

**IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING**  
**Teleconference, 21 January 2026**

**CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS**

Participants

Chair:  
Jim Skea

Members:  
Ladislav Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair), Diana Ürge-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), Takeshi Enoki (Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories [TFI] Co-Chair).

Advisory members:  
Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary), Clotilde Péan (WGI Technical Support Unit [TSU] Head), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head).

IPCC Secretariat:  
Erмира Fida (IPCC Deputy Secretary), Andrej Mahecic (Head of Communications and Media Relations), Mxolisi Shongwe (Programme Officer), Jennifer Lew-Schneider (Legal Officer), Jesbin Baidya (Information Technology and Logistics Officer), Nina Peeva (External Relations Officer), Melissa Walsh (Communications Officer), Joelle Fernandez (Administrative Assistant and Assistant to the Secretary), Laura Biaigioni (Web Information and Publications Assistant), Minang Acharya (Programme Officer), Julius Brandes (Programme Officer).

Invited:  
Géninha Lisboa (Executive Assistant to the IPCC Chair), Emilie Vanvyve (Science Adviser to the IPCC Chair), Michael Westphal (WGIII TSU Head of Science).

## **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair opened the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom-138).

The Secretary introduced the draft agenda.

The IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) adopted the provisional agenda (EXCOM-CXXXVIII/Doc. 1), as attached in Annex 1.

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

### **2.1. BUR-70 preparations**

The Secretary noted that the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR-70) would take place on 26 and 27 February 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland. The provisional agenda would cover topics such as admission of observer organisations, expert meetings and workshops, progress reports, and matters related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international bodies. Another topic at BUR-70 would be the Review of

Principles and Procedures. ExCom members were invited to add items, if any, in addition to those already listed by the Chair. The deadline was 15 January 2026, and some ExCom members had requested an extension.

The Chair noted that he had added more suggestions to the initial ones and that the invitation remained open to the other ExCom members to submit their input as soon as possible. He suggested that, once the list was closed, the Secretariat cluster the input to be presented to the Bureau in a logical way. The Chair would also submit a paper to BUR-70 on links with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), particularly in the context of the invitation to co-sponsor an event.

An IPCC Vice-Chair, the Working Group I (WGI) Co-Chairs, and a Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chair took the floor. Questions were raised about the clarity of the process for collecting topics and clustering them, and whether there would be any filtering or screening based on feasibility or other criteria. Clarification was sought on whether it was still possible to add more topics. There was also a query on whether the timeline for the three WGs' contributions to the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) would be discussed and what the main topics would be for the BUR-70 and the 64th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-64). There was a question related to the half day training on the Gender, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (GDEI) back-to-back to the BUR-70 and whether the trainers would be able to incorporate feedback from the surveys of the joint Working Groups (WGs) First Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) and the Third Lead Author Meeting (LAM3) for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

The Chair clarified that the timeline would not be included in the Provisional Agendas for BUR-70 and IPCC-64, and that other high-priority items would be considered, including the Review of the IPCC Principles and Procedures. Regarding the BUR-70 document on the Review of the Principles, there would be no filtering; all suggested items should be included. The Secretariat would only cluster and group them to help the discussions. The GDEI training should be part of the GAT report under the current provisional agenda. He also added that he had a meeting with the trainers, Ernst & Young, and they had already considered the survey responses.

The Secretary echoed the Chair's words that there would be no filtering or exclusion of any suggestions.

The Deputy Secretary added that updates on the GDEI training would be included in the Secretariat's report item.

The ExCom took note of the information provided.

## **2.2. IPCC-64 preparations**

The Secretary noted that IPCC-64 was scheduled for 24 to 27 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. It would be a regular business session that, among other items, would include observer organisations, progress reports, and matters related to the UNFCCC and other international organisations. The Review of IPCC Principles and Procedures would be a key agenda item. With thorough preparation at BUR-70, a list of issues would be brought to the Plenary for consideration. It was advisable to enable constructive discussion and avoid repeating past experiences in which reviews did not lead to actionable decisions. Other items would include approval of the draft reports of the 61<sup>st</sup>, 62<sup>nd</sup>, and 63<sup>rd</sup> Sessions of the IPCC (IPCC-61, IPCC-62, and IPCC-63). The Secretariat would also provide information on the pre-plenary briefing session organised during IPCC-61. Finally, two events were planned back-to-back to IPCC-64. One lecture from the Chair at an UN-wide Town Hall meeting on Monday, 23 March, and an IPCC outreach on Sunday, 29 March, were under discussion, which, among other objectives, would provide opportunities for fundraising.

