

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING
Teleconference, 27 November 2024

CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Jim Skea

Members:

Ladislav Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair), Ramón Pichs-Madruga (IPCC Vice-Chair), Diana Ürge-Vorsatz (IPCC Vice-Chair), Robert Vautard (Working Group I [WGI] Co-Chair), Winston Chow (Working Group II [WGII] Co-Chair), Katherine Calvin (Working Group III [WGIII] Co-Chair), Joy Jacqueline Pereira (WGIII Co-Chair), Mazhar Hayat (Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories [TFI] Co-Chair), Laura Gallardo (representing Region III).

Advisory members:

Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Rob Sturgiss (TFI TSU Head).

IPCC Secretariat:

Erмира Fida (IPCC Deputy Secretary), Andrej Mahecic (Head of Communications and Media Relations), Judith Ewa (Programme Officer), Mxolisi Shongwe (Programme Officer), Jennifer Lew Schneider (Legal Officer), Jesbin Baidya (Information Technology and Logistics Officer), Nina Peeva (External Relations Officer), Werani Zabula (Communications and Information Specialist), Melisa Walsh (Communications Officer), Joelle Fernandez (Administrative Assistant and Assistant to the Secretary), Laura Biagioni (Web and Information Assistant), Minang Acharya (Programme Officer).

Invited:

Géninha Lisboa (Executive Assistant to the IPCC Chair), Emilie Vanvyve (Science Adviser to the IPCC Chair)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom-127), proposing starting the discussions first with items 5 and 6.

ExCom adopted the provisional agenda (EXCOM-CXXVII/Doc.1), as attached in Annex 1.

2. URGENT ISSUES RELATED TO IPCC PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK THAT REQUIRE PROMPT ATTENTION BY THE IPCC BETWEEN PANEL SESSIONS

2.1. Update on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

A Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chair provided an update on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, noting that author selection was in the final stages, with feedback being collected from the Bureau on the shortlist and invitations to selected authors to be finalised by 2 December 2024. The first Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) was scheduled for 10-14 March 2025 in Osaka, Japan, with logistical arrangements progressing well. A participant information note was being prepared and would be sent with the LAM invitation during the week of 16 December 2024. The WGII Technical Support Unit (TSU) was awaiting a clone of the

Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) SharePoint to use as an author portal and collaborative writing tool. If the SharePoint clone was not obtained soon, it would not be possible to modify and test it in time for author onboarding before LAM1, potentially compromising the planning and timeline.

The Deputy Secretary stated that the Secretariat engaged with the UNEP GEO-7 team about using their platform and the feasibility of cloning. Technical staff from a UNEP center in Norway were willing to assist WGII. The IPCC Information Technology and Logistics Officer added that the technical requirements were provided to the WGII IT Officer. The cloning process was estimated to take 12 days, with cost information pending from the collaborating centre, which would determine the procurement type.

ExCom took note of the update on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

2.2. Update on the Methodology Report and Expert Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage

A Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) Co-Chair provided an update on the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage. The scoping meeting was held on 14-16 October 2024, in Copenhagen, Denmark, with the Chair and a WGII Co-Chair participating in person. The meeting was successful in producing a draft outline aligned with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, with new volumes and revisions. The meeting report was expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, and the outline document would be prepared for the Panel consideration at the 62nd Session (IPCC-62) in February 2025.

The TFI TSU Head noted that some conceptual issues would need clarification, anticipating that the two sessions allocated for the Methodology Report in the IPCC-62 schedule would likely be needed given the long list of technologies and potential interest in debating various items.

An IPCC Vice-Chair suggested that the TFI Co-Chairs highlight particularly challenging issues in advance to help prepare for the discussions.

The TFI TSU Head added that the scoping meeting report would address many potentially contentious topics and that additional notes could be provided before the plenary.

ExCom took note of the update on the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage.

2.3. Update on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers

The TFI Co-Chair provided an update on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers, reporting that they were close to completing the selection of authors and review editors, with input from the WGI Co-Chairs, which was taken into consideration. Despite looking at all nominations, there were still some expertise gaps. A couple of Task Force Bureau (TFB) members were interested in contributing as authors and given their potential contribution, they would like to include them. In cases where TFB members would serve as authors, they would not be review editors. The TFI Co-Chairs had written to the Secretariat regarding TFB member participation and were awaiting a response.

An IPCC Vice-Chair, who is the Conflict of Interest Committee (COI) Chair, noted that a TFB member serving as an author could be a potential conflict of interest, suggesting careful consideration of this issue.

ExCom took note of the update on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers.

