

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING
Teleconference, 13 January 2021

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 (WGI Co-Chair), Panmao Zhai (WGI Co-Chair), Hans-Otto Pörtner (WGII Co-Chair), Jim Skea (WGIII Co-Chair), Priyadarshi Shukla (WGIII Co-Chair), Eduardo Calvo (TFI Co-Chair), Kiyoto Tanabe (TFI Co-Chair), Joy Pereira (WGII Vice-Chair).

Advisory members:

Anna Pirani (WGI TSU Head), Melinda Tignor (WG II TSU Head), Roger Fradera (WGIII TSU Head of Operations), Sandro Federici (TFI TSU Head), Noemie Leprince-Ringuet (SYR TSU Head), Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary).

IPCC Secretariat:

Ermira Fida (IPCC Deputy Secretary), Jonathan Lynn (Head of Communications), Jennifer Lew Schneider (Legal Officer), Nina Peeva, Laura Biagioni, Mxolisi Shongwe, Jesbin Baidya, Melissa Walsh, Werani Zabula, Oksana Ekzarkho, Joelle Fernandez.

Invited:

Elvira Poloczanska (TSU WGII).

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (EXCOM-LXXXIX/Doc.1, Rev.1) as attached in Annex 1 was adopted.

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

2.1 Coronavirus related issues: Impact on AR6 schedules and products

• Update on the changes to the schedule of Working Group I

The Secretariat updated the IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) on the decision taken at the 87th Meeting of the ExCom (ExCom-87) on the changes to Working Group I (WGI) schedule.

A letter has been sent to members of the Bureau for consultation on the changes to WGI's schedule with a deadline response by Thursday 14 January 2021. After the deadline a letter will be sent to IPCC Focal Points.

Working Group III (WGIII) Co-Chair updated the ExCom on the situation of WGIII's schedule and plans for the Fourth Lead Author Meeting (LAM4). The WGIII Co-Chairs are considering

holding a virtual LAM4 followed by smaller meetings held either in physical or hybrid format and sought the flexibility of funds to allow authors to attend or connect to the meeting.

He also noted that the Government of United Kingdom would prefer to hold the plenary in January 2022, which affects the WGIII schedule.

The ExCom took note of the update from WGIII Co-Chairs.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1 Ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat reported on the Communication activities as presented in the written report and highlighted that the Youth Art project is moving ahead. The United Nations (UN) Foundation is building a website. The Communications team is also lining up partners for outreach events including the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group. The emphasis for this activity will be a series of outreach events for young people worldwide to submit artwork to raise interest.

The ExCom took note of the report.

3.2 IPCC participation in the UNEP Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD)

The Secretary updated the ExCom on an invitation extended to the six IPCC Working Group Co-Chairs, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) Co-Chairs and the IPCC Secretariat to participate in the Ad hoc Global Assessments Dialogue (AGAD). AGAD is a UNEP-led coordination mechanism which brings together the major global environmental assessments to enhance synergy, explore further collaboration and explore opportunities for joint communication and outreach.

He highlighted that IPCC participation should be made with the view to ensure the reputation and integrity of the IPCC and its findings are preserved. He suggested to approach participation with an element of conditionality and make explicit the IPCC can only be involved if there is a veto on how IPCC materials, findings, the way figures are presented, and who represents the IPCC and the Communication strategy could be used for matters relating to representing IPCC in outside activities.

ExCom members expressed concerns on how IPCC findings are represented in other UN bodies noting the rigorous review process IPCC reports go through and agreed that it should be the IPCC that decides who to participate rather than AGAD deciding.

The Chair highlighted the needs to protect the IPCC brand and message in the publications and meetings of other organizations, and have the proper representation and participation from IPCC.

The Secretary highlighted the needs for a strategy to allow materials to be developed based on IPCC findings that aren't necessarily IPCC.

The Legal Officer stated the need to communicate the climate change message and work towards the same goal, while preserving the integrity of what the IPCC has done.

The Chair concluded that as the need to use IPCC products increases, a new tool to protect the IPCC brand and products needs to be developed. The Chair invited the Secretariat and the Legal Officer to prepare a formal protocol of conditionality for participation in external activities for protection of the IPCC brand and products and report back to the next ExCom.

In the interim, the Communication Strategy will be used for matters relating to representing IPCC in outside activities.

The ExCom took note of the report and agreed to consider at its next session a formal protocol of conditionality which the Secretariat will prepare.

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 Secretariat informed the ExCom that since the last reporting to the ExCom, four cases have been closed and no new claims have been received. There are three claims pending.

The ExCom took note of the Error Protocol report.

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 60th Session of the IPCC Bureau**

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the plans for the 60th Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR-60). The Secretary proposed to separate the BUR-60 into two parts and hold a BUR-60 and BUR-60 bis inviting the ExCom to consider the following schedule:

- 1 – To hold BUR-60 one week or few days prior to the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53 bis) to consider Bureau standing agenda items.
- 2 – To hold BUR-60 bis in April with the view to consider solely the preparation of the 54th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-54) and 14th Session of Working Group I (WGI-14)

The ExCom commented that the meeting will work if it is held in early April.

The ExCom took note of the report and agreed on the plans for BUR-60.

- **53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC**

The Secretary informed the ExCom that from the lessons learned from the 53rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53), it is not feasible to have more than three agenda items for IPCC-53 bis and date still needs to be decided. A poll has been sent to IPCC Focal Points on the preferred dates to hold IPCC-53 bis.

The Secretariat will send a letter to IPCC Focal Points to consult them on the agenda items emphasising a maximum of three agenda items as well as the format and other details of the session.

The Chair emphasised the importance of sending a formal letter to IPCC Focal Points seeking their inputs into the plans for IPCC-53 bis and IPCC-54.

The ExCom took note of the report.

- **54th Session of the IPCC**

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the preparations of the 54th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-54). Discussions have started with the host country (Singapore) on arranging a physical meeting in Singapore. Before IPCC-54 there should be a Bureau session dedicated to planning IPCC-54.

The Secretary highlighted that the host in Singapore has shown some degree of flexibility for conference rooms and health requirements, and the Secretariat is open to facilitating a path forward.

The Secretariat invited WGI to assign someone to participate in the meetings with the host.

The ExCom took note of the update.

- **Paper of COVID-19 implications**

The Deputy Secretary updated the ExCom on the 3rd version (3.0) of the document outlining the COVID-19 implications on approval sessions. She noted that the document which is an outcome of a joint collaboration between the Secretariat and Working Group I Technical Support Unit (TSU) reflects the ExCom members' comments at the 88th meeting of the ExCom.

Changes introduced in this version include additional details for more clarity on the proposed options for holding the IPCC-54/WG-14 Session, explicit reference to the lessons learnt from IPCC-53.

The ExCom suggested for the Secretariat to explore options for vaccines for the physical approval session.

The Chair pointed out that the vaccination is a sovereign decision unrelated to the task of the Secretariat.

The Secretary stated that the Secretariat is following the vaccination advice in the United Nations (UN) but so far, it is for international staff.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the summary of Version 3.0 and invited the Secretariat to continue to work with the ExCom and the WGI TSU to develop and refine the document with a review to develop proposals for BUR-60 and IPCC-53 bis, whichever comes first.

The ExCom took note of the update.

5.2 Joint IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop

IPCC Vice-Chair Thelma Krug shared concerns regarding the IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop's conduct and the intended outcome noting that the usual process wasn't followed. She noted that the workshop was led more by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) with the IPCC logo, and the workshop report will be presented at the next Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC emphasising that the next COP will focus on nature-based solutions and the IPCC has already been looking at this.

ExCom members shared various concerns regarding the workshop and the outcome of the workshop noting that the meeting report looks like a scientific assessment which highlights nature-based solutions, and it could look like the IPCC is highlighting that as a solution. The need for the workshop proceedings was highlighted.

The WGII Co-Chair said that the rules have been observed, that he is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and the SSC will review each section of the workshop report to ensure its scientific rigour. The report will be more substantial in terms of a science background and this is timely in terms of the topic of climate and biodiversity and the intent of governments to refer to this report to inform the upcoming COP.

The Chair reminded the ExCom that this workshop report is not an IPCC product, and there will be a disclaimer applied to the workshop proceedings as per paragraph 7.2 of Appendix A to the Principles Governing the IPCC Work. The SSC is an independent body outside the IPCC, and they made independent decisions about the selection of participants and the way to conduct the workshop and thus that the ExCom has no role to intervene in the SSC decisions.

The ExCom suggested for the Legal Officer to look at the procedures and what was mandated as the outcome from the workshop.

The Chair invited the Legal Officer to look into the legal matters of the co-sponsored workshop and to report on the outcome at the next meeting of the ExCom.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- **Flexibility of the Trust Fund funds**

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the request from WGIII Co-Chair to allow for flexibility for the use of funds from the Trust Fund. The Secretariat will explore all possibilities that are legally and financially possible.

The Chair concluded the meeting and announced the next ExCom meeting would be held on the first Wednesday of February.

ANNEX 1

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING Teleconference, 13 January 2021

EXCOM-LXXXIX/Doc. 1, Rev. 1
(13.1.2020)
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 Coronavirus related issues: Impact on AR6 schedules and products
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 Ongoing and planned activities
 - 3.2 IPCC participation in the UNEP Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD)
- 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
- 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
 - 5.2 Joint IPBES/IPCC co-sponsored workshop
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