

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH MEETING
Teleconference, 19 March 2025

CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Jim Skea

Members:

Ladislav Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair), Ramón Pichs-Madruga (IPCC Vice-Chair), Diana Ürges-Vorsatz (IPCC Vice-Chair), Robert Vautard (Working Group I [WGI] Co-Chair), Xiaoye Zhang (WGI Co-Chair), Winston Chow (Working Group II [WGII] Co-Chair), Bart van den Hurk (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), Clotilde Péan (WGI Technical Support Unit [TSU] Head), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Rob Sturgiss (TFI TSU Head).

IPCC Secretariat:

Ermira 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 Information and Publications 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 Thirtieth Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom-130) and suggested taking items 5.1 and 2.4 together, given their overlap and starting with 5.1.

The IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) adopted the provisional agenda (EXCOM-CXXIX/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

The Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chairs provided an update on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, noting that the first Lead Author Meeting (LAM1), which took place from 10 to 14 March 2025 in Osaka, Japan, went well.

LAM1 was an excellent collaboration amongst the WG Co-Chairs. Appreciation was expressed to the government of Japan for hosting the meeting and being extraordinarily generous in covering additional costs caused by last-minute programme updates. One of the innovations was the contributing authors' selection steps developed by the Co-Chairs, which could be flagged to the Plenary when discussing inclusivity.

Two Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) meetings and additional author webinars were in the planning before the zero-order draft expected on 9 May 2025. WGII were exploring the possibility of a digital case study atlas, and this was to be further discussed with the Co-Chairs and some CLAs.

The second Lead Author Meeting (LAM2) was planned for 25 July 2025 in Mombasa, Kenya. The third Lead Author Meeting (LAM3) would most likely be hosted by Norway in January 2026. There were several options for the fourth Lead Author Meeting (LAM4). The approval session would be hosted by Singapore.

An IPCC Vice-Chair noted that LAM1 was a great success.

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

2.1. Update on the Methodology Report 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, noting that the Report outline would be brought back for consideration at the 63rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-63) as the work was not completed at the 62nd Session of the IPCC-62 (IPCC-62).

The Chair added that the Panel was very close to a successful outcome. Unfortunately, no decision could be taken at IPCC-62, including due to procedural issues. Preparatory work would be needed before IPCC-63. He offered offline talks with the TFI Co-Chairs and the Secretariat to bring a successful solution to the next plenary.

The TFI Co-Chair agreed to this approach.

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

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

A TFI Co-Chair provided an update on the Methodology Report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers, noting that the LAM1 was scheduled for the week of 23 March 2025 in Bilbao, Spain, with the back-to-back meeting of the Bureau of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFB).

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

2.3. Update on the Working Group Reports

A Working Group I (WGI) Co-Chair updated on the planning for the joint WG LAM1 incorporating lessons learned from the Special Report LAM1. Preparations for the selection process were underway, including webinars to inform potential authors, which WGI have taken the lead on.

A WGII Co-Chair updated on preparations for author selection, setting up criteria and scheduling WGII Bureau meetings. WGII would join the WGI led webinars to inform potential authors.

A WGIII Co-Chair updated on the WGIII Bureau call to discuss the process in preparation for the final author selection. There was a disruption which impacted one of the three nodes of the WGIII TSU. The Co-Chairs were still working through the implications and potential options going forward. They were grateful for the support, noting that they would update ExCom on the status and needs as they have more information.

A WGII and a WGIII Co-Chair, as well as the Representative of Region III, took the floor. It was noted that researchers from some member countries might experience nomination challenges. Trust Fund access rules seem to pose barriers to regional and intraregional representation. This was something which may need to be stressed at the plenary level. To facilitate the process administratively, the IPCC could encourage indicating in nomination letters when funds were available to cover the costs for the nominees.

The Chair added that some observer organisations are partnering to support researchers who may face challenges for nomination as AR7 authors.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs took the floor, noting the importance of the selection process, which should respect the IPCC principles and procedures, involving the entire Bureau and aiming for inclusivity and interregional balance. The Trust Fund barriers should not hinder the selection balance. The Vice-Chairs could also organise webinars in regions not covered by WGs.

The Secretary clarified that the Trust Fund could not cover the costs of involvement of the developed countries' authors.

ExCom took note of the update on the WG Reports.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1. Ongoing and planned activities

The Head of Communications and Media Relations provided an update to ExCom on communications activities since the 129th Meeting of ExCom (ExCom-129), focusing on outreach activities and media queries related to IPCC-62, attendance at the session and the WGIII TSU. Following IPCC-62, there was a press release on the call for the nomination of authors. The updated versions of the IPCC factsheets have been translated into the six UN languages. The contract for media training was established for the cycle, and there was also one on crisis communications. The following week, there was an outreach planned back-to-back at the Methodology Report LAM1 in Bilbao, Spain.

The WGI Co-Chairs, a WGII Co-Chair, and the Representative of Region III took the floor. Comments made included the need to hold a Communications and Outreach Action Team (COAT) meeting. It was also necessary to issue a press release on the call for the nomination of experts for the Task Group on Data Support (TG-Data). Communication guidance and possible statements may need to be developed in relation to possible developments regarding climate observations or actions affecting science in general.

The Head of Communications recalled that the Communications and Outreach Action Team (COAT) was under the guidance of ExCom and chaired by the IPCC Chair and was happy to

organise a meeting. In addition, a meeting on working level could be arranged with WG TSUs. A press release on the TG-Data nomination of experts was in the plan.

The Chair suggested a dedicated ExCom meeting on communications.

A WGI Co-Chair added that if there was a mandate on the climate observations-related matter from ExCom, the WGI Bureau could start drafting a statement.

The Chair proposed that these discussions could be done through written communications.

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, since the last report at ExCom-129, no new cases had been registered. There was one pending case.

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:

The Chair opened the agenda item highlighting the unique nature of the IPCC-62 session. He noted several positive aspects, including the proactive solicitation of comments and questions about the budget prior to the session and the issuance of a guidance note on document management, which provided greater clarity on the flow of documents. However, there were also notable challenges. The agenda was overly heavy, leading to late running and affecting inclusivity despite the offers by the Secretariat to change tickets. The session was politicized, turning into a negotiation rather than a discussion. He highlighted the need for better preparations and training for some Bureau members in the future and before IPCC-63. He expressed appreciation to all who contributed to the preparations of the session.

An IPCC Vice-Chair and a WGII Co-Chair took the floor. The agreement of the outlines was highlighted, and the support of the TSUs was acknowledged.

The Secretary expressed appreciation to the Government of China and the WGI Co-Chair for excellently hosting IPCC-62.

Looking ahead, the Chair highlighted the importance of discussing the 2025 timeline and beyond. There were two major meetings in 2025, IPCC-63 and the joint WG LAM1, that required the attention of the ExCom.

The Secretary presented six options for the potential dates of IPCC-63 and the joint WG LAM1 noting that Peru has offered to host IPCC-63 and France joint WG LAM1. The first was to hold IPCC-63 in the week of 27 October 2025 and the joint WG LAM1 starting the week of 1 December 2025. The second option was for the joint WG LAM1 to start on 20 October and IPCC-63 on 1 or 8 December 2025. The third option was for the joint WG LAM1 to start on

1 December and IPCC-63 on 8 December. The fourth option was for IPCC-63 to start on 27 October in an alternative venue in case the current one was unavailable on the selected dates and the joint WG LAM1 on 1 December. The fifth option was to have IPCC-63 start on either 1 or 8 December and the joint WG LAM 1 on 19 January 2026. The sixth option was to split the WG LAMs with the first one of WGI taking place on 20 October, IPCC-63 on either 1 or 8 December, the WGII LAM1 on 12 January 2026 and the WGIII LAM1 on 26 January 2026. Dates of meetings such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress in October 2025, the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in November and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in December should be considered.

The Chair added that he had a meeting with the Vice-Chairs, and there was a convergence on the first and fourth options for IPCC-63 to take place in the last week of October and the LAM1 in the first week of December.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs, the WG Co-Chairs and the Representative of Region III took the floor. It was noted that the fifth and sixth options were not viable because the LAM3 for the Special Report on Cities was scheduled for January 2026. Also, having a joint WG LAM was essential. Preferences were expressed for the first/fourth and the second options. There were also suggestions for another option, with the IPCC plenary taking place before or after the LAM1 on 20 October. At the same time, it was cautioned against back-to-back meetings in the spirit of inclusivity and reducing the workload. Concerns were expressed that postponing the joint WG LAM1 would have cascading effects on the rest of the schedule, noting the implications, particularly for WGI. There was a preference expressed for an earlier IPCC plenary, as it had to consider important matters such as the budget, the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Use and Storage, and the timeline for the WG reports, allowing for better planning and informing the IPCC authors. The possibility of IPCC-63 taking place even in September or early October was queried. The question of whether there was an alternative venue for IPCC-63 in late October, in case the host country couldn't accommodate these dates, and whether this was a feasible option, was also raised. There were also concerns about how the selected dates would be perceived by member governments, noting that there were diverging views on the schedule. It was highlighted that the Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity, and Inclusivity should occur before the joint WG LAM1.

The Secretary clarified that an IPCC plenary requires a minimum of six months of preparations. September would not be feasible, and October was challenging. Regarding a new venue for IPCC-63, the proposed plenary dates for October, the Secretariat has already explored options, and as the dates coincide or are close to other UN meetings, including the WMO Congress, it would be challenging to find an alternative venue. As for the newly proposed option of holding the Plenary before or after the joint WG LAM1 in October, it could be feasible if both meetings were to be hosted by the same country.

The Chair summarised the positions of the ExCom members noting that the ranges were between the first/fourth or the second option. As there were more supporters for the first/fourth options, he encouraged ExCom members to compromise to reach a consensus.

A WGI Co-Chair highlighted first the importance of addressing the host country's requests and sought reassurance that all would be done to keep WGI LAM3 in 2026.

The ExCom agreed with the proposal from the Chair to invite the Secretariat to continue discussions with the IPCC-63 and the joint WG LAM1 host countries, Peru and France, which were aligned with the first and fourth options of holding the plenary in the last week of October and the LAM1 in the first week of December 2025. ExCom would pursue the achievement of WGI LAM3 within the year 2026.

The Chair recalled that the timeline beyond 2025 was to be considered again at IPCC-63. At IPCC-62, there was an alternative suggestion to the one proposed by the Co-Chairs for WGI to be released in May 2028, WGII in June 2028 and WGIII in July 2028, all in time for the Second Global Stocktake (GST-2). The option proposed by some developing countries that were in favour of a slower cycle was for WGI to be released in July 2028, WGII in December 2028, and WGIII in March 2029, with neither WGII nor WGIII being GST-2 aligned. A compromise option by splitting the times between the two schedules could be WGI in June 2028 (still GST-2 aligned), WGII in September 2028 (right at the border of a GST alignment) and WGIII in December 2028 (without a GST alignment). As a detailed schedule was prepared by the TSUs for the option proposed by the Co-Chairs, developing such a detailed timeline associated with the slower option could help prepare for IPCC-63. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was waiting for an IPCC timeline to decide on the modalities for the GST. Therefore, it would be helpful to have more detailed information before the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies meetings in June 2025.

The IPCC Vice-Chairs, a WGI and a WGII Co-Chair, as well as the WGIII Co-Chairs, took the floor. Comments made included that the TSUs could technically produce the schedules, but it was for the Co-Chairs and the ExCom to agree on which options to develop before the next plenary. There was a question on the possibility of exploring with UNFCCC whether it was possible to change the GST schedule. The timeline was already discussed in two previous plenaries, and not having an agreement in IPCC-63 would be risky. Therefore, flexibility and preparing options would be a condition for success in the next plenary. A view not favouring revisiting the timeline was also expressed, as this would address the concerns of a group of countries but not of all governments. It was also highlighted that discussions at IPCC-62 were political, and it would be good to understand better the option that had been proposed so that the ExCom could provide scientific and technical input to the Panel. It was noted that the timeline extension comes at a TSU cost, which needs to be considered.

The Secretary recalled the difficult deliberations at IPCC-62, on the timeline, and even on the 2025 budget, encouraging ExCom members to foresee the IPCC-63 discussions on this topic and to prepare based on the Chair's proposal.

The Chair added that it would be helpful to turn the proposal by some developing countries into a set of design principles and a detailed timeline. Then, other arguments, including budget considerations, could be added.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs and a WGI and a WGII Co-Chair took the floor. While understanding the timelines is useful, it may not counter the arguments. At IPCC-62, none of these arguments were against the technicalities of the schedule. The need for more time to publish scientific literature was raised. However, this was not the responsibility of the IPCC. In the same way, the design principles could be debated outside the direct mandate of the IPCC at IPCC-63. If governments could agree on certain principles, such as leaving a week between the review periods, this would help the revision of the timeline. It was also noted that this was not a new discussion, and the original proposal had not changed since the start, although there were concerns expressed even by Bureau members. A central issue of concern was the review process, which was within the IPCC's remit.

The Chair suggested that in consultation with the Secretary, he would articulate a set of design principles that reflect the views expressed at IPCC-62 and any subsequent bilateral meetings with individual countries. Then, this information would be supplied to the WGs to work on a different timeline that reflects these design principles. This was only for internal information for ExCom.

A WGI Co-Chair took the floor inquiring whether the design principles would be agreed on by the Panel before and noting not being in favour of changing the timeline before such an agreement.

The Chair clarified that the negotiations could not take place unless they were informed, and at the moment, there was no information about other schedules.

The Chair added that since there was no consensus, the conclusion was that he and the Secretary would articulate the design principles and invite the WGs to consider these in developing time schedules.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1. Workshops, expert meetings and outstanding expert meetings proposals

The Chair provided updates on the two co-located workshops, on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and Methods of Assessment. The WGs Co-Chairs would be invited to nominate members for the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). After having the internal SSC members, the process for agreeing on external experts would commence. The workshops were planned for October 2025. Depending on the possibility of holding them back-to-back with IPCC-63, there were two candidate host countries. The organisation of the workshops would be managed by the Chair's Science Adviser.

A WGI Co-Chair informed that there was a proposal being considered in coordination with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) for a co-sponsored workshop on High-Impact Events and Earth System Tipping Points instead of the initially suggested expert meeting to IPCC-62.

The Chair clarified that a co-sponsored workshop would need the agreement of the relevant WG.

A WGII Co-Chair provided updates on the plans for the Expert Meeting on the Methodologies, Metrics and Indicators for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, noting that the proposal for the expert meeting would be turned into a concept note to be provided to the SSC and the participants to be invited to the meeting.

An IPCC Vice-Chair, who is also a Chair of the Gender Action Team (GAT), provided updates on the expert meeting on Gender, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. The meeting was planned for October, but the dates would depend on the venue's availability. She pleaded to make space for an in-person SSC or GAT meeting in the margins of the next Bureau or plenary session.

ExCom took note of the updates on workshops, expert meetings and outstanding expert meetings proposals.

The meeting concluded at 16.10.

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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

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- 3.2. Ongoing and planned activities

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

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

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

- 5.2. Update on forthcoming meetings:
 - Update on the preparations for the 63rd Session of the IPCC
 - Provisional plans for subsequent Bureau/Plenary meetings

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- 6.2. Workshops, expert meetings and outstanding expert meetings proposals