

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

Electronic session, 2 June 2022

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 to the sixty-second session of the Bureau with one agenda item of the Synthesis Report. He expressed the hope that with several weeks of various discussions already held on the Synthesis Report, a meaningful conclusion could be reached.

Germany took the floor to request the addition of an Agenda item on the communication of the changes to the schedule of the Synthesis Report and requested clarification as to why the discussion on observer organizations was not included in the 61st Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR-61) Decisions document in the Bureau Portal.

The Secretary of the IPCC, Mr Abdalah Mokssit, explained that as the 62nd Session of the Bureau (BUR-62) was being held right after the 61st Session of the IPCC Bureau the Secretariat was waiting to receive reactions from Bureau Members and government representatives on the draft report of BUR-61 before finalizing the meeting report. He pointed out that the provisional agenda deliberately does not include an item to approve the draft report of the previous Bureau session.

The Chair invited the Bureau to adopt the provisional agenda with the addition of the proposed agenda item to be addressed under Any Other Business. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document BUR-LXII/Doc. 1 with the addition of the proposed agenda item to be addressed in Any Other Business. The Agenda is attached as **Annex 1**.

2. APPROVAL SCHEDULE OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE IPCC

The Chair informed the Bureau that IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) and Synthesis Report (SYR) Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) held meetings just before the BUR-62, where the Head of SYR Technical Support Unit (TSU) presented a revised SYR schedule, but ExCom did not reach consensus on the revised schedule.

Mr José Romero, Head of the SYR TSU presented the revised SYR schedule highlighting that the proposed approval of the SYR would be around the end of October 2022. He explained that the authors requested enough time to complete the Final Government Distribution (FGD) and the government review of the FGD would be about six weeks, and that about seven weeks would be used to consolidate and respond to FGD review comments and preparation of the SYR approval.

Mr Diriba Dadi, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Gregory Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Jan Fuglestvedt, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Mark Howden, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Nagmeldin Mahmoud, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC, Ms Joy Pereira, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Ramón Pichs-Madruga, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and United States of America took the floor.

Bureau members inquired if the schedule was discussed with the authors to seek their agreement and availability, whether the concerns raised by ExCom members and the SSC were incorporated, and when in the schedule the Review Editors' process would be undertaken. They expressed

concerns about the feasibility of the revised schedule considering about 10,500 review comments received and a lot of remaining work with the SYR text and figure noting that about 30% or more of the authors have indicated that they will not be available around June 2022 due to other commitments, that the proposed revised schedule which was contingent on the SYR work resuming on 9 May 2022 would not work if the BUR-62 did not resolve the stalemate, that the IPCC leadership should collectively develop a feasible and supportive revised SYR work plan and schedule that considers the concerns raised and fully fulfills the needs of authors and is supported by them, and that the delay in the SYR finalizations and possible implications for the transition from AR6 to AR7 should be communicated transparently and proactively to IPCC Focal Points and Observer Organizations who should discuss unresolved issues in a Panel session and find solutions for a way forward. Some suggested that BUR-62 could produce a communication to governments which reflects the different strands of opinion by Bureau members about the way forward such as proceeding with the presented schedule with the view to complete the SYR by COP 27 or completing the SYR after COP 27 or abandoning the SYR for the AR6 or converting what the authors have worked on into a different product such as a Technical Paper.

The Chair informed the Bureau that no agreement had been reached with the author team and that the SYR TSU considered all relevant factors when revising the schedule and stands ready to support the SYR process and the author team. He said that the SYR TSU was aware of the contribution of Review Editors which would be reflected in the detailed schedule; that the quality of the underlying Working Group (WG) reports was good enough to form a basis for a high-quality SYR; and that the scale difference between the SYR and the WG reports is enormous. He reminded the Bureau that the SYR has thirty authors and four extended writing authors, which are much smaller than the Working Group author teams, and the number of review comments received for the SYR is much less than the WG reports, that the SYR has a 10-page Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and 30-page Longer Report whereas the WG reports counting more than 1000 pages, that it would be best to continue with the work instead of having misgivings about SYR TSU support at this stage, and that any further delay in the SYR work would seriously jeopardize the authors' availability.

The Head of the SYR TSU mentioned that the authors in their communication indicated that they would like to see active participation of the IPCC Vice-Chairs and Working Group Co-Chairs who are already members of the SPM drafting team in the process of the SYR development leading up to approval and that they are seeking logistical and technical support such as managing the documentation and figures, reviewing the consistency of text provided by different members of the Core Writing Team (CWT) and coordinating travel arrangements. He added that the SYR TSU is ready to provide the support required by the authors except for matters under the purview of the IPCC Secretariat and that the Third Core Writing Team meeting (CWT-3) identified tasks and responsibilities which were assigned to the Section Facilitators, other authors, the SSC, and the Review Editors. He informed the Bureau that on 25 May 2022, the SYR TSU convened three briefing and consultative sessions with the CWT and assured the authors that the TSU was prepared to support their work.

Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, and Germany took the floor.

Comments included that authors would appreciate a document responding to their concerns in writing to the SYR TSU and the SSC; a document with detailed tasks and timelines agreed at CWT-3 has not been provided to the authors; suggestions for the SYR TSU to indicate how much time they require to deliver tangible results and outcomes expected from the authors; and that there was no need to revisit history in the BUR-62 and go over the same issues which had been discussed extensively in previous meetings because this might lead to another inconclusive result.

The Chair informed the Bureau of the important contributions the IPCC Vice-Chairs and Working Group Co-Chairs, and other Bureau members made throughout the SYR process from the very early stages starting with the scoping of the SYR. He proposed to form a break-out group as a way to derive a conclusion, comprising of members of the IPCC Secretariat and the Head of the SYR TSU to draft

options for the consideration of the Bureau. The Head of the SYR TSU mentioned that the revised schedule reflected all relevant action items and assigned responsibilities for CWT members and supports necessary from the SYR TSU.

The Secretary of the IPCC assessed that under the current circumstances the SYR approval could be held in December 2022, after COP 27 to give authors sufficient time to finalize the report and governments to review the final draft to ensure highest scientific quality of the SYR. This option will cause a delay on the elections of the AR7 Bureau which might have to take place around June 2023. The AR6 Bureau would continue its work such as outreach activities and facilitate a smooth transition and handover to the AR7 Bureau. The IPCC Chair would lead the dissemination of the AR6 SYR including its presentation at COP 28 in November 2023. The term of the IPCC Chair elect and his Bureau could effectively start around January 2024.

Ms Ko Barrett, IPCC Vice Chair, Mr Diriba Dadi, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Mark Howden, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, China, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and United States of America took the floor.

Bureau members thanked the Chair, Secretary of the IPCC and Head of TSU for proposing new options. Some reservations were raised about an option such as tying together the SYR approval, timing of elections and handover arrangements, which would be inconsistent with IPCC procedures. It was further mentioned that there was need for IPCC leadership to prove to each other and to governments that they are able to work collaboratively to find solutions. In this context, some suggested to establish a high level team comprising the IPCC Chair, some SSC members, TSUs to work in consultation with the authors to collectively develop option(s) which could be supported by all and presented to the Panel and to present to the authors a detailed workplan and schedule as part of the draft recommendations from the BUR-62. Some mentioned that scheduling a virtual Panel Session to overlap with the UNFCCC SB56¹ would not be conducive for some governments, that soliciting written comments from governments would be more viable, that the time between the SYR approval and the elections for AR7 Bureau should not be too long as this might have consequences for the completion of the AR7 before the second Global Stocktake under the UNFCCC, and that the Panel would have to decide on the timing of the elections and might consider making exceptions. There was further comments and suggestions that the outgoing and incoming IPCC Chair both attend the COP 28² meeting immediately after the elections of the new Bureau, that any option to be developed would be conditional on the authors' agreement, that the timing of the SYR approval should take into consideration the second periodic review, that the TSU setup could be such that it is not linked to only one country, and that the contracts of current Working Group TSU staff would end sometime soon and cannot be extended in a number of cases.

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that a detailed discussion of the format and dates for the elections of the AR7 Bureau would be discussed at the 57th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-57) when the Ad-hoc Group on Elections presents its report; he added that having a Bureau elect is similar to what is done by the World Meteorological Organization and allows for good handover and communicating of lessons learnt. This approach would allow elected Co-Chairs more time to establish their TSUs.

The Chair clarified that, in his view, the timeline for the SYR process and the elections process should not overlap and be clearly separated to avoid potential conflicts. He invited the IPCC Secretariat to prepare draft decision text for Bureau's agreement reflecting deliberations of the Bureau.

¹ 56th session of the subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC

² 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

When the session reconvened the Secretary of the IPCC presented the draft decision for the Bureau's consideration. The draft decision referred to the approval of AR6 SYR by the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023 and that sufficient time is given to the authors to finalize the report and to governments to review it which would ensure high scientific quality; it notes the implications from these changes to the election for the new Bureau and cycle transitions; it notes the decision by the IPCC Chair to establish a High-level Consultative Group (HLCG) with the participation of the IPCC Chair, IPCC Vice-Chairs, Head of SYR TSU and Secretary of the IPCC to start immediate engagement and consultation with the authors; it requests the Secretariat to communicate the changes in the schedule with Focal Points and requests the IPCC Chair who is responsible for the AR6 SYR to ensure its diffusion and presentation including at COP 28 in November 2023; also it agrees to share this decision with the Panel with the view to seek approval by correspondence by end of June 2022.

Ms Ko Barrett, IPCC Vice Chair, Eduardo Calvo, Co-Chair TFI, Mr Andreas Fischlin, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Gregory Flato, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Jan Fuglestedt, Vice-Chair of Working Group I, Ms Thelma Krug, IPCC Vice Chair, Mr Nagmeldin Mahmoud, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Mr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II, Mr Andy Reisinger, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Jim Skea, Co-Chair of Working Group III, Mr Taha Zatari, Vice-Chair of Working Group II, China, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and United States of America took the floor.

In general, Bureau members welcomed and appreciated the draft recommendations to the Panel and made suggestions to revise the text such as the authors do not only need enough time to finalize the report, they also need support and involvement in further planning; that the text could be explicit that the IPCC-57 Session in September would still be held to further prepare for the elections; that if the SYR would inform the Global Stocktake, it should be presented at the SB58 Sessions around June 2023; Some members noted that not having the Working Group Co-Chairs represented in the Consultative Group was a concern because issues such as scheduling, sufficient time and support have implications for Working Group resources and their TSUs; that the SSC, in addition to authors could also be consulted by the Consultative Group; that the timing for reporting the outcome of the consultations to the Bureau and the Panel should also be included; that the mandate of the SSC is for scientific aspects and not operational matters; and that the Bureau is responsible for making decisions and only welcomes views from government representatives and the latter do not make conclusions for the Bureau.

The Bureau agreed on the final version of the BUR-62 recommendations to the Panel as presented in **Annex 2**.

3. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 61ST SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

The Chair invited the Secretary to introduce this item.

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that their 63rd Session is planned to be held just before the approval of the Synthesis Report especially since the initial plan was to have it back to back with IPCC-57 and IPCC-57bis. The exact dates will be communicated once the schedule of the Synthesis Report has been finalized.

Mr Nagmeldin Mahmoud, Vice-Chair of Working Group III, Germany and Norway took the floor.

There was an inquiry on whether the meeting will still be in person or virtual noting a preference for a physical meeting as most of the international bodies are now moving back to these.

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau members that the initial plan was to hold it back-to-back with IPCC-57 and IPCC-57bis. This has changed because of the revisions to the schedule of the Synthesis Report which once finalized will give a better idea. He added that depending on the timing a physical meeting would be favored especially if it will be in the early part of early 2023. This will be a challenge in late 2022 in which case a virtual meeting may be necessary.

It was suggested that a meeting just before IPCC-57 which will be maintained at its original dates could be useful. The Secretary of the IPCC said that the Secretariat would look at the possibility and get back to the Bureau members and government representatives.

4. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Chair thanked the Bureau members and government representatives for their valuable contributions which will further contribute to the successful completion of the Synthesis Report. He added that with their support and authors IPCC should be able to deliver a product that the IPCC would be proud of.

The Chair declared the session closed at 19.34 p.m.



IPCC BUREAU – SIXTY-SECOND SESSION
Electronic Session, 2 June 2022

BUR-LXII/Doc. 1
(25.V.2022)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION**
2. **SCHEDULE OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE IPCC**
3. **PLACE AND DATE FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU**
4. **CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

The Bureau at its 62nd Session:

- Recommends a schedule for the SYR preparation with its approval Session taking place by end of 2022 / early beginning of 2023: sufficient time and support is given to the authors to finalize the report and to governments to review it, which will ensure a high scientific quality.
- Notes the potential implications from these changes to the elections for the new Bureau, and the cycle's transition and recommends that the Panel considers relevant issues at the Plenary meeting in September 2022.
- Notes the decision of the Chair, following the request of the Bureau, to establish a high-level consultative group with the participation of the three Vice-Chairs, the Chair, SYR TSU head and IPCC Secretary to start immediate consultation with the authors and SSC to reach consensus on the modalities for the completion of the work within the recommended schedule.
- Requests the Chair Hoesung Lee, who is responsible for the AR6 SYR, to ensure its diffusion and presentation as soon as possible, including at SB58 and COP 28 in November 2023.
- Agrees to share this recommendation and the schedule for SYR preparation and approval with the Panel with the view to seek the approval by end of June 2022.

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Electronic session, 2 June 2022

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