2.4. Update on the Working Group Reports, Synthesis Report, and Strategic Planning Schedule

The WGIII Co-Chairs provided an update on preparations for the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) Scoping Meeting scheduled from 19 to 13 December 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

All three Working Groups (WGs) had circulated draft agendas and a vision document, which was co-written by the Chair and the six Co-Chairs and reviewed by all Bureau members in early November 2024. The WGs had an overall plan with details addressing the various needs. There was a call that morning to coordinate cross-working group opening plenaries and breakout groups, with more information to be shared soon. IPCC Vice-Chairs had been assigned to chair cross-working group plenaries, with further information on expectations to follow.

Regarding logistics, there were plans for an informal Bureau meeting on 8 December to brief Bureau members on their expected roles. Visa arrangements were being taken care of. Internet connectivity issues were being addressed with help from the Secretariat. The British High Commission was hosting a symposium with participation by invitation only.

An IPCC Vice-Chair expressed appreciation for the comprehensive vision paper, particularly noting its focus on inclusivity, policy relevance, interdisciplinarity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, and the reference to the “Talanoa dialogue” approach. The efforts to mobilise resources for early career scientists were also appreciated. However, the heavy workload was acknowledged with concerns.

The Chair thanked the two WGIII Co-Chairs for their extensive efforts in organising the meeting.

ExCom took note of the update on the AR7.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1. Ongoing and planned activities

The Head of Communications and Media Relations provided an update on communications activities since the 126th Meeting of ExCom (ExCom-126). Training for Bureau members on media and communications was delivered ahead of the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP29), with over 20 participants. The training could be repeated at the next opportunity, preferably in person.

There was a rich program with good media pickup at COP29, particularly for keynote speeches delivered at Earth Information Day, the opening ceremony of the high-level segment, and the high-level ministerial roundtables. Social media activity during COP29 included over 230 posts, engaging nearly 1.5 million people – more than double compared to the previous period.

The Chair thanked the communications team and noted that the IPCC had a good footprint at COP29 thanks to both the Secretariat and Bureau members who attended.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs and a WGIII Co-Chair took the floor. There was a need to move beyond statements about inclusivity to actual implementation, noting the high expectations created during COP29, particularly regarding youth and Indigenous groups. Having metrics to measure progress on inclusivity could be helpful. The innovative approach of organising webinars for non-selected nominees was appreciated, and implementing what was outlined in the inclusivity vision paper was needed. While efforts were being made to include representatives from developing countries, structural barriers related to the Trust Fund limitations remained, suggesting this issue needed to be addressed at the plenary level.

ExCom took note of the update on the communications activities.

4. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ERRORS IN COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER IPCC PRODUCTS

4.1. Update on the implementation of the Error Protocol and follow-up

The Programme Officer informed the ExCom that there were three pending cases, including two new cases, all assigned to Working Group I (WGI).

ExCom took note of the update on the implementation of the Error Protocol.

5. COORDINATION BETWEEN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS

5.1. Update on forthcoming meetings:

Provisional plans for subsequent Bureau/Plenary meetings:

The Secretary provided updates on forthcoming meetings, focusing on the 68th Session of the Bureau (BUR-68) to be held on 8 December 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the IPCC-62 scheduled on 24-28 February 2025 in Hangzhou, China.

The presented provisional agenda for the one-day BUR-68 included items such as the preparation for the AR7 scoping meeting, proposals for expert meetings and workshops, and progress reports.

For IPCC-62, an e-mail was sent to the IPCC Focal Points on 23 November 2024 to fast-track preparations pending the host country agreement's formal signing. The session would focus on agreeing to the AR7 WG reports and the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage outlines, among other standing items. The outlines would also be considered in the three WGs' plenaries. In the presented draft work plan, the first day was dedicated to the opening ceremony, introducing the budget, admission of the observer organisations and proposals for expert meetings and introducing the WGs and the Methodology reports. The second and third days were to focus on the WGs plenaries, while the fourth day, the Methodology Report discussions were to be continued, followed by restitution from the WGs sessions. The fifth day was to be dedicated to the approval of outlines, progress reports, and budget considerations. The time before IPCC-62 allowed for the discussions to continue in the next ExCom meetings to refine the planning most efficiently.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs, a WGI, a WGII, and a WGIII Co-Chair, as well as a Representative of Region III, took the floor. Appreciation was expressed for the suggested plan and preparations. The need to allocate time for the Bureau to have informal planning discussions was raised. There were questions on whether the Bureau was informed of the IPCC-62 dates and location and the deadlines for arranging travel, as well as visa arrangements. Concerns were raised about the packed agenda for IPCC-62. It was suggested the Secretariat flag the travel issues raised by delegates with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in order to improve the process. WGII may require more time allocated for the Update the 1994 Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impact and Adaptations. Depending on the scoping meeting, a cross-cutting issues presentation might be needed. Agreeing on the outlines on the fourth day and flexibility in moving through the agenda items and the WGs plenaries was suggested. Clarification was sought on the WG plenary conduct and timeline discussions.

evening sessions, interpretation and contingency plans, including the feasibility of an extra day.

The Secretary noted there were no pending visa issues and the information about IPCC-62 would soon be sent to the Bureau. The WGIII Co-Chair added that an informal Bureau meeting could be arranged. Visa matters were also already being discussed for IPCC-62 with the host country in order to facilitate the process. The deadline for travel was respecting the WMO requirements. The first draft of the work plan drew from the 46th IPCC Session (Montreal, 6-10 September 2017), where the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) WG report outlines were agreed upon. Contingency plans included evening sessions and interpretation services were being planned. The Secretary emphasised that the WG plenaries were expected to conclude as soon as possible, and these were not to take place in parallel but subsequently.

The Chair summarised that this was not a full IPCC Plenary, explaining how the WGs plenaries work being chaired by their respective WG Co-Chairs. Training and an explainer for the Co-Chairs could be helpful. The Chair suggested that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, bring back to the ExCom an explainer, scripts and contingencies for the session.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1. Reflections on the outcome of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Deputy Secretary presented a comprehensive overview of COP29 outcomes. Specific references were made to IPCC's work, which appeared in several decisions, including the Global Goal for Adaptation decision, which welcomed the IPCC Technical Guidelines and invited collaboration on a special event at the 62nd Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB62). The Research and Systematic Observations decision also noted with appreciation for the IPCC's work, and the New Collective Quantified Goal decision referenced findings from the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

IPCC participation at COP29 was substantial, including one side event on AR7 planning, seven mandated events including opening ceremonies and high-level segments, eight IPCC-organized pavilion events, 26 events with IPCC participation at other pavilions, multiple bilateral meetings with ministers and Heads of States, heads of organisations and constituency briefings. The statistics revealed 33 delegation members (including virtual participants), 42 total events, 33 bilateral meetings, and approximately 1,500 visitors to the IPCC pavilion. Several challenges were encountered, including accommodation and transportation difficulties, securing well-located pavilion space, and issues with the logistical company, which eventually were resolved.

The Deputy Secretary highlighted lessons learned from COP29, including the importance of engaging with the Joint Working Group before COPs and the subsidiary. Maintaining contact with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat was beneficial. There was a high value of engaging with the constituencies to understand their needs. It was advantageous to cluster the pavilion events' start preparations at least four months in advance and have a shared calendar.

The SB62 would be held in Bonn, Germany, in June 2025, and the 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties in Belém, Brazil on 10 - 21 November 2025.

An IPCC Vice-Chair expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's hard work at COP29 while noting the importance of IPCC's visibility and the need to continue strengthening awareness about the n opportunities to participate in the work of the IPCC.

The Chair echoed the appreciation, highlighting the value of the session with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and noting the significant IPCC references in COP decisions, especially in the NCQG text.

ExCom took note of the update on COP29 outcomes and activities

6.2. Expert meetings and host country agreements

The Secretary reported on challenges with securing host country agreements for smaller meetings, noting that legal constraints had prevented the gender expert meeting planned in Canada from proceeding. At least seven meetings since the start of the cycle had faced serious constraints with host country agreements, though most were resolved successfully.

Discussions were ongoing with the WMO to potentially create classifications of meetings with different legal requirements. These smaller meetings might require a simplified exchange of letters approach, reserving formal host country agreements for plenary sessions. He noted that discussions were ongoing with WMO to potentially create classifications of meetings with different legal requirements.

The Chair expressed concern that the difficulties in securing host country agreements threatened the IPCC's model of operating with countries. He proposed a dedicated meeting with the Secretary and legal representatives from WMO and IPCC to address these generic issues.

The Deputy Secretary noted an IPCC Vice-Chair's message regarding the technical preparations for the gender expert meeting, indicating difficulties in finding time for the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) members to deliver on their tasks. The IPCC Vice-Chair requested that Working Group Co-Chairs convey the importance of this expert meeting to their Vice-Chairs and encourage their engagement.

The Deputy Secretary mentioned plans to organise an SSC meeting before or during the scoping meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

ExCom took note of these information provided and the proposed follow-up actions.

The meeting concluded at 15:58.

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EXCOM-CXXVII/Doc. 1
(22.XI.2024)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. URGENT ISSUES RELATED TO IPCC PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK THAT REQUIRE PROMPT ATTENTION BY THE IPCC BETWEEN PANEL SESSIONS

- 2.1 Update on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.
- 2.2 update on the Methodology Report and Expert Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage (CDRT and CDCUS)
- 2.3 Update on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF)
- 2.4 Update on the Working Group Reports, Synthesis Report

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 Ongoing and planned activities.

4. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ERRORS IN COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER IPCC PRODUCTS

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- 6.2 Expert meetings and host country agreements