The Chair added that the item on the Review of the Procedures was expected to address fundamental issues and prompt an extensive discussion.

A WGI Co-Chair, a WGII Co-Chair and a WGIII Co-Chair took the floor. Questions raised included the modalities for reviewing the principles and whether the process would be conducted as in the past, with government-led oversight and minimal involvement from the Bureau. A question was asked whether the Bureau needed to agree on the matters to be presented to the Panel, or whether all would be presented regardless of consensus at BUR-70. A question was raised about why the outreach would be held on 29 March, Sunday, rather than 28 March, Saturday.

The Chair noted that it would be important to table a paper from the Bureau synthesising the advice emerging from BUR-70, with a Bureau member introducing and presenting it to the Panel. Subject to government agreement, a contact group could be convened to agree on the Terms of Reference for an intersessional Task Group to work ahead of the next IPCC session. In that contact group, it would be advisable for governments to use Bureau members as resource persons. The Chair also explained that where the Bureau reaches consensus on advice to the Panel, this should be clearly communicated. In cases of disagreement within the Bureau, the different points of view should also be communicated. This would ensure full transparency with the Panel regarding the discussions that took place. The Chair confirmed that he and the Secretariat would prepare the relevant BUR-70 document on the Review of the Principles and the Procedures.

The Head of Communications explained that the planning of the outreach events was guided by lessons learned from IPCC-62, and in particular, the need to avoid the risk of the session overrunning. For this reason, it was considered safer to schedule the session for Sunday rather than Saturday.

A WGII Co-Chair took the floor, referring to the previous ExCom discussion on risks related to the organisation of the WGII LAM3, in case there were budget discussions at IPCC-64, noting that the Secretary has provided information on funding provisions in this situation. However, WGII has not yet received assurance from the host country that this would be a workable solution.

The Chair noted that this was not an unprecedented situation, as the bulk of the work lay in preparing the agreement, with its signing representing the final step.

The Secretary echoed the Chair's words and asked whether the WGII Co-Chair could put him in contact with the host country as a matter of priority so he can explain the process and handle the matter.

Another WGII Co-Chair took the floor and expressed appreciation if the Secretary could clarify the matter with the host country. Regarding the outreach, he noted that while there may be prior precedent, it would be unnecessary to delay by an additional day.

The Chair asked the Secretary to ensure there was a sufficient buffer between the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of IPCC (IPCC-65), the UNFCCC 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP31), and the WGI LAM3, with the latter being planned for November 2026.

The Secretary inquired whether the second week of October 2026 would be suitable.

The Chair confirmed that this was a good time.

The ExCom took note of the information provided.

### **2.3. Expert Meetings and Workshops**

The Secretary listed the upcoming expert meetings and workshop.

The Chair provided updates on the two co-located Workshops on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and on Methods of Assessment (10-12 February 2026 in Reading, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)). A Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) meeting was scheduled for the following week, at which the agenda would be finalised. Background materials, participant briefings, and preparations for a preparatory webinar were underway the week before the workshops began. Logistical arrangements were in place, including a planned recorded intervention from a UK government minister and potential participation by the UK Special Envoy on Climate Change at the reception. The Chair expressed appreciation for his Science Advisor for her significant contribution to advancing these preparations. On the Science of Science of Communication Expert Meeting, the Chair would bring a paper to BUR-70, building also on discussions at a previous ExCom meeting. The Panel has already decided to proceed with this Expert Meeting. The timing and location remained to be determined. The Chair would propose a clearer working title, such as one focused on enhancing the accessibility of IPCC reports, to better reflect the meeting's intended focus.

A WGI Co-Chair noted that the Expert Meeting on Regional Climate Information & Atlas was planned to take place following the WGI Second Lead Author Meeting (LAM2) in Santiago, Chile.

A WGII Co-Chair provided updates on the Expert Meeting on Methodologies, Metrics, and Indicators for Assessing Climate Change (3-5 March 2026 in Accra, Ghana). The SSC was developing the final draft of the work plan and background materials. Significant communication interest was anticipated. In addition to outreach during the event, early thinking has begun on the outcome and how to communicate it. As for the possible co-sponsored event on water, work was underway on the final version of a concept note, which was expected to be shared with the Chair. The meeting date was still to be confirmed, with the third quarter of 2026 currently envisaged. It would be a collaboration between the three WGs, led by WGII and the host organisation.

Another WGII Co-Chair provided an update on the Co-sponsored Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Health with Wellcome Trust to take place on 27-29 January 2026 in London, UK, with around 140 participants confirmed. The final SSC meeting would be held in person on 26 January, the day preceding the event. Participation from AR7 authors across all WGs was strong. One of the WGIII Co-Chairs has been a key member of the SSC, and her advice has been instrumental to the preparations of the meeting. The Chair was expected to open the meeting. An IPCC Vice-Chair and a WGI Vice-Chair were amongst the presenters. The meeting outcomes were expected to be presented at a future Bureau meeting, ideally to BUR-70 and IPCC-64.

The WGII Co-Chair further noted that preparations were underway for the co-sponsored workshop on climate change and agriculture with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). An SSC has been convened with representatives from both FAO and IPCC, and its first meeting took place on 16 January on the margins of the LAM3 of the Special Report. The meeting was tentatively planned for early June 2026 in Rome, Italy.

A WGIII Co-Chair highlighted the importance of the expert meetings as inputs to the report, while emphasising the need for balanced WG Bureaux representation. Inclusivity should be reflected from the start. The SSCs should, if possible, have two representatives per WG Bureau, one from a developed country and one from a developing country. It was her understanding that the Technical Support Units (TSUs) were expected to contribute actively rather than attend in an advisory or observer role.

A TFI Co-Chair provided an update on the Expert Meeting on alkalinity enhancement and direct ocean capture, noting that the Task Force Bureau (TFB) meeting held the previous week included discussion of the issue and that due to a lack of consensus, further consideration would be needed. As two Methodology Reports were scheduled to be developed and approved in 2027, the Expert Meeting work would be better placed later in the cycle. As this was a co-organised expert meeting with the WGs, a draft concept note would be drafted and shared with the WG Co-Chairs for their input, with the aim of developing a proposal, potentially for IPCC-65.

The Chair added that alkalinity enhancement and direct ocean capture were outside the current scope of the Methodology Report, and therefore, this work could be taken up later in the cycle.

An IPCC Vice-Chair noted that, having played a key role in the discussions of the topic at IPCC-63, her recollection was that there was a shared understanding that it should take place toward the end of the current assessment cycle. This timing was intended to allow the meeting to benefit from the content of the WG Seventh Assessment Reports.

The Chair noted an agreement on this within the ExCom.

An IPCC Vice-Chair expressed strong appreciation for the expert workshops and meetings and stressed the importance of ensuring their outcomes were clearly reflected in the WG reports. In the absence of new special reports, these activities could become core to IPCC work and communications, including at the UNFCCC meeting. It was important to have a balanced approach to participation in the SSC, encouraging the full use of the diversity of expertise across the Bureau while recognising the need for appropriate expertise.

A WGII Co-Chair also emphasised the importance of inclusivity, flagging that introducing cross-working-group SSC representation could require changes to existing procedures that currently require the support of only one WG Co-Chair for co-sponsored meetings.

The Chair added that the procedures referred to the relevant WG Co-Chairs. When it was relevant to more than one WG, it would need the agreement of the Co-Chairs of the WGs to which it was relevant. Although not specified, the SSC should also include representation of those WGs that were relevant.

An IPCC Vice-Chair highlighted that while the relevance of expert meetings to certain WGs was understood, it remained important to ensure diverse and inclusive representation, particularly in memberships and in ad hoc or moderating roles, where greater attention to diversity would be beneficial.

The ExCom took note of the information provided.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1. Implementation of the communication action plan**

The Head of Communications and Media Relations updated the ExCom that the Communications and (Outreach) Action Team (COAT) has initiated the review of the Communications Strategy Implementation Plan. The WG and TFI representatives would consult their respective Bureaux. This was to be discussed at the next COAT meeting and subsequently at a future ExCom meeting. The COAT also discussed the IPCC's institutional presence on X and decided to refer the issue back to the ExCom, along with a list of proposed quantitative and qualitative indicators. The [IPCC Communications Strategy](#) (paragraph 19) recognised social media as an important tool, and the Secretariat was to keep the appropriate use of social media under review. The Secretariat, in consultation with the COAT, was also to

prepare guidelines for the use of social media. Those guidelines have been part of the Bureau training provided by the Head of Communications. The Strategy also outlined the specific responsibilities and authorised spokespeople for various situations, with the Secretary and the Head of Communications assigned to speak on the IPCC's activities and procedures, as well as on institutional matters.

