

IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD MEETING
Teleconference, 8 May 2024

CONCLUSIONS & DECISIONS

Participants

Chair:

Jim Skea

Members:

Ladislav Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair), Diana Ürge-Vorsatz (IPCC Vice-Chair), Xiaoye Zhang (Working Group [WGI] Co-Chair), Winston Chow (WGII Co-Chair), Joy Jacqueline Pereira (WGIII Co-Chair), Katherine Calvin (WGIII Co-Chair), Takeshi Enoki (Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories [TFI] Co-Chair), Mazhar Hayat (TFI Co-Chair), Ines Camilloni (representing Region III).

Advisory members:

Abdalah Mokssit (IPCC Secretary), Clotilde Péan (WGI Technical Support Unit [TSU] Head), Melinda Tignor (WGII TSU Head), Dave Dokken (WGIII TSU Head), Rob Sturgiss (TFI TSU Head of Operations).

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 (Information and Communications Specialist), Melissa Walsh (Communications Specialist), Joelle Fernandez (Administrative Assistant and Assistant to the Secretary).

Invited:

Géninha Lisboa (Executive Assistant to IPCC Chair)

Apologies:

Ramón Pichs-Madruga (IPCC Vice-Chair), Robert Vautard (WGI Co-Chair), Bart Van den Hurk (WGII Co-Chair).

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) adopted the provisional agenda (EXCOM-CXXIII/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. Development of the AR7 Strategic Planning Schedule

A Working Group (WG) III Co-Chair updated the ExCom on the development of the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) cycle Strategic Schedule (SPS) on behalf of the Working Groups (WGs) and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) Co-Chairs.

The document, which was under preparation, contained each milestone in the process of delivering the seventh assessment cycle products, including the Methodology Report (MR) on Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs), the MR on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies,

Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CDR/CCUS) and the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SR-Cities) in 2027, the three WG reports in May, June, and July 2028, and the Synthesis Report (SYR) in May 2029. The document was being reviewed informally by the IPCC Chair and Vice-Chairs. The plan was to finalise and share the document with the Secretariat on 10 May 2024 to submit to the Bureau for its consideration at the 67th session.

The ExCom took note of the information provided.

2.2. Scoping meeting of the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)

The Secretary reported that preparations for the AR7 scoping meeting, which was scheduled for December 2024 in Malaysia, were underway. There were coordination calls between the Secretariat, a WGIII Co-Chair, the WGIII TSU, and the IPCC Focal Point from Malaysia as the host country. The Government of Norway was to provide additional funding for the meeting.

A WGIII Co-Chair expressed appreciation to the Secretariat and the Government of Norway. The hosts were exploring various hotels as potential meeting venues. While the WGIII TSU coordinated the process, all three WGs were involved in the preparations.

Two Vice-Chairs took the floor, expressing appreciation to the WGs Co-Chairs. They raised concerns that the call for nominations for the AR7 scoping meeting was sent out without prior consultation with them and encouraged improvement in the process in the future. The deadline provided for the nominations seemed short and could hinder inclusivity in the process. Clarification was sought on whether the SYR scoping will occur during the WGs' scoping.

A WGIII Co-Chair indicated that the WGs' assessment reports were the responsibility of the WGs' Bureaux, and the Co-Chairs dedicated time to consulting with them. They noted the need to improve communications with the IPCC Chair and Vice-Chairs. The timeline was based on previous practice.

The Chair noted his willingness to address the SYR in this scoping meeting to at least develop a provisional outline, which follows previous practice. This would also have implications for meeting participants' selection and how the meeting was designed and scheduled.

The ExCom took note of the information provided on the preparations for the AR7 scoping meeting.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1. Ongoing and planned activities

The Head of Communications and Media Relations updated the ExCom on communications activities since the 122nd ExCom meeting (ExCom-122). The Communications and Outreach Team (COAT) needed to be constituted as soon as possible, as the planning for the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would start after the upcoming 60th Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB60), including through consultations within the COAT. As for the SB60, he was to share a concept note for the IPCC side event, which would require a decision on the speakers.

The Chair introduced his proposal to rename the Communications Action Team (CAT) to the COAT to include outreach. Due to the current limited capacity of the WGs and the workload, he invited the Co-Chairs to consider delegating or designating a Bureau or a TSU member to participate in the COAT.

The ExCom took note of the report on communications and outreach 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 Science Programme Officer informed the ExCom that two new cases had been registered since ExCom-122. These were assigned to WGI and WGIII. Work on the WGIII case was progressing, and it would be closed when the updated Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) WGIII errata was received. There were three pending cases assigned to WGI. He expressed appreciation to the WGII Co-Chairs, the TSU, and the Chair as three WGII cases and a SYR case were closed.

The Chair acknowledged the former Head of Operations of the WGIII TSU for helping resolve the SYR case.

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:

- **Update on the preparations for the 67th Session of the IPCC Bureau**

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the preparations for the 67th Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR-67), scheduled to take place on 30 and 31 May 2024 in Geneva in person with the possibility of remote participation. He noted that BUR-67 was crucial for the optimal preparation for the upcoming 61st Session of the IPCC (IPCC-61), particularly for the SPS considerations.

The Bureau would be invited to accept the hybrid format of the meeting. He recalled that Government representatives' participation was only possible if the respective Bureau members from their countries attended the meeting, either in person or virtually.

The provisional agenda and some documents were made available in the Bureau portal with the rest to be posted shortly. Travel arrangements for delegates and Bureau members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition were progressing smoothly.

The Chair emphasised that BUR-67 would be demanding. He highlighted two items on the BUR-67 agenda related to the participation of WGs Vice-Chairs in IPCC meetings and the format of IPCC Bureau meetings. It was important for the Bureau to reach a common understanding on these matters. He suggested that a hybrid approach could be followed for all future Bureau meetings. Due to the small size of IPCC expert and scoping meetings and in the spirit of inclusivity, 2/3 of the participants could be external and 1/3 from the Bureau. The WGs would be assigned to designate those attending from their respective Bureaux, considering gender and regional balance.

Two IPCC Vice-Chairs and a WGIII Co-Chair took the floor. Support was given to the Chair's suggestion. The important role of the WGs Vice-Chairs in expert and scoping meetings was acknowledged. There was a suggestion that, when possible, all Bureau members could attend scoping and expert meetings remotely as observers and be given specific time slots to take the floor. Developing countries' needs had to be considered to strengthen inclusivity and allow for the active participation of all. These included issues related to the ability to participate in virtual meetings. Therefore, the hybrid option was appreciated. Several challenges related to

travel arrangements for participants from developing countries were highlighted, including long and inconvenient routes and the requirement to provide hotel invoices.

The Chair clarified that when proposing the hybrid meeting option, he referred only to Bureau sessions and not to all IPCC meetings, acknowledging the limitations some host countries may experience. He noted the idea of having all Bureau members participate as observers in scoping and expert meetings when the technical arrangements in the venue allowed for this. The Chair further noted that the Secretariat were willing to address the concerns related to travel arrangements, and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Travel Policy was one of the matters discussed during his last visit to the Secretariat in Geneva.

The ExCom took note of the information provided on the preparations for BUR-67.

- **Update on the preparations for the 61st Session of the IPCC**

The Secretary updated the ExCom on the preparations for the 61st Session of the IPCC (IPCC-61) to be held from 27 July to 2 August 2024 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The host country agreement was signed earlier than agreements of previous sessions. The site visit was to be concluded this week, and invitations would be sent out the following week.

A pre-plenary briefing session for IPCC-61 registered delegates and an ethics and anti-sexual harassment training for Bureau members were scheduled for 26 July 2024, the day before the start of the Plenary. The training session was planned for the morning, and the pre-plenary briefing for the afternoon. It was important for all Bureau members to attend both. The opening ceremony was preliminarily scheduled for Saturday, 27 July 2024. Since the agenda was very busy, work on the strategic items would start on the first day so that on Friday, 2 August, the plenary could end promptly.

An IPCC Vice-Chair took the floor, emphasising the need to ensure the effective participation of all, including the quick and effective handling of visa issues and other practical matters.

The ExCom took note of the update on the preparations for IPCC-61.

- **Provisional plans for subsequent Bureau/Plenary meetings**

The Secretary updated the ExCom that the 62nd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-62) was preliminarily scheduled for the end of February 2025. China has indicated a willingness to host the meeting. The 63rd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-63) was currently preliminarily scheduled for October 2025, but this would only be confirmed following the SPS's approval.

The Chair expressed gratitude to China for its willingness to host the IPCC-62.

The ExCom took note of the update on provisional plans for subsequent Bureau/Plenary meetings.

- **Update on preparations for forthcoming Expert Meetings**

A WGIII Co-Chair informed the ExCom that the Co-Chairs were working on a list of potential expert meetings. They found some windows in the SPS where expert meetings could fit, with the first option being mid-2025. If the Panel approved the expert meeting, it needed to allocate a budget for it, but currently, IPCC-61 didn't include budget discussions, and IPCC-62 was scheduled for 2025.

The Secretary clarified that, in this case, by the end of the year, a letter could be sent out to the IPCC Focal Points seeking their approval to use the provisional 2025 budget until the Panel meets next. This would allow time to manage the first quarter of 2025 until the

IPCC-62, where budget discussions will occur. If the possible expert meeting dates were closer to the first quarter of 2025, the letter could also seek an agreement to use the provisional budget with one addition regarding the expert meeting to allow the preparations to start. Having the expert meeting mid-year would facilitate the process instead of closer to the first quarter.

A WGII Co-Chair took the floor asking if BUR-67 would discuss expert meetings, indicating that the Co-Chairs have prepared a document to facilitate the decision-making process.

The Chair clarified that there was a separate item on the topic. He added that the budget discussions depended on which expert meeting would take place in 2025, as, for instance, the expert meeting on communications was already budgeted.

A TFI Co-Chair took the floor, updating that the Expert Meeting on CDR/CCUS was to take place on 1-3 July 2024, followed by the Expert Meeting on Reconciling Anthropogenic Land Use GHG Estimates on 9-11 July. The TFI would like to hold a Lead Authors Meeting for the Methodology Report (MR) on Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) in March 2025. Although there was an approved budget for this, the TFI underestimated the work volume and would like to increase the number of participants provided with travel support for the meeting.

The Secretary said he was looking for solutions to facilitate the various processes, including travel and budget-related ones, through exceptions. He appealed that the estimations should be as precise as possible and even rather on the higher than on the lower side in the future.

The ExCom took note of the update on the preparations for forthcoming Expert Meetings.

- **Matters related to the selection of the host country for the future IPCC meetings**

The Secretary highlighted the specific challenges the Secretariat handled lately regarding visa issues, legal and financial aspects, and technical capacities for hosting IPCC meetings. Before accepting offers to host IPