux, or the IPCC Chair, may install a Scientific Steering Committee to assist in organizing these meetings, taking into account the criteria mentioned above.

Government Focal Points should be notified of the list of invited participants to an Expert Meeting or Workshop at the earliest opportunity after the selection has taken place.

The relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureaux, or the IPCC Chair, will convene the Expert Meeting or Workshop and report to the IPCC Bureau and Panel on the selection process, including a description of how the selection criteria and any other considerations for participation have been applied.

The proceedings of IPCC Workshops and Expert Meetings should normally be published summarising the range of views presented at the meeting. Such proceedings should:

- include a full list of participants;
- indicate when and by whom they were prepared;
- indicate whether and by whom they were reviewed prior to publication;
- acknowledge all sources of funding and other support;
- indicate prominently at the beginning of the document that the activity was held pursuant to a decision of the relevant Working Group or the Panel but that such decision does not imply

Working Group or Panel endorsement or approval of the proceedings or any recommendations or conclusions contained therein.

7.2 Co-sponsored Workshops and Expert Meetings

IPCC co-sponsorship may be extended to other Workshops or Expert Meetings if the IPCC Chair, as well as the Co-Chairs of the relevant Working Group/Task Force Bureau determine in advance that the activity will be useful to the work of the IPCC. IPCC co-sponsorship of such an activity does not convey any obligation by the IPCC to provide financial or other support. In considering whether to extend IPCC co-sponsorship, the following factors should be taken into account:

- whether full funding for the activity will be available from sources other than the IPCC; - whether the activity will be open to government experts as well as experts from nongovernmental organisations participating in the work of the IPCC;
- whether provision will be made for participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; - whether the proceedings will be published and made available to the IPCC in a time frame relevant to its work;
- whether the proceedings will:
 - include a full list of participants;
 - indicate when and by whom they were prepared;
 - indicate whether and by whom they were reviewed prior to publication;
 - specify all sources of funding and other support;
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