For outreach, the day before the co-located workshops began, three events were planned with the University of Reading, with participation from the UK Met Office and the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. One focused on students and early-career scientists. The second was intended for practitioners, and the last was a public lecture. The Secretariat was also in talks with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional office for Asia and Pacific based in Bangkok about the outreach related to IPCC-64. The event on 29 March was to replicate the regional outreach model organised during the LAM2 of the Special Report (21-25 July 2025, Mombasa, Kenya). The venue has not yet been decided, but the main objectives were outlined in a communication sent to the ExCom, aiming to collect input.

An IPCC Vice-Chair and a WGII Co-Chair took the floor. It was recalled that a preference had previously been expressed to discontinue using X, and that an effective social media and corporate messaging strategy could be pursued without this platform. Clarity was sought on the procedure for concluding the discussion and deciding on the matter.

The IPCC Head of Communications recalled that in the absence of any subsequent decision to the contrary, the IPCC would continue to use the platform in line with its Communications Strategy, established approach, and previously shared rationale. As a UN entity, the IPCC needed to be mindful of the positions taken by the broader UN system.

The Chair said there was little value in continuing to examine detailed quantitative indicators, because the key question was ethical and ideological. Referring to prominent individuals and organisations on X relevant to the IPCC, he proposed remaining on the platform on pragmatic grounds. In the Communications Strategy, responsibility for institutional matters and activities was assigned to the Secretariat. As all the posts were about activities and institutional matters, and not about science, which would place the responsibility on the Secretariat in consultation with the COAT. The current guidelines for engagement with social media, which were intended for the Bureau and the authors, did not apply to people employed by WMO or UNEP who act as part of the Secretariat. Extending these to ensure they are fully comprehensive would be helpful.

A WGII Co-Chair proposed that the ExCom decide that choices about social media presence and practices should rest with each entity. Under this approach, the Secretariat and the Chair could decide to continue using X, while a WG could choose not to use the platform.

The Chair noted that this seemed to be a reasonable solution and that the decision on the institutional aspects lies with the Secretariat and the Chair.

An IPCC Vice-Chair expressed appreciation for the proposed way forward but noted the absence of some ExCom members who have been engaged with this item. A preference was registered for the IPCC, as an institution, to withdraw from X. While acknowledging the practical approach, concern was raised that the continued presence may be used by other institutions to justify their engagement. A key issue raised was the lack of effective guardrails against misinformation, disinformation, and attacks on science on X. Continued strong institutional presence was seen as potentially lending legitimacy to such dynamics. While the importance of diversification across platforms was recognised, it was also noted that capacity constraints require a strategic prioritisation of efforts.

The Head of Communications emphasised that maintaining an institutional presence on dominant social media platforms served the IPCC's self-interest, as it ensured that scientific evidence was available in spaces where key public conversations took place. In the absence of such a presence, scientific narratives risk being shaped by other actors. The platform in question remained the most frequently cited by global media outlets. This reaffirmed the rationale for maintaining an institutional presence, while such decisions could be revisited.

The Chair concluded by summarising the proposed decisions, which included rescinding the decision to invite the COAT to produce detailed indicators; to continue, recognising that the decision on the institutional place on X rests with the Secretariat and the Chair, and that it's up to each individual component of the IPCC to decide on its own strategy for engaging.

The ExCom agreed with the Chair's proposal.

The meeting concluded at 15:24.

The first three items of the agenda adopted by the Executive Committee (ExCom) (EXCOM-CXXXVIII/Doc. 1), attached in Annex 1, were considered during ExCom-138. Subsequently, the Chair noted the lack of a quorum, and the discussions of the remaining agenda items (4-5) continued informally.

**IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING**  
**Teleconference, 21 January 2026**

EXCOM-CXXXVIII/Doc. 1  
(16.1.2026)  
Agenda Item: 1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 2. COORDINATION BETWEEN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ON ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE PRODUCTION OF ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT IPCC PRODUCTS**
  - 2.2. BUR-70 preparations
  - 2.3. IPCC-64 preparations
  - 2.4. Expert Meetings and Workshops
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
  - 3.2. Implementation of the communication action plan
- 4. URGENT ISSUES RELATED TO IPCC PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK THAT REQUIRE PROMPT ATTENTION BY THE IPCC BETWEEN PANEL SESSIONS**
  - 4.2. Working Group I
  - 4.3. Working Group II
  - 4.4. Working Group III
  - 4.5. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI)
  - 4.6. Chair
  - 4.7. Vice Chairs
  - 4.8. Secretariat
- 5. ANY OTHER MATTERS**