

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH MEETING
Teleconference, 11 March 2026

CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Jim Skea

Members:

Ramon 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), 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).

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), Jesbin Baidya (Information Technology and Logistics Officer), Nina Peeva (External Relations Officer), Werani Zabula (Communications and Information Specialist), Melissa Walsh (Communications Officer), Joelle Fernandez (Administrative Assistant and Assistant to the Secretary), Laura Biagioni (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 Fortieth Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom-140).

The Secretary introduced the draft agenda, noting that no additional agenda items had been requested, aside from the Chair's proposal to include item 5.1 on the implementation of the Programme of Work.

The Chair added that it would be good to address this item first, given the geopolitical circumstances, as it frames several of the other topics.

The IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) adopted the provisional agenda (EXCOM-CXL/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. IPCC-64 preparations

The Secretary informed that the 64th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-64), scheduled for 24 - 27 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, will cover business-related items, including the admission of observer organizations and progress reports, as well as a report on the pre-plenary briefings. A central focus of IPCC-64 would be the possible initiation of the review of the IPCC Principles and Procedures. A document has been prepared with inputs from ExCom and the Bureau. The session would also include a dedicated agenda item on fundraising. Documentation for the session was largely available. Logistical preparations were well advanced, and the site visit was conducted.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts and emphasised that the review falls within the Panel's mandate.

A Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chair inquired about the way forward in case delegations request that the Seventh Assessment Report timeline be included on the agenda.

The Chair noted that, since no signs of flexibility were detected, such a discussion would likely not make further progress. More time was needed in preparation for the 65th Session (IPCC-65), where it was hoped a conclusion could be reached. But if countries demand, then the topic would be included in the agenda.

The Secretary added that this approach aimed to ensure that the matter would be addressed more effectively at IPCC-65, with a higher likelihood of reaching a definitive and successful outcome.

The WGII Co-Chair requested information on a possible intersessional process.

The Chair clarified there was no further information on that.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

2.2. Expert Meetings and Workshops

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 meeting was successful despite several last-minute cancellations due to the situation in the Middle East and the absence of one Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) member. Arrangements were made to enable remote participation. The meeting highlighted the complexity and breadth of the topic, with participants sharing a wide range of experiences. The SSC aimed to finalise the report by the end of June. There were ongoing contacts with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regarding possible engagement, during which main topics or process updates could be shared. Following the publication of the report, additional outreach was planned to gather feedback, including from those who were unable to attend, which may inform a separate follow-up product and potentially contribute to the first-order draft of the IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, Including Indicators, Metrics and Methodologies: Update to the 1994 IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations (TGIA).

Another WGII Co-Chair added that the meeting was extremely productive because the participant composition was varied, with strong regional representation and a good split among

authors, practitioners, and other experts. The work would be helpful to the TGIA as well as to some relevant WGII chapters.

The Chair provided updates on the Science of Science of Communication Expert Meeting. Preparations were underway, but it would not be possible to organise back-to-back with the next Bureau meeting due to insufficient time. Instead, discussions were underway with the Greek Focal Point to hold the meeting in Athens in December. The meeting was expected to be relatively small, bringing together selected Bureau members, key authors and communication experts. An alternative title focused on accessibility, readability and clarity was being considered as a more suitable working concept. On the possible co-sponsored meeting with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on climate and biodiversity, the Chair has informed the IPBES Chair and Secretary about the outcomes of the discussions at the 70th Session of the IPCC Bureau. In principle, the idea was agreed upon, but it was not possible to run it within the IPCC before April 2027. If IPBES needs to move forward more quickly than that, IPCC could provide the names of potential participants.

A WGI Co-Chair reported that the Co-sponsored Workshop on Earth System High Impact Events, and Tipping Points and their Consequences (26 to 28 November 2025, Paris, France) has been completed and its proceedings were currently undergoing quality review with the aim of finalising them before IPCC-64. Preparations for the Expert Meeting on Regional Climate Information & Atlas were well advanced, with ongoing coordination through SSC meetings and collaboration with WGII, and a programme taking shape for around 70 participants, including both in-person and online attendance, to be held back-to-back with the WGI Second Lead Author Meeting (LAM2) in Santiago, Chile. In addition, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has invited for a co-sponsored expert meeting on the integrity of climate information, but this could only take place after the approval of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and therefore not before March 2027.

A WGII Co-Chair said that preparations for the water meeting were progressing with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) currently being developed, alongside ongoing discussions to establish an SSC in the coming weeks. The agriculture meeting preparations were already advancing effectively.

Another WGII Co-Chair added that a proposal had been received from the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for a potential co-sponsored workshop on global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. The proposal was shared with a WGI Vice-Chair and had been discussed in an initial meeting.

A WGI Co-Chair added that this was under consideration, highlighting the heavy workload and the possibility of considering it towards the end of the cycle.

An IPCC Vice-Chair and Chair of the Gender Action Team (GAT) noted progress on the preparation of the report of the IPCC Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity, with several rounds of constructive review comments currently being incorporated. It was planned to submit only the recommendations to IPCC-64, rather than the full report, given their potential relevance for informing revisions of procedures. As for the co-sponsored workshop on climate and biodiversity, she suggested that in the case of constraints related to the limited availability of the Co-Chairs, the Vice-Chair responsible for the liaison with IPBES, together with other Vice-Chairs and authors, could take a more active role in leading the effort.

Another IPCC Vice-Chair added that, based on previous experience, significant effort was required from the Co-Chairs and the Technical Support Units (TSUs). In this context, it may

not be advisable to move forward too quickly, and further reflection was needed, especially regarding the extent of involvement required from the Working Groups (WGs).

The Chair recalled that the decision on co-sponsorship rests with the Chair and the Co-Chairs of the relevant WGs, with the Bureau providing advisory input. Based on this advice and given capacity constraints, it was agreed that there was insufficient capacity to co-sponsor the proposed workshop in the near term. The Chair also noted that there may be challenges in reaching a legal agreement with the co-sponsoring organisation regarding the Climate and Agriculture Expert Meeting.

A WGII Co-Chair suggested, in the case of such an issue, to take it up offline.

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 flagged that the work of the Communications and (Outreach) Action Team (COAT) has been focused on the review of the Communication Strategy Implementation Plan. Comment collection has concluded, and the COAT has reviewed half of them. The plan was to report back to the ExCom when the work was concluded for ExCom's consideration and decision on the proposed changes. Preparations for the upcoming outreach, to be held back-to-back with IPCC-64, were progressing, with 80 to 100 anticipated participants. The venue has been graciously covered by the Japanese government through contacts with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office in Bangkok. Furthermore, the Secretariat has submitted placeholder applications for the IPCC side events during the 64th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), tentatively focusing on progress in the seventh assessment cycle and on inclusivity and diversity in IPCC's work.

An IPCC Vice-Chair and WGI Co-Chair took the floor, asking whether it was still possible to provide comments on the Implementation Plan.

The Chair noted it was possible and proposed inviting people to convey any additional messages through their representatives on the COAT. He added that COAT will report to the ExCom on this matter, providing a further opportunity for ExCom members to offer their views, and that the decision on the Communications Strategy Implementation Plan will rest with the ExCom.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

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 the report submitted to ExCom listed two pending cases. In the meantime, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) processed one of them. There was one remaining case related to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report (SYR).

The Chair added that, as per the Error Protocol, for the SYR, typographical errors can be dealt with relatively simply. The alleged errors in this one are slightly more than typographical, and although they were still relatively trivial editorial errors, they should formally go to the Panel.

The Chair would consult with the Secretariat to resolve that issue in line with the Principles and Procedures.

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

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

The Chair noted that this item was for urgent matters only.

5.1. Implementation of the Programme of Work

The Secretary noted that the Secretariat is monitoring the security situation daily ahead of the IPCC-64 in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). While some concerns exist regarding flight routes and potential cost increases for safer itineraries, no recommendation has been made to cancel or alter the meeting format or dates.

The Chair added that, based on recent discussions with the Secretariat, the situation regarding IPCC-64 would be reviewed toward the end of the week.

A Working Group III (WGIII) Co-Chair asked whether there were participants who had indicated that they may be unable to attend, emphasising that meeting arrangements should remain inclusive and considerate of such constraints.

The Secretary clarified that to date, 370 delegates have registered, and 109 tickets have been processed for participants from developing countries and economies in transition. At this stage, no delegations have formally indicated that they will be unable to attend. However, a significant number of participants have requested changes to their travel arrangements to avoid certain airspaces and transit points due to security concerns. As concerns persist regarding travel from specific regions, the situation is being closely monitored, and an update will be provided early next week.

The Chair concluded with appreciation for the fact that this was adding to the Secretariat's already busy workload.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.2. Working Group I

A WGI Co-Chair reported that the Technical Support Unit (TSU) was heavily involved in compiling the Zero Order Draft (ZOD) of the WGI Report, noting that it was now in the review process and contained many innovations. There was a lot of emphasis on the communications elements, and a note will be prepared in collaboration with the Bureau before the Second Lead Author Meeting (LAM2). A Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) meeting was taking place this week, and it was important for WGI as well as the other WGs. Work was also ongoing on scenarios and cross-working group matters.

The Chair asked whether CMIP7 scenarios were now available.

The WGI Co-Chair noted that this would be clarified.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.3. Working Group II

A WGII Co-Chair reported that a paper on the progress report will be made available for IPCC-64. He expressed gratitude to the IPCC Deputy Secretary for the collaboration with UNFCCC and noted that WGII was preparing to attend SB64. Work was ongoing on the ZOD of the 21 WGII report chapters and TGIA in preparation for LAM2.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.4. Working Group III

A WGIII Co-Chair reported that they were also working on ZOD and planning for LAM2 of the WGIII report and expressed appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat for guidance and support.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.5. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI)

A TFI Co-Chair reported that preparations were underway for the Third Lead Author Meeting (LAM3) for the Methodology Report on Inventories for Short-lived Climate Forcers (21-24 April 2026, Rome, Italy) and for the First Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) for the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Additional guidance) (14-16 April 2026, Rome, Italy). As for the Expert Meeting on alkalinity enhancement and direct ocean capture, planning may start in late 2027.

The Chair added it may also be useful to wait until the WGIII draft has reached a mature stage, given its relevance. He also asked about plans and timing for the approval session of the Methodology Report on Inventories for Short-lived Climate Forcers.

The TFI Co-Chair clarified that the plan was to align preparations for both Methodology Reports, even though work on one of them was more advanced at the moment, so that they could be approved in 2027.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.6. Chair

The Chair reported that work was ongoing on writing up the reports of the two co-located workshops on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and Methods of Assessment, and expressed appreciation to the WGs. Work continued on access to literature, with new approaches to additional publishers, including Taylor & Francis and SAGE. Success has been achieved in getting potential access to grey literature databases, which has been communicated to the WGs.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.7. Vice Chairs

An IPCC Vice-Chair reminded the Co-Chairs that they need to provide the names of the two representatives for the Publication and (Translation) Committee within the time established by the Secretariat, which has now sent a written request in addition to the previous information provided at ExCom meetings.

The Chair recalled that this Publications Committee has an important role, particularly in the short term, in procuring printing and publishing services for the seventh cycle.

ExCom took note of the information provided.

5.8. Secretariat

The Secretary also highlighted the Publication and (Translation) Committee, noting that the procurement should be taken seriously and the process should start as soon as possible.

The Chair once again appealed to the urgency of starting this work.

An IPCC Vice-Chair and a WGI Co-Chair sought clarification on the process for selecting the new IPCC Secretary, noting the importance of opportunities for participation and consultation.

The Chair clarified that this is within the WMO's responsibility and that the advertisement for the role was imminent. He added he was to be involved and would consult as appropriate.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

The meeting concluded at 15:15.

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EXCOM-CXL/Doc. 1
(9.III.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**
 - 2.1. IPCC-64 preparations
 - 2.2. Expert Meetings and Workshops
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1. Implementation of the communication action plan
- 4. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ERRORS IN COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER IPCC PRODUCTS**
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 - 5.1. Implementation of the Programme of Work
 - 5.2. Working Group I
 - 5.3. Working Group II
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 - 5.5. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI)
 - 5.6. Chair
 - 5.7. Vice Chairs
 - 5.8. Secretariat
- 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS**