

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING
Teleconference, Wednesday 6 February 2019 14.00-16.30 CET

CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Hoesung Lee

Members:

Ko Barrett (IPCC Vice-Chair), Thelma Krug (IPCC Vice-Chair), Youba Sokona (IPCC Vice-Chair), Valérie Masson-Delmotte (WG I Co-Chair), Panmao Zhai (WGI Co-Chair), Debra Roberts (WGII Co-chair), Hans-Otto Pörtner (WG II Co-Chair), Jim Skea (WGIII Co-Chair), Priyadarshi Shukla (WG III Co-Chair), Eduardo Calvo (TFI Co-Chair), Kiyoto Tanabe (TFI Co-Chair)

Advisory members:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), Melinda Tignor (WG II TSU Head), Raphael Slade (WG III TSU Head of Science), Andrej Kranjc (TFI TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary)

IPCC Secretariat:

Kerstin Stendahl (IPCC Deputy Secretary)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXV/Doc.1, Rev.1), as attached in Annex 1, was adopted without changes.

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

2.1 Date of IPCC-50 (SRCCL)

The Secretary of the IPCC noted that much discussion had been had as to the date for the 50th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-50), both in the IPCC Operations Action Team at its 11th meeting as well as with co-chairs and the prospective host country. He noted that the proposed date is now 2-6 August 2019 but that the host country has yet to reconfirm these dates, as the host had previously been considering dates proposed by Working Group III (WGIII) as an option for October 2019. The Secretary of the IPCC noted that accommodating the date of the Plenary might imply a shortening of the government review period in which case IPCC members should be informed.

ExCom members expressed support for the approach the Secretary had taken and asked that any changes proposed on the date and time of IPCC-50 and government review be explained in a transparent fashion to IPCC Bureau members and government focal points.

3. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Deputy Secretary informed of recent outreach and future activities, as outlined in Annex 2.

The ExCom was informed that the new Working Group III (WGIII) Technical Support Unit Communications manager will be appointed within the next few months. It was also informed that the WGIII outreach in India had been highly successful. The ExCom members commended the outreach and pavilion programme during the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The ExCom took note of the report.

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 Deputy Secretary informed the ExCom of closed and pending claims, as highlighted in the note sent to the ExCom members in advance and urged Working Groups to address the claims as soon as possible.

The ExCom took note of the update.

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 Information on the TG-Data selection process

The Secretary of the IPCC emphasised that the TG-Data selection is within the purview of the Bureau. He noted that the information and statistics on the nominations had been shared with Bureau members through a user friendly tool. For the selection during the Bureau session the IPCC Secretariat is proposing that consultation among Co-chairs and Vice-chairs is done in advance based on the nominations. During the Bureau session time will be reserved in the morning and over lunch break for further consultations among working groups and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). Outcome of the consultations/selection process will be reported to the Bureau in the morning of the second day and a list or lists of proposed nominees will be presented after which the Bureau will make its selection.

The Co-chairs of the Working Groups and Task Force Bureau (TFB) noted that after having analysed the list of nominations there is a need for added expertise among the nominated experts and that there should therefore be the possibility for nominating and selecting additional experts.

The Secretary of the IPCC proposed that past experience be followed, consisting of the following steps

1. The Bureau selects from the nominations received a preliminary list of candidates (less than 15 members)
2. The Bureau identifies and highlights possible gaps in expertise (and proposes suitable experts to fill those gaps)
3. The corresponding focal points/observer organizations will be invited to nominate the indicated experts
4. The Bureau informs P-49 about the process and outcome of the final

The ExCom took note of the proposed process.

5.2 Preparation of the AR6 Synthesis Report

Upon request by the IPCC Chair, the Secretary of the IPCC provided information on the preparations for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report (SYR). He noted that an information document on this would be submitted to the next Bureau session. The SYR scoping meeting is foreseen to take place end of 2019, but the decision can only be taken after confirmation of the date of 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-25) to the UNFCCC.

The Chair noted that a letter would be sent to Bureau members to ask for further advice on how to improve on the broad outlines already decided upon.

The ExCom took note of the information.

5.3 IPBES proposal for a technical paper on biodiversity and climate change, to be produced together by IPBES and IPCC

The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC presented a proposal for a joint technical paper between IPCC and IPBES. The Co-chairs of the Working Groups and TFB said that while the initiative was seen with great sympathy, the timing of the production was simply too ambitious. They, as well as the Vice-chairs also noted that this would be a first joint technical paper that IPCC would be involved in and therefore the procedures and formalities would need to be carefully looked at. Reference was also made to the fact the AR6 products will contain information on biodiversity related aspects pertaining to climate change. For example, the main assessment report from Working Group II (WGII) will include a cross-chapter paper on biodiversity hot spots. Further discussions would thus need to be had on the added value of a joint technical paper.

The ExCom concluded that further discussions on collaboration among IPBES and IPCC were warranted and the IPCC Chair requested that the IPCC Secretariat together with WGII Co-Chairs follow up in writing with relevant IPBES structures.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Interfacing with UN activities

The ExCom took note that in view of the IPCC rules and procedures relating to the mandate of the Secretariat that all requests from UN entities be channeled through the IPCC Secretariat. The focal point for interfacing with the UN is the Deputy Secretary.

6.2 Next meeting of the ExCom

The Secretariat will send a doodle poll to establish date and time for the next ExCom meeting after the Bureau session on 18-19 March 2019.

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EXCOM-LXV/Doc. 1, Rev.1
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Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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Communications and Outreach Activities

Ongoing and planned activities

1. Past activities

COP24

- Many of you were in Katowice and know about the extensive official and high-level programme that the Chair and other ExCom members took part in.
- The pavilion shared with the WMO was very successful and we hope to repeat that at COP25, where we will have three reports to showcase. Thanks to WGI TSU for their extensive work setting up the SR15 pavilion events.

2. Forthcoming activities

Face to face meeting

We want to have a face-to-face meeting for the Secretariat and TSU communications teams, and with some of the outside consultants (as we did at P47 in Paris). This will review plans for the packed communications calendar this year.

It's proving difficult to find a date given the 2019 schedule: B56 in March doesn't seem practical. We may end up taking a date where some people join remotely. It would make sense to wait until we can include the new WGIII TSU head of communications.

Media training

Media training for bureau members and authors was a critical element in the success of the communication of SR15 and we want to replicate it for the rest of the cycle.

Plans are in place with our external trainer for the year. In the coming weeks and months she will attend the Cali and Kazan LAMs for SRCCL and SROCC and start remote training for AR6 WGI. She will also attend the SRCCL and SROCC approval plenaries.

We will look at expanding the programme if necessary.

Communications strategies for methodology and special reports

- 2019 Refinement

The Communications Strategy for the 2019 Refinement is awaiting final sign-off by the Chair and TFI Co-Chairs. We will then move to detailed planning for the advance phase and approval plenary.

Given the importance of reporting to the Paris Agreement we expect greater interest in the outcome of the 2019 Refinement than would usually be the case with a methodology report.

We also expect continuing interest in recent and forthcoming special reports and extreme weather, given the heavy rain, typhoon, flooding and landslides that hit Japan last year. We therefore plan to invite the IPCC vice-chairs to take part in the Kyoto press conference to address any non-Refinement questions.

- SRCCL and SROCC

Drafting of the SROCC communications strategy is advanced.

Given the proximity of release dates for SROCC and SRCCL (tbc) much of the outreach between the approval plenaries and COP25 will present both reports jointly. We are therefore looking at a joint communications strategy for both sides. Clearly the new WGIII communications head will want input into this and the respective co-chairs along with the Chair will have final sign-off.

The SROCC approval session will overlap with the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit on 23 September in New York. If the IPCC is invited, we will propose having the Chair join remotely, enabling him to brief on SR15, SRCCL and very possibly if the SROCC approval is completed (and we have the Monaco-New York time difference on our side) the highlights of the ocean report.

The SROCC press conference will go ahead in Monaco on 25 September; we expect the climate summit will stimulate media and stakeholder interest in the report.

Outreach plans

Our priorities for outreach this year are:

- Africa – 4 or 5 events in different parts of the continent targeting policymakers but also the scientific community and media
- Southeast Asia – vulnerable countries Myanmar and Bangladesh, also a regional event hosted at AIT in Bangkok
- Central Asia – a region with very low engagement in terms of authors and reviewers

We are working with potential hosts on possible dates, but this is challenging given the packed schedule this year.

UNFCCC

- Subsidiary Bodies

The SB meetings will take place in the second half of June. There will be an agenda item on SR15 carried forward from SBSTA in Katowice (welcoming vs noting) but this does not concern us directly.

They are also looking at a Research and Systematic Observation Dialogue, chaired by the SBSTA chair, which would probably cover research gaps from SR15 including energy and adaptation, and ocean issues to be addressed in SROCC.

A possible date is Wednesday 19 June, but it could shift one day either way.

They are working on a concept note in the coming weeks and we will inform you once we have details.

The 2019 Refinement would be handled separately on the reporting side of the meeting. No details so far.

There will also be a poster session

- COP25

Just as we had a joint SBSTA-IPCC Special Event at COP24 to present SR15, it is likely there will be two special events at COP25, for SRCCL and SROCC.

We also plan another extensive programme in our own pavilion. Planning for COP25 will start once we have confirmation of a date. It would be good to establish early on which authors will be present and involve them more. We believe it will be better in the UNFCCC context to stick with IPCC branding rather than a general science pavilion.

As you know Brazil is no longer hosting COP25; instead, Chile has taken it on. But this involves a change in date. One date proposed is 10-24 January 2020 in Santiago. We hope to hear in the coming weeks.

Review of communications strategies

As requested by ExCom last year I will be reviewing our overall communications strategy in the coming months in the light of the Oslo expert meeting and SR15 experience.