FINAL REPORT OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

Electronic session, 16 – 18 March 2021

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), welcomed the members of the Bureau and government representatives.

The Secretary, Mr Abdalah Mokssit, welcomed delegates and explained the guidelines for running the Session.

The Chair opened the Session and thanked Bureau members and government representatives for their flexibility that enabled the IPCC to continue its work in these challenging times. He thanked the Secretariat for their thorough preparations for this virtual Session and expressed appreciation to the members of the Bureau, Technical Support Units (TSUs) and authors for their contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report.

He invited the Secretary to introduce the provisional agenda, document BUR-LX/Doc.1.

The Secretary, Abdalah Mokssit introduced the agenda as presented in document BUR-LX/Doc.1 and sumarised the written comments received in advance of the Session on the agenda.

Tanzania asked for the agenda to include a discussion on enhancing the participation of developing countries in virtual sessions and Germany asked for an update on the Informal Group on Publications (IGP) and on Secretariat Staffing and suggested that with the related documents are reissued as Docs for decision, rather than progress reports.

The Secretary said that the participation of developing countries in virtual sessions would be included in the discussion of the Strategic Planning Schedule, as would comments on the transition from the sixth to the seventh assessment cycle. The updates on IGP and secretarat staffing were included n the agenda of the meeting.

The Chair recalled that at the previous Session Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, had requested consideration of the participation of developing countries in virtual sessions to be handled in this session; as discussed this would be handled under agenda item 4.

Mr Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the United Republic of Tanzania took the floor.

Speakers thanked the Secretariat for the preparations and for considering the topics they had raised. Germany asked about the status of documents requiring decisions, and expressed the hope that the Bureau would be able to handle some agenda items without further consideration by the Panel.

The Chair said the Secretariat may need to update such documents before submitting them to the Panel, and the Secretary said when this is done it would be an opportunity to include comments from the Bureau.

The Chair invited the Bureau to adopt the agenda. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document BUR-LIX/Doc.1. The Agenda is attached as Annex 1.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE BUREAU

The Secretary introduced this item recalling that the Draft Report of the 59th Session of the Bureau contained in document BUR-LX/Doc.3 was open for comments on the Bureau Portal in advance of the 60th Session of the Bureau and thanked those who provided input and comments.

The Bureau approved the Draft Report of the 59th Session of the IPCC Bureau with 2 amendments under Agenda items 7.3 and 8.3.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

The Legal Officer, Ms Jennifer Lew Schneider introduced the relevant document BUR-LX/Doc.2, Rev.1 and summarized the comments and feedback received in the Bureau Portal.

The Legal Officer, informed the Bureau that after the last Bureau Session, the 59th electronic Session last October, three organizations had requested IPCC observer status, and were included in the document BUR-LX/Doc.2, Rev.1: (1) International Actuarial Association (IAA); (2) Office for Climate Education (OCE); and (3) King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC).

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) and the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) are already accredited as observer organizations with the UNFCCC. Therefore, in accordance with Rule I.5 of the IPCC Observer Policy, the IAA and the KAPSARC did not need to submit additional documentation concerning their organizations.

The Office for Climate Education (OCE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1994. The OCE is a centre under the auspices of UNESCO, based in Paris, aimed at promoting climate change education worldwide. To ensure that educators, and in particular teachers and teacher trainers, can base their teaching on a consensual, complete and up-to date scientific knowledge, the Office for Climate Education provides them with "Summaries for teachers", accompanying the IPCC reports. These educational resources are prepared in close collaboration with a network of scientific and pedagogical experts around the world, including IPCC authors and members of the technical support units (groups 1, 2 and 3). The OCE also supports teachers by professional development opportunities (face to face or distant workshops), allowing them to get more familiar with the scientific concepts embedded in the IPCC reports as well as with active pedagogies and educational materials.

In accordance with Rule II.1, the OCE had submitted necessary background documentation concerning their organization.

There was one comment submitted on the Bureau Portal, from Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, that supported the admission of all three organizations which had applied.

The Chair concluded that in accordance with Rules II.5 and II.6 of the IPCC Observer Policy, the applications of the three organizations which applied for IPCC Observer Status would be presented to the Panel at its next Session for a decision.

4. AR6 STRATEGIC PLANNING SCHEDULE INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE 53rd (bis) SESSION OF THE IPCC

The Deputy Secretary, Ms Ermira Fida introduced the document BUR-LX/Doc.4 and BUR-LX/INF.9 (Background Note on Possible Implications resulting from COVID-19 on IPCC Plenary Sessions) noting that this was the third update to the Strategic Planning Schedule (SPS) since the start of the pandemic. The document summarizes urgent decisions taken by the IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom), and sets out considerations for further changes bearing in mind

their tentative nature given uncertainty around the pandemic. It also provides information on the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC.

The changes since the 59th Session of the Bureau (13-14 October 2020) were the postponement of the Final Government Distribution of the Working Group I assessment, and its shortening by one week, and the postponement of the Working Group I approval session to the last week of July. These changes were approved by the Panel by correspondence. Other changes involved the cancellation or postponement of meetings organized by the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). The changes agreed so far amounted to adjustments of 3-4 months in the schedule up to the third quarter of 2021. Other milestones remain tentative. Changes to one working group schedule may affect the others, and the Synthesis Report schedule depends on the approval of the Working Group assessments.

The document includes a link to the background note and three annexes summarizing all the changes made so far; setting out the entire Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) calendar; and setting out the outcome of consultations on the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC.

The Deputy Secretary noted that Working Group Bureaus and the Technical Support Units (TSUs) are making significant progress on the assessment despite the challenges. The background note, developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with the ExCom and TSUs, sets out options for responding, summarizing their implications and setting out a roadmap for the approval sessions. It proposes a hybrid model if a physical meeting is not possible, and builds on two other options.

The Deputy Secretary said the Secretariat looked forward to the feedback from the Bureau and the Panel in the following week. The Bureau is invited to take note of urgent actions taken since its 59th Session, to consider and advise on the provisional timeline and to provide guidance. She thanked Bureau members and government representatives for the comments received so far.

She summarised the seven written comments on BUR-LX/Doc.4 and BUR-LX/INF.9 received in advance.

The United Republic of Tanzania asked how the approval session will be organized.

Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, said that further postponement of the AR6 schedule was infeasible and suggested that the Bureau should spend little time on discussing the revised timeline and focus on discussing options for a virtual approval session to inform the decision at IPCC-53 (bis). France expressed concerns over the proposed overlap between different government review periods for Working Group II and Workign Group III.

Japan asked to confirm the current status regarding the selection of the extended Core Writing Team.

Germany supported a shorter Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and extended session preceded by Questions and Answers (Q&A) sessions for Working Group I and asked why the Working Group II and III approval sessions were delayed by more than four months. It urged holding the approval session for the Synthesis Report in September 2022 in time for the 27th session of the Conference of the Partis (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It called for holding the elections for the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) Bureau by January 2023. It asked for the Secretariat to provide information on the requirements for the election and said a Task Group should prepare governance and management issues for the plenary preceding the election at which the size and composition of the Bureau will be determined. It said the approval of the AR7 cycle under the responsibility of the new TFI Co-Chairs. It proposed a revision of the review schedule to avoid an overlap. It asked that the document on the consultations for the IPCC-53 (bis) agenda should be amended to show that a large number of governments favoured a discussion on

the transition to AR7 and suggested amending the footnote in annex 3 of the document BUR-LX/Doc. 4 on the number of governments supporting the agenda item on the AR6/AR7 transition.

Commenting on the background note Mr Reisinger said it should note the risk that the final draft report would be leaked if the approval session were delayed until it was possible to hold an inperson meeting (option 3). He said consideration should be given to whether the SPM length and contents would need to be modified to facilitate virtual approval. He asked for consideration of how various virtual formats would accommodate different time zones and avoid delegates in some countries bearing a disproportionate burden, and how contacts groups and huddles would be organized. He asked for consideration of how Trust Fund support could be provided to delegates that are participating outside usual working hours but are unable to do so from home. He suggested consideration of how informal interactions could be facilitated in a virtual meeting.

France said in the circumstances it favoured a virtual session for Working Group I approval. It requested a presentation on the legal aspects of such a move.

The Deputy Secretary responded to the comments noting that the 54th Session of the IPCC and 14th Session of Working Group I is scheduled for July 2021 and the format is yet to be decided. She noted that the briefing note provides information on possible options for holding the approval session for WGI report. The Secretariat took note of the recommendation to focus the discussion at the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC on the implications of holding a virtual approval session for the working Group I report. The timing of the Working Group II and III plenaries is the result of an ongoing process of consultations, but concerns about overlaps between the two working group schedules and the Synthesis Report are noted. The Secretariat took note of the proposal to move the SLCF outline approval to the next cycle and invited the TFI Co-Chairs to comment.

In planning the Session, the Secretariat would do its best to avoid disadvantaging the same time zone(while prioritizing the Co-Chairs, TSU and Secretariat as essential for running the meeting; it will explore collocating these groups. The Secretariat will support improving connectivity and consider using United Nations (UN) hubs, networks, and missions in major centres as necessary. Virtual breakout platforms can also contribute to a successful hybrid meeting. She said that the Secretariat would issue a revised version of the background note ahead of the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC reflecting the comments and feedback recieved before and during the Bureau session.

The Deputy Secretary invited the Legal Officer to comment on the legal items on which advice was sought.

The Legal Officer gave a presentation on the rules for elections including their timing. She noted that Rule 21 of Appendix C requires the Secretary to invite nominations six months or more before the scheduled election. Rule 8 states that the Term of the Bureau shall normally extend approximately one year after the acceptance of the assessment report. It would therefore not be possible to hold elections in December 2022, as that would require the Secretary to invite nominations by June 2022, before consideration of the Synthesis Report.

Mr Greg Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Zatari, Mr Yanda, Vice-Chairs of Working Group II, France, Norway, United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, took the floor.

Speakers stressed the importance of following the rules, and initiating elections only after approval; the value of working with UN bodies in developing countries to facilitate participation in virtual meetings, but the need to address the problem of that time zone falling outside normal working hours; the possibility of organizing contact groups to consider the size and composition of the next Bureau during the Working Group II and III approval sessions; the need to maintain continuity between Technical Support Units (TSUs) in an efficient and timely transition; a timeline for elections; the need to discuss legal aspects of options under the Strategic Planning Schedule (SPS); the need

to frame the SPS as a strategic document pointing a way forward to completion of the assessment rather than simply a reaction to the pandemic; and the need for a discussion on how to ensure developing countries participate effectively in a virtual format and to identify challenges now so that they can be addressed.

The Chair reminded the Bureau that the current discussion should focus on the legal presentation just made, i.e. the timing of elections and transition between cycles.

Speakers highlighted the importance of avoiding too long a transition between the finalization of one report and the new Bureau, Working Groups and TSUs becoming operational; the need to start consideration of the new Bureau as soon as possible; the importance of finding ways forward by identifying difficulties and challenges and seeking solutions; the fact that arrangements for elections are in the mandate of the Panel; the need to avoid further extending an already long cycle; and the need to consider the work of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) that will span two cycles.

The Chair pointed out that the transitions between the Fourth and Fifth Assessment Report cycle and the Fifth Assessment Report and (AR5) and Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle were the same in following the IPCC rules for elections. The Chair further pointed out that the Secretary's letter inviting nominations initiated the process, and expressed concern that the start of the campaign before completion of the assessment would create a distraction.

Mr Zatari, Mr Sergey Semenov, Vice-Chairs of Working Group II, and the United States of America took the floor.

Speakers raised concerns as to adding extra burdens before the completion of the assessment and the importance of focusing on finalizing AR6; the possibility for the ExCom to manage organizational problems such as the term of the TSUs; and the possibility of deciding the size and composition of the next Bureau during 2022 then inviting nominations for the next Bureau soon after the completion of the Synthesis Report.

In response to the comments, the Legal Officer said both principles and precedent can be considered. It was important to ensure that there were dedicated sessions for the approval, adoption and acceptance of reports. Concerns expressed at the 41st Session of the IPCC about the overall regional balance of the Bureau and its term might call for a dedicated session of the Panel, in order not to compete with the time devoted by the Panel to an approval session.

The Chair informed the Bureau that the scoping of the Working Group assessments had begun one year later in the AR6 than in the AR5 because of the need to work on three special reports as frontend tasks in the AR6.

Norway recalled that Bob Watson had been elected as Chair one year in advance of his term. The Chair clarified that this was because there was no contested election, as Bob Watson was the sole candidate and thus elected by acclamation for the Third Assessment Report cycle after which the IPCC established the rules for elections

Mr Ramón Pichs Madruga, Vice-Chair of Working Group III and Germany took the floor.

Speakers noted the difference between dedicated Working Group sessions for approval of a report and the subsequent Panel session; and the need to look beyond past practice given the unprecedented circumstances; and the need to avoid distracting from concluding the assessment.

The Chair invited comments on other items for consideration in this agenda item, including enhancing the participation of developing countries in virtual meetings.

Mr Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Pius Yanda, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, and Ms Ko Barrett, IPCC Vice-Chair, Norway, United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America took the floor.

Speakers noted there had not been a formal decision to reject option 3 in the background note although concerns were raised; pointed out the difficulty of holding a physical meeting in mid-2021; urged consideration of any ideas that would improve participation; asked for the Final Government Distribution of Working Group I to be extended by one week to its original eight weeks if necessary through a postponement of the approval session; pointed to the challenges for some countries of participating in a session of two weeks and the difficulties that some countries would experience in different time zones with a virtual session; and stressed the need to ensure the broadest possible participation in any virtual meeting; the possibility of encouraging more governments to make comments in the Final Government Distribution stage to anticipate work in the approval session; the need to consider how a meeting will be handled if developing country delegates are unable to join remotely; the risks to scientific quality from delay, including the retention of authors, the perception that the report becomes disconnected from current science as time since the literature cut-off date elapses, and the risks of leaks that lead to texts becoming the accepted norm without a formal IPCC approval process; the need to identify the challenges of a remote meeting and finding solutions; the unique IPCC process bringing together the science and policymaking communities both of whose interests need to be accommodated; and the opportunity to bring more government comments into the process from the Final Government Distribution, which does not require connectivity.

Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, took the floor. She noted the experience of the authors working online for a year with no authors left behind; the fact that the current situation is a stress test for the IPCC, and that it is impossible to say when a physical meeting might be possible. She said that in her view endlessly postponing approval is not an option because authors, chapter scientists and TSU staff will not be available indefinitely. The Working Group I report is based on literature available up to January this year and would risk becoming outdated if delayed further. Limiting the gap between the Final Government Distribution mitigates the risk of a leak. The Working Group I Final Government Distribution cannot be delivered before 3 May, but an extension of the review period from then would be difficult for authors who have already planned around the July approval date; many of them have other commitment to consider in the subsequent months. Working Group I will work with the Secretariat to facilitate clarification questions during the review. Consultations with all Focal Points to identify barriers to participation in remote meetings and possible solutions would be useful.

Mr Zatari, Vice-Chair Working Group II, Mr Skea, Co-Chair Working Group III, Mr Youba Sokona, IPCC Vice-Chair, France and Mexico took the floor.

Speakers highlighted the challenges for developing countries of working at an approval session on a remote basis, including the implications for consultation between countries and the challenge of moving to a virtual process during a process initiated as physical; the advantages of focusing on the process of moving through the different review stages to approval rather than on the difference between physical and virtual formats; the advantage of identifying opportunities earlier in the process than the approval session to interact with governments; the need to recognize that the IPCC is operating in an abnormal situation and must adjust behaviours; the fact that the IPCC cannot guarantee technical issues such as the provision of electric power which must be handled at the country level; the need to see what opportunities there are to enhance developing country participation; the need to avoid further delays; and the need to find long-term solutions to travel disruptions that may become more frequent under climate change.

The Deputy Secretary, expressed the hope that the discussion would help improved the document for consideration by the Panel. She said it could be reframed as a strategic document focused on moving forward rather than one starting with the challenges of COVID-19. The document notes the challenges and concerns and came up with options to address the challenges as assessed by the

ExCom and the Secretariat, for instance by trying to address the digital divide between developed and developing countries. Given that it is not possible to convert everything from a physical to a virtual setting, the document reflects the optimism that a hybrid option will be possible. By the time of the Working Group I approval, the situation may allow some collocation of participants in different places. She noted that there was agreement that approval could not be postponed in an openended manner. She informed the Bureau that ExCom concluded that the third option of postponement until a full in-person meeting is possible was not feasible.

Mr Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, noted it was up to Member countries in the Panel to decide on options not the ExCom or even the Bureau.

The Secretary informed that a Bureau session would be dedicated to the preparations for the 54th Session of the IPCC and 14th Session of Working Group I, drawing on the conclusions from this meeting and the views of other Member countries at the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC the following week.

Ms Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair Working Group I, said there may be volunteers among Focal Points who could help the Secretariat consult with different countries on obstacles that could block participation and inclusivity and how to overcome them.

The Legal Officer presented the legal implications from holding a virtual session which is attached as Annex 2 following the request from the Chair for the statement to be included in the report of the meeting. Noted were the significance of the context of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the pressing need for the IPCC to fulfil its mandate to approve, adopt and accept assessment reports, while balancing such considerations with IPCC fundamental values and principles. Principles of participation and equitable representation were emphasized as essential in such considerations, in particular given the identified barrier of a possible digital divide between developed and developing countries. It was pointed out that fair, inclusive and transparent processes were necessary for electronic meetings so that all Members are able to meaningfully participate in review and approval. As the electronic scenario observed lacked replication of the conditions needed for full participation, solutions were to be sought towards ameliorating the digital divide, for participation and representation on a basis ensuring retention of IPCC values and principles.

Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Edvin Aldrian, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Fatima Driouech, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, Ms Thelma Krug, IPCC Vice-Chair, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania took the floor.

Speakers concluded that inclusive and equitable participation was required under the IPCC mandate but virtual meetings were not excluded as such; noted that the IPCC does not have constituencies; said the hybrid option was a promising option for consideration by the Panel; said that solutions for balanced representation should be identified before proceeding with schedule meetings; noted that a physical meeting would require quarantine before and after for many participants as well as vaccines and travel; stressed the need to focus on solutions to the challenges; noted the dangers of postponing the approval session as well as the concerns of developing countries around inclusiveness; said that the concerns of developing countries were not only technical and that there was no consensus for a virtual meeting; noted the importance of authors communicating with each other during an approval session and said UN bodies or hotels may be able to host local or regional delegates; said the spirit of voluntarism among authors was being tested by the long and difficult cycle and the position of the scientists had to be reflected; noted the challenges to using the Internet in some regions; said the Secretariat could survey governments to see whether sufficient connectivity was available in their country and where not then other means should be found; noted that disruptions to the power supply in some countries

could prevent connectivity as much poor Internet availability; and noted that some participants have extra family and social issues to contend with in the pandemic.

The Chair confirmed that the legal advice would be made available, and said the Panel would decide how to organize the 54th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-54) and the 14th Session of Working Group I (WGI-14) and the Bureau would advise it.

The Bureau noted the urgent actions implemented by the ExCom since the 59th Session of the Bureau, provided guidance to the Secretariat on the provisional timelines for AR6, and will continue to provide guidance to the Secretariat as the body responsible for the Strategic Planning Schedule.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS

5.1 Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

The Secretary informed the Bureau that comments were submitted by Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, in which he noted Section 7 on the *Worlds Apart* graphic and mentioned that they are pleased that this will be branded as a WGI product because the WGIII Bureau has significant reservations about the selection of material. We note that the material is still on the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) section of the website and hence branded IPCC overall.

Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I thanked the WGI AR6 authors and the Technical Support Unit for their dedication to deliver a high-quality product despite the difficult pandemic-related conditions. She informed the Bureau that: the Final Government Distribution (FGD) was completed; eight Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) virtual meetings were held from October 2020 to February 2021; two WGI Chapter 6 Lead Authors (LAs) took over the coordinating role after it was decided that the previousCLAs would become LAs; owing to the extension of the WGI AR6 drafting period, an additional internal review of the FGD chapters by WGI authors, selected authors from WGII and WGIII, invited experts and some WGI Bureau members was conducted from November to December 2020. The text was made available to all authors to ensure equitable participation in the internal review; an internal review of the WGI AR6 Technical Summary (TS), which will serve as a bridge between the relatively short Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and the underlying chapters, received more than 2500 review comments; more than 60 WGI authors participated in a one-hour media training session which was conducted by a Science Communication Specialist; a WGI virtual Fourth Lead Author Meeting (LAM4) was held in February 2021. An inclusive and participatory online working environment for all authors was successfully established and implemented; the LAM4 featured a writeshop on the TS and a webinar on the science-policy interface, which was meant the help authors figure out how they would inform decision-making processes; a real-time survey was conducted during the LAM4. Authors suggested the development of publication which would capture the unique experience of finalizing the WGI AR6 through an inclusive and participatory online approach; a co-design process of the SPM figures was underway whose aims are to use figures to clearly communicate a limited number of key findings, to have a coherent visual narrative across figures, and to have a visual balance with the figures and the text; a consultation process with governments and Bureau members was initiated to solicit views on how to make figures more clear; an infographic based on one cross-chapter box of the SR1.5 was translated into five UN languages; a WGI blog which reports on ongoing activities was launched as well as a figure manager that is expected to help in centralizing information on figures, enhance the traceability of figures and their history.

Mr Gregory Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I and the United Republic of Tanzania took the floor.

The progress made by WGI in the midst of the pandemic-related difficulties and the initiatives taken were commended. Other comments and suggestions included: determining the expected frequency of updating the blog; the importance of recognizing the unprecedented extra workload on the author team and the TSUs, and to ensure that the AR6 is approved in a timely manner and published in a timely manner.

The Bureau took note of the WGI progress report.

5.2 Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

The Secretary informed the Bureau that the were no comments received on this report.

Ms Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of Working Group II (WGII) informed the Bureau that: the WGII Second Order Draft (SOD) which was submitted by authors to the TSU on 6 November 2020 underwent expert and government review from December 2020 – January 2021; less than 1200 experts from 89 countries and 41 governments submitted more than 40,000 review comments; during the SOD review period, a series of webinars were organized in partnership with some organizations to inform early career researchers and interested scientists about the work of the IPCC, WGII AR6 work, the IPCC calibrated uncertainly language, and engaging with the IPCC as an Expert Reviewer; the WGII Virtual Fourth Lead Author Meeting (eLAM4) which was held virtually from 1 – 5 and 8 – 12 March 2021 at the invitation of the Government of Guatemala was attended by over 260 participants from more than 60 countries; WGI and WGIII authors, their Bureau members and their TSU representatives participated in the WGII eLAM4 to address topics of mutual interests across Working Groups (WGs); a media briefing and two virtual outreach events were held during the eLAM4.

Mr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II informed the Bureau about the challenges they experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in changes in WGII AR6 timelines. In April 2020, the IPCC Executive Committee considered a 4-month extension in the WGII schedule which resulted in a tentative shift in the literature cut-off date to 1st September 2021, delivery of the Final Government Distribution was postponed to 3 September 2021, government review of the Summary for Policymakers was postponed to 1 October – 26 November 2021, and the WGII approval Plenary will be held from 28 February – 4 March 2022. He mentioned: the IPCC-IPBES Co-Sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change which was held virtually from 14 – 17 December 2020 and attended by more than 50 participants. The workshop report was expected to undergo peer-review prior to its publication around June 2021; and the preparation of the ICOMOS¹/UNESCO²/IPCC Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage, and Climate Change scheduled for late in 2021. The Scientific Steering Committee was established and a proposal for the meeting was considered by the IPCC Executive Committee at its 80th Meeting.

The Bureau took note of the WGII progress report.

5.3 Working Group III Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

The Secretary informed the Bureau that two comments were received from Roger Fradera, Head of Working Group III TSU (Operations) and Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III (WGIII). A correction was made that the provisional date for Government Review of the WGIII AR6 SPM should be August 2021 instead of October 2021, which had been mentioned in the video presentation that was submitted before the Bureau Session. It was also mentioned that the stakeholder sessions which were described at the end of Section 6 of document BUR-LX/INF.3 were held before the 60th Session of the Bureau (BUR-60).

¹ International Council on Monuments and Sites

² The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III reported that: a series of review sessions were run with authors and representatives from governments, and key stakeholder groups including business and environmental non-government organizations (NGOs) were held during the WGIII Second Order Draft (SOD) review period, with the support of Climate Action Network and the International Chamber of Commerce; the review of the WGIII SOD by experts and governments ended on 14th March 2021. About 32,500 comments were provided by about 850 reviewers; the review comments revealed that the structure and narrative of the SPM broadly works; there was a request to run the stakeholder workshops again during the review of the WGIII SPM; WGIII eLAM4 was scheduled to take place on 19-23 April 2021, virtually hosted by Italy; they would reconsider their schedule particularly the feasibility to submit the WGIII Final Government Distribution in August 2021; the WGIII TSU and authors have put an extraordinary effort to continue working on the AR6; the COVID-19 lockdowns have levelled the playing field in terms of the collaborative operation within the two components of the WGIII TSU, one based in London, United Kingdom and the other in Ahmedabad, India.

Mr Priyadarshi Shukla, Co-Chair of Working Group III, added that the establishment of the component of the WGIII TSU in India was experimental. There are lessons learnt which might be helpful in future.

France, Germany and Norway took the floor.

The progress made by WGIII in their contribution to the AR6 was commended. Other comments and suggestions were: that WGIII works with the Secretariat to prepare options for rescheduling their timeline in the Strategic Planning Schedule, particularly the timing of the review periods, and present the options for the consideration of the Panel during the IPCC-53 (bis) Session; the work on communication, stakeholder engagements and cross-WG collaboration was encouraged; the cross-Working Group (WG) collaboration could pay more attention on topics such as nature-based solutions and short-lived climate forcers.

Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, in his closing remarks informed the Bureau that the WGIII TSU had a virtual retreat where the issue of rescheduling the WGIII timeline was considered. The feasible options would be discussed by the WGIII Bureau and also presented to the authors to inform them about the consequences of alternative decisions.

The Bureau took note of the WGIII progress report.

5.4 Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report

The Secretary informed the Bureau that one comment was received from the Government of Japan requesting clarity between the roles of the Synthesis Repot (SYR) Core Writing Team (CWT) and the Extended CWT. The response received from the Head of the SYR TSU indicated that the Extended CWT is appointed to deliver contributions in areas where the CWT lacks expertise. The CWT identifies the needs as the drafting process progresses and proposes Extended CWT members in order to cover gaps in expertise.

The Chair reiterated that the Extended CWT aims to fill gaps in expertise and enhance the geographic balance and introduced document BUR-LX/INF.2. He informed the Bureau that: the CWT had their first meeting (CWT-1) at the end of January 2021 and thanked the authors and Bureau members who serve as the SYR Scientific Steering Committee (SSC); Section author teams were developing a pre-draft while also working on their main Working Group assessment.

Ms Noemie Leprince-Ringuet, Head of the Synthesis Report (SYR) Technical Support Unit (TSU) mentioned that: six weeks after CWT-1 the SSC held a meeting with members of the CWT who serve as Section Facilitators to provide an update of the AR6 SYR development; the CWT was developing the AR6 SYR towards a pre-draft which would be submitted for an internal review in May 2021; the SYR TSU was working in consultation with the WG TSUs to develop an appropriate

revised schedule; notwithstanding the difficult circumstances and apparent fatigue, the level of engagement of the CWT was commendable.

Jan Fuglestvedt, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I and Japan took the floor.

There was a question about the timing of the selecting members of the Extended CWT and how these experts will be involved in the SYR drafting process. A concern was raised that the current CWT does not reflect the necessary geographic balance particularly in Asia. Other comments and suggestions were: that the extra-ordinary effort of the authors and TSUs towards the completion of the AR6 and their contribution to the CWT was commended; webinars which would discuss cross-WG topics and sharing of FGD key findings were encouraged; there is need for support for the Head of SYR TSU in her work such as the design of SYR figures which might not be identical to those in the WG reports; to allow at least two weeks interval between IPCC meetings such as the IPCC-54 and CWT-2.

The Chair of the IPCC mentioned that the Extended CWT would be selected whenever the needs are identified by the CWT and eventually approved by the Bureau.

The Bureau took note of the SYR progress report.

5.5 Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that the were no comments received.

Mr Eduardo Calvo, Co-Chair of the TFI, informed the Bureau that: as part of preparatory work on short-lived climate forcers (SLCF), the TFI TSU started compiling source categories and have produced a preliminary comparative analysis of different available methodologies for estimating emissions of SLCF; two Expert Meetings on SLCF-related topics were tentatively deferred to September in Rome, Italy and October 2021 in Istanbul, Turkey; the expected participants to the Expert Meetings were requested to carry out some deskwork to collect information on significant source categories of SLCF emissions and associated datasets; the TFI TSU continued to improve the IPCC Inventory Software and supporting its users. A new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) webpage was developed on the TFI website. The latest version of the software incorporated a new land representation in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector; the TFI TSU was helping inventory compilers to better understand the software through outreach events organized by other international organizations such as the UNFCCC and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the 32nd meeting of the Task Force Bureau was held virtually from 11 – 12 November 2020; the next meeting of the Task Force Bureau would be held back-to-back with the Expert Meeting on SLCF; the Expert meeting on data for the Emission Factor Database (EFDB) and the meeting of the EFDB Editorial Board were scheduled to be held virtually from April to May 2021.

The Bureau took note of the TFI progress report.

5.6 Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments

The Secretary informed the Bureau that comments were received from Germany, United Kingdom and Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III. The comments: suggested that it should be explicitly mentioned that the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA) have submitted a bid to an open competition to be re-appointed as the supplier of the United Kingdom (UK) component of the Data Distribution Centre (DDC); sought clarity on what constitutes climate change related data resulting from the activities of the IPCC. It was noted that the AR6 scenarios database hosted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) faciliated by the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium (IAMC) is arguably outside the IPCC fence. In response, Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data) Co-chairs were of the view that the AR6 scenarios database has a similar status as the CMIP6³ data. It is a key source data of the IPCC assessment process and the exact version used in each AR should be snapshotted, put into a trusted long-term archive and given a DOI. In this case, this could either be done directly at IIASA⁴, or the data could be duplicated and stored at the DDC; remarked that DKRZ⁵ has a core funding of about 0.5 FTE⁶. They would be applying for funding to continue supporting the large-scale data archival of CMIP6, and suggested that the text in the report could be edited to reflect this; noted that there were a number of recommendations which were made by TG-Data in their progress report that should be considered from a legal perspective and would require the approval of the Panel, such as the long-term commitments and licensing policies.

Mr David Huard, Co-Chair of the TG-Data through a video presentation reported that : three virtual meetings for the Task Group were held in October and November 2020 during with TG-Data Subgroups made considerable progress towards achieving their medium-term objectives; the procedure for transferring final data underlying figures and tables in WGI AR6 to the United Kingdom DDC node was developed and presented to authors and Chapter Scientists through a webinar on 8th February 2021; WGI TSU was expected to start transferring data to the DDC in April 2021; WGI would finalize the catalog of records around September 2021; links to datasets archived at the DDC would be provided to the TSU around October 2021 for inclusion in the online version of the WGI AR6; around December, the WGI TSU would transfer data and software to the Secretariat; the review of the code used in WGI Interactive Atlas had been completed; the INFORM datasets used by WGII were archived at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN); data upload trials by WGII and WGIII would be undertaken towards the end of 2021; CEDA⁷ applied for IPCC DDC related funding; CIESIN was funded up to July 2021 with a possibility for an extension; DKRZ has 0.5 FTE funding; there could be delays in the curation of CMIP6 at DKRZ; the usage reports of DDC material revealed that data held at DKRZ from previous assessment cycles were still being downloaded; the IPCC licensing used for the reports cannot be applied to final data curated at the DDC because it restricts scientific reuse of the data by prohibiting commercial use and sharing of derivative products without IPCC approval. TG-Data recommended that IPCC data could be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License; CMIP6, which are key datasets, are licensed under a Creative Commons Sharealike license. The implications are that CMIP6 derivatives including some IPCC final data products should also be licensed under same sharealike license. TG-Data recommended that the IPCC could request a waiver from CMIP6 data providers to allow the IPCC to license CMIP6 derivatives and data included in the WGI Interactive Atlas under a Creative Commons Attribution License.

Edvin Aldrian, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III and Germany took the floor.

Comments and suggestions included: clarity on whether the licensing issues would be resolved so that the CMIP6 data used by IPCC would be publicly available and if there were similar licensing matters which require the attention of the Bureau; clarity on whether the AR6 Scenarios database constituted climate-change related data resulting from activities of the IPCC; the implications of the 0.5FTE available at DKRZ; Germany supported the DDC for more than 20 years. The expectation was that the support would be continued.

Mr David Huard in his response mentioned that: they were intending to engage WGI to request WCRP⁸ for a waiver to allow the IPCC to distribute the datasets identified in the AR6; there were

³ Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase6

⁴ International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

⁵ Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum

⁶ full-time equivalent

⁷ Centre for Environmental Data Analysis, UK

⁸ World Climate Research Programme

some other data and licensing issues such as those used by WGIII. In some cases, ad-hoc Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) were drawns to address the licensing issues; the AR6 Scenarios database is provided by external providers and IIASA is the holder of the copyright. There is an MoU governing the use of the Scenarios data; the consequence of the 0.5 FTE at DKRZ was a possible delay in the archival of CMIP6 datasets.

The Bureau took note of the TG-Data progress report.

5.7 Communications and outreach activities

Mr Jonathan Lynn, Senior Communications Manager, presented the progress reports on Communications and Outreach Activities, document BUR-LX/INF.1,Rev.1 and on IPCC Communications Materials, document BUR-LX/INF.10. He reported that two written comments had been received in advance.

Mr Reisinger asked for the progress report on communications and outreach to be amended with information about progress in publishing the three AR6 Special Reports, plans for publishing AR6, and the assignment of DOIs.

Germany asked for further details of three items mentioned in the report: the "youth outreach art initiative", the special issue of "Climatic Change", and the Africa outreach initiative.

Mr Lynn reported that since the 59th Session of the Bureau in October 2020 the communications team has continued to raise the visibility of the IPCC through intensive communications and outreach work. Unlike other organizations the IPCC does not have the capacity to measure in depth the impacts of its communications activities. However, the team is looking at how to enhance this area of work, and it was clear that the IPCC voice is influential and policy-relevant. Mr Lynn drew the attention of the Bureau to two things regarding the impact of the communications work: an article by Bloomberg on the impact of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and monitoring of 120 international institutions by audience consultancy AKAS showed that in December 2020 the IPCC ranked 17th in terms of "backlinks" – numbers of organizations linking to our website.

In the period under review press releases were issued about the advances and milestones in preparations for the Sixth Assessment Report. Attention was drawn to the Fifty-third Session of the Panel, which was the first virtual plenary.

The Communications Action Team (CAT) met 4 times by teleconference. One of the main focuses of its meetings was the review of the Communications Strategy requested by the Executive Committee (ExCom). Among other things it also discussed the youth outreach art initiative organized by the United Nations Foundation (UNF) in support of the IPCC; the special issue of Climatic Change on IPCC communications and training for authors on how to communicate with policymakers. A cross-working group and TFI meeting with the Co-Chairs took place (February 2021) to discuss coherence of messaging across AR6 and provide leadership from Co-Chairs on this.

Despite the pandemic, the communications team continues to maintain the momentum in the outreach programme with a large number of virtual events. The Chair delivered keynote addresses at the Science for Adaptation Action: Nobel Laureate High Level Dialogue (22 January 2021) and Climate Ambition Summit (12 December 2020).

A note was issued on the status of Expert Reviewers of IPCC reports. The IPCC is running a survey to improve the way AR6 will be presented on the website.

Mr Lynn also presented the highlights of the Progress Report on IPCC Communications Materials (BUR-LX/INF.10). He recalled that this item goes back to the 57th Session of the Bureau in October 2019, where the proposal to develop communications materials for diverse audiences under the

leadership of the relevant Co-Chairs was discussed and the Bureau asked for the document to be updated to reflect these discussions. Mr Lynn reported that the document was updated accordingly (BUR-LX/INF.10). The proposal outlined in this document will be piloted with materials for audiences in Africa which are developed under the authority of the Co-Chairs to communicate the three Special Reports of the Sixth Assessment Cycle and to be presented at two regional outreach events in May 2021.

Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Mark Howden, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Ms Joy Pereira, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group III and the United Republic of Tanzania took the floor.

Mr Taha Zatari made a proposal for an interactive regional event for youth and women to be hosted by Saudi Arabia with the participation of IPCC high-level speakers.

Other points made by speakers included the importance of outreach activities and the need for interactive and comprehensive events stimulating participation in the IPCC work especially in developing countries.

A clarification was requested regarding the youth outreach art initiative organized by the United Nations Foundation (UNF) in support of the IPCC, the special issue of Climatic Change on IPCC communications and the Africa outreach materials.

Other points made included matters related to the publication of the IPCC reports, the relevant procurement process, the involvement of the WMO and the participation of Bureau Members in the process to bring the relevant expertise. The importance of digital object identifiers (DOIs) was highlighted with proper citations for both review editors and authors as a recognition for academics and an enabling tool to participate in the IPCC process.

Responding to the comments, Mr Lynn clarified that the matter of publications was to be discussed under Agenda Item 5.8 (Informal Group on Publications) and has a relevant document (BUR-LX/INF.7). Nevertheless, as the topic was raised, he announced that working with the executive management of WMO and fully in line with WMO rules the previously agreed contract was reviewed and extended to a high-ranking scientific publisher with previous experience in handling IPCC publications. Mr Lynn expressed his gratitude to the IPCC Secretary and Deputy Secretary, the IPCC Legal Officer, WMO legal team and WMO executive management. His words of appreciation were joined by the IPCC Secretary Mr Abdalah Mokssit. Working Group III Co-Chair Mr Jim Skea, who chairs the Informal Group on Publications, noted that these discussions were an introduction to the relevant item on publications.

Responding to the other comments, Mr Lynn explained that the youth outreach art initiative consists amongst other things of a series of outreach events which have been developed on the IPCC behalf by the United Nations Foundation (UNF). This support is highly welcomed as the initiative is labourintensive and requires setting up a separate website. In addition, it includes a call for art works which aims without having a selective process to interact with young people. All art submitted will be displayed on the website while some of it may be used by the TSUs for AR6 and relevant outreach and communications materials. The outreach events will be moderated by the members of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change of the UN Secretary-General.

Mr Lynn explained that the journal Climatic Change decided to run a special issue on IPCC communications and various people inside the IPCC including from the communications team in the Secretariat, the TSUs and the Bureau are providing some technical articles about the experience working on different aspects around the communications for AR6. The issue should come out later this year and stimulate interest in the work of the IPCC.

As for the Africa outreach materials, Mr Lynn recalled that the plan was to organize a series of outreach events for Africa in 2019 and 2020, but after conducting the first event, the pandemic led to postponing the rest. Therefore, it is planned now to have two virtual events in May in English and in French and then when possible to continue with the events in person. Communications materials

focused on the three Special Reports of the Sixth Assessment Cycle are being prepared under the authority of the Working Group Co-Chairs. This information is highlighted in both progress reports presented under this agenda item (BUR-LX/INF.1,Rev.1 and BUR-LX/INF.10). The relevant materials are designed in a way to speak to the diverse audiences in Africa and remain based on the approved text of the Report.

The Bureau took note of the progress reports on Communications and Outreach Activities and on IPCC Communications Materials.

5.8 Informal Group on Publications

The Secretary, introduced the item and summarized the written comment received in advance.

Germany welcomed the recommendations in the report, and called for clear referencing and timely publication of IPCC products, as well as the exploration of options to help authors be recognized through referencing. Technical issues on publication should be managed by the Bureau not the Panel.

Mr Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III and Chair of the Informal Group on Publications, recalled that the Informal Group on Publications (IG Pub) had been established at the 57th Session of the Bureau in Singapore in October 2019, because of the lack of specific references to publications in the Principles and Procedures; up to the Fifth Assessment Report publications had been managed on the basis of undocumented practices. Scientists had been unhappy at delays to printing report in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle. The publication of the three AR6 special reports was not part of the IG Pub mandate, which was to make long-term recommendations, given that IPCC reports are of importance to poth policymakers and scientists. Mr Skea thanked the Working Group III Technical Support Unit for supporting the IG Pub. The group had set up three sub-groups whose unedited reports are included in annexes and were reconciled into the main report.

The IG Pub had examined three areas, one for each sub-group, and made a set of recommendations to the Bureau:

- Acceptance and publication of Special Reports, Working Group Assessment Reports and the Synthesis Report. It had agreed that the digital version should go online within two days, and formatted text should go to publishers within six months (a process usually taking three months). This work interacts with the error protocol, bit the group recommends no amendment to the online report if any errors are confirmed. (The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) has a different approach for its Methodology Reports.)
- Procurement. The group recommended that this process should remain with the WMO, but draw on the expertise of scientists to advise on technical specifications including defining acceptable publishers for IPCC reports, forming a publications board for each assessment cycle, and participating in the Technical Evaluation Board for a procurement process.
- 3. Current scientific publishing practices. The group recommended that the IPCC should use current science publishing practices such as minting and curating Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) so that IPCC products may be listed in standard scientific databases.

He noted the group's work did not include the question of translations.

Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Sergey Semenov, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Edvin Aldrian, Vice Chair of Working Group I, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway and Saudi Arabia took the floor.

Speakers thanked the Informal Group on Publications for its good work. They asked whether the group's mandate could be extended to cover translation, and if possible make recommendations before the approval of the Working Group I report; discussed the option of appointing scientific editors to work with the WMO translators; underlined the importance of assigning DOIs to IPCC products and their components and establishing downloadable citations by the end of the year; urged consideration of translation into other languages, particularly those with large numbers of speakers, as well as the official UN languages if the mandate is extended to translation; suggested a review process for translation; ensuring the recognition for scientists through modern scientific publishing practices, and forwarding the recommendations to the Panel; involving government representatives in translation work; recognizing that widely spoken languages may have different national standards; the potential for machine translation; and the value of translating texts for spreading awareness of IPCC products.

Mr Skea thanked speakers for their comments and said the questions was whether Bureau endorsed the recommendations of the Informal Group on Publications. He noted that all speakers had referred to the question of translation. If the mandate is extended to cover this then the membership should be refreshed to bring in the necessary experience and expertise.

The Secretary said that the Informal Group on Publications had been tasked and had delivered. The Secretariat had noted the recommendations made in the discussion.

The Chair noted there was no disagreement about extending the group's mandate, and it appeared there was an endorsement of its other recommendations, including that the Bureau should develop guidance on publications procedures and should establish a publications committee to advise the Secretariat on technical aspects of publications.

Mr Zatari and Germany took the floor, saying that Bureau members from the regions could contribute to translation work, asking whether a decision by the Bureau would need to be based on a document "DOC", that it would not be a matter for the Panel if the Bureau established guidelines, and as a scientific matter it was more in the purview of the Bureau than the Panel but could perhaps wait until the next Session.

The Secretary recalled that the group had been established as an Informal Group by the Bureau and been tasked to report to the Bureau. The way forward was for the Bureau to take note of its report and recommendations and the proposal to extend the mandate to translation, which would be recorded in the report of the Session. The Bureau can also invite the Secretariat to take the necessary action to implement its conclusions and prepare the follow-up work on translation. He agreed this was a matter for the Bureau not the Panel.

Mr Greg Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, and France took the floor.

Speakers supported the view this was a Bureau matter, cautioned against delaying the start of the group's work on translation otherwise Working Group I would not benefit, and asked how the recommendations would be implemented.

The Secretary noted that the Secretariat provides reports to the Bureau on many activities. The Bureau could task the Secretariat to follow up on the extension of the mandate to translation and ask that this be done before the 54th Session of the IPCC; this could be a matter for the ExCom to discuss. Whether the Bureau requests implementation or refers the matter to the Panel, the Secretariat would look into it.

Mr Skea noted that the recommendations of the group were carefully worded to raise the option of the Secretariat forwarding the report to the Panel and of the Panel including integrating guidance on publications into a future review of principles and procedures, but these points were not essential.

Mr Zatari, Mr Mark Howden, Vice-Chairs of Working Group II, Germany and Norway took the floor.

Speakers discussed the process for implementing the recommendations to the Bureau, and the extension of the mandate of the group to cover translation, and whether the document provided for consideration had the necessary status to serve as a basid for decisions.

The Secretary said it would suffice for the Bureau to take note of the document, but the Bureau could take other decisions in parallel. He said the next session of the Bureau (the 60th (bis) Session after Easter) would be fully dedicated to preparations for the 54th Session of the IPCC/14th Session of Working Group I, and would not provide an opportunity to discuss these matters. The Bureau could either take note of the document and recommendations and ask the Secretariat to work on implementation, or take note and resubmit the document to the next Session of the Bureau in a document "Doc" format.

Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, and Ms Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair of Working Group III took the floor and stressed the importance of completing and implementing the work on publications.

Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, France and Germany took the floor.

Speakers proposed getting legal advice to put the necessary action on a firm basis, the importance of delivering the proposals before the approval of the Working Group I report, and discussed the decision-making process.

The Bureau took note of the report by the Informal Group on Publications and extended its mandate to cover translation; the Bureau decided to provide guidance for the next steps; and the Bureau asked the Secretariat to provide an implementation plan and report back to the Bureau as soon as possible.

5.9 Gender Action Team

The IPCC Secretary informed Bureau Members that there were no comments received prior to the meeting.

Ms Ko Barret, the Chair of the Gender Action Team (GAT) introduced the document BUR-LX/INF.11. She noted that the start of work of the GAT was delayed due to the pandemic. She informed the Panel that during the 87th Meeting of the ExCom, the Secretariat reported on the steps taken to establish the GAT including sending letters requesting nominations of representatives from the WMO and UNEP. The GAT held its first meeting on 12 February 2021 where the group elected Ko Barret and Thelma Krug as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The GAT also took an initial look at the steps and actions that need to be taken as stipulated in the Implementation Plan and a further discussion on this will happen during the next meeting to be held as soon as possible after this meeting. During the next meeting the GAT will start assessing capacity needed to effectively implement the Implementation Plan.

She noted an example of a real time issue that the GAT could look at was the discussion on the impact of COVID-19 and care giving duties mentioned in the chat.

Ms Valérie Manson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Fatima Driouech, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Norway, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom took the floor.

Bureau Members and government representatives were very pleased that the GAT has been established and were looking forward to working together on the matter.

Among issues raised was the issue of people being more conscious about how members address each other in meetings. Others expressed the wish to see a more gender aware Sixth Assessment

Report (AR6) given the gender dimensions of vulnerability to climate change and fair transitions as there is growing literature on this although current drafts of the Working II and III contributions to AR6 do not have this information. There was a suggestion that this could be handled as a cross Working Group issue. There was also a suggestion that ahead of the Seventh Assessment cycle it would be good to look at positions that have never been held by a woman and develop a practical plan on how this could be corrected. There was also a question of whether there were men on the GAT.

In response, the Chair of the GAT, Ko Barret thanked members for the encouraging words and the suggested topics for GAT to consider including participation in leadership positions and how gender is addressed in IPCC products. She retaliated the importance of everyone being aware of addressing each other equitably especially not to fall prey to unconscious biases. She informed the meeting that during the first GAT meeting the entire ExCom participated in the first meeting and therefore there are many men on the group. She noted that the full membership of the GAT still needs to be looked at in order to strike the right balance between being inclusive and challenging schedule with the Working Groups being very busy with the AR6 report. She added that the GAT will also look at how to involve TSUs in the GAT as they are so close to the work and have already taken a lead in IPCC gender efforts and it is crucial that this work is taken forward.

The Bureau took note of the report of the Gender Action Team.

5.10 Secretariat Staffing, roles and requirements

The Secretary, introduced the item, and reported that one written comment had been received in advance.

Germany said the agenda item should not be classified as a progress report but as an agenda item with a "Doc" for decision. It said this was more a matter for the Panel than the Bureau, and that Panel decisions involving finance should be prepared by the Financial Task Team (FiTT).

Mr Jonathan Lynn, Senior Communications Manager, presented the document.

Mr Youba Sokona, IPCC Vice-Chair, Ms Thelma Krug, IPCC Vice-Chair, Germany and Norway took the floor.

Speakers asked about the delays in filling posts approved by the Panel, asked about the process for authorizing recruitments, expressed thanks for the work undertaken by the Secretariat, expressed concern about the size of the Secretariat given the amount of work required, and invited the Chair to intervene with the WMO to speed up recruitment matters.

The Secretary said the document would remain as an information document "INF", and the content and Bureau conclusions would be reported to the Panel. He recalled that Morocco had offered to provide IT experts to support the Secretariat pending the recruitment of the new post, and noted that secondments of staff under the Junior Professional Officer programme would be recorded as contributions in kind.

The Bureau took note of the report and requested the Secretariat to provide the Panel with an updated version.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary noted that there were no items under this agenda item.

7. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 60TH (bis) SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

The IPCC Secretary informed that the Bureau will be meeting for the second part of its 60th Session, the 60th (bis) Session of the Bureau on 6 - 7 April 2021. The session will be virtual and the main item on the agenda will be the preparations for IPCC-54.

Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II and Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair of Working Group III took the floor.

There was a suggestion to consider other time zones when arranging the times for Bureau Sessions as had been done for the 53rd Session of the IPCC. Another issue that was noted was that the agenda for BUR-60(bis) is preparations for IPCC-54 and WGI-14 whose set up and modalities have not yet been agreed by the Panel. It was further noted that it would have been better to set up the time and date of the Bureau Session to discuss preparations for the approval session after the Panel completes its deliberations on the issue. The intensity of the current schedule of meetings was also noted.

The Secretariat took note of these remarks and with that the Chair concluded discussion on this subject.

8. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

In his closing remarks the Chair thanked Bureau members and government representatives for the collegial way in which they have worked during this meeting which discussed various essential items including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the AR6 schedule. He appreciated the constructive feedback and noted that this will be reflected when the issue is presented to the Panel the following week. He noted that despite the challenges faced as reflected in the progress reports, this meeting has helped us to better prepare to the task ahead.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the organizing the meeting. He thanked, the Working Group, TFI and TG-Data Co-Chairs for their continued efforts despite the challenges resulting from the pandemic. He further thanked the IPCC authors for their inspiring contribution.

He looked forward to seeing everyone when they meet again on 6 to 7 April for the 60th (bis) Sesion of the Bureau.

The Chair declared the session closed at 16.30 p.m.

ANNEX 1

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON Climate change

IPCC BUREAU – FIFTY-NINTH SESSION Electronic Session, 13 – 14 October 2020

BUR-LIX/Doc. 1 (16.IX.2020) Agenda Item: 1 ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 58TH SESSION OF THE BUREAU
- 3. REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING IPCC WORK
- 4. SECRETARIAT STAFFING, ROLES AND REQUIREMENTS
- 5. AR6 STRATEGIC PLANNING SCHEDULE
- 6. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

7. PROGRESS REPORTS

- 7.1 Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report
- 7.2 Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report
- 7.3 Working Group III Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report
- 7.4 Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report
- 7.5 Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- 7.6 Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments
- 7.7 Communications and outreach activities

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 60TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

10. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

Legal considerations for the IPCC in respect of the holding of virtual plenary and working group approval sessions in context of COVID-19

We understand that there are concerns on the holding of virtual plenary and working group sessions for the WGI report, considering the great uncertainty about how the current COVID-19 pandemic situation will evolve during the current year, and noting global imbalances in vaccination rates and travel restrictions that may remain for some countries and delegates but not for others.

While the current public health emergency (COVID-19) may present a basis that plenary and working group sessions be held through non-physical means and decision-making accordingly, in view of the pressing need that the IPCC fulfil its mandate to approve, adopt and accept assessment reports, such considerations must be balanced with fundamental principles and values to find solutions. Essential in this consideration is the principle of participation and equitable representation in the expert and governmental review process, in particular given the identified barrier of a possible digital divide between developed and developing countries as leading to disadvantaged participation. This means that electronic (virtual) meetings must still provide for fair, inclusive and transparent processes so that all Members are able to meaningfully participate in review and approval, effectively replicating in-person meeting conditions. This review focuses on the aspects of the principles of participation and equitable representation in this regard, and as relevant for the IPCC.

From a legal and procedural perspective, the following IPCC Principles are relevant:

- address the role of the IPCC (principle 2);
- the importance of review as an essential part of the IPCC process, the IPCC as an intergovernmental body, with review including governments (principle 3);
- major decisions as taken by the Panel in plenary meetings, and the scope of participation (principles 4 and 7); and
- the role of consensus as to decisions and approval of reports by the Panel and its Working Groups (principle 10).

As set out in the IPCC Principles, the role of the IPCC is to carry out assessments (principle 2), with review is an essential part of the IPCC process (principle 3). Such review is to include review by governments, as the IPCC as an intergovernmental body (principle 3). Participation in the work of the IPCC is assured to all WMO and UN Member countries, including for in plenary meetings where major decisions of the IPCC are taken by the Panel (principles 7 and 4). With respect to any decisions and approvals, the Panel, its Working Groups and any Task Forces are to use all best endeavours to reach consensus (principle 10).

In light of the above noted principles, the work of the IPCC which involves review necessarily is to allow participation of all IPCC Member states. Where a digital divide may impose limitations on participation, an important question is whether electronic (virtual) meetings lacking representation from a specific regional group in part or entirely are in alignment with the IPCC Principles, specifically on participation and consensus. As consensus decision-making may be understood to be based on collective agreement⁹, it may be understood that meaningful participation requires equitable representation as essential for true consensus¹⁰.

⁹ Black's Law Dictionary, 11th ed.

¹⁰ IPCC Principles, principle 7, principle 10.

The IPCC was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and endorsed by the UN General Assembly¹¹.In this context, principles of the United Nations Charter may be seen as relevant to fundamental values for UN bodies and entities, including the IPCC. Correspondingly, article 23 of the United Nations Charter provides for the principle of equitable geographical distribution as to representation¹². This was further implemented including through the creating of electoral groups deemed essential for order and equity within the processes of the United Nations system. The use of the word equitable may be understood to have significant meaning in that Member States implemented the principle, *inter alia*, to give due regard to equitable representation of these groups in the decision-making process.

Within the process of the IPCC, as a UN entity and as subscribing to the values of the UN Charter, the principle of equitable geographic distribution is reflected in the principle that participation in the work of the IPCC is open to all WMO and UN Member countries¹³.

Currently, the digital divide as between the developing and developed countries remains. While technical connectivity may not be definitive as to replication of in-person conditions, limitations, including technological, as between developed and developing countries remain an obstacle to meaningful full participation and equitable representation. Thus, the current electronic (virtual) session scenario does not currently replicate the conditions as needed for the option of full participation. In view of the nature of review required for approval sessions, and because of the exceptional current circumstances that could imply disfavorable conditions as failing to replicate in-person conditions, including but not limited to for developing countries with limited or insufficient access to connectivity, ensuring equitable geographic representation during any electronic (virtual) meeting, especially for such approval sessions, is of considerable importance for both session participation and decision-making.

While it is essential to address the potential impacts on IPCC delivery of its mandate as posed by possible longer-term postponement of physical approval sessions as a result of the COVID-19 world pandemic, importantly, perceived risks to the work of the IPCC must be balanced against the IPCC role and the processes essential to that work. Towards ameliorating the digital divide noted herein, solutions to be crafted need to account for means of participation and representation on a basis ensuring retention of IPCC values and principles.

IPCC Legal Officer

¹¹ The relations of the World Meteorological Organization with international organizations are governed by Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization. Article 25 provides that the Organization "shall be in relationship to the United Nations pursuant to Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations", that is, as a specialized agency. In accordance with this provision, a formal agreement was concluded with the United Nations and became effective on 20 December 1951; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1972 as the main UN body in the filed of environment, United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden, June 5.14, 1972

¹² United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 24 October 1945, 1 UNTS XVI, Article 23, available at:

https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3930.html.

¹³ IPCC Principles, principle 7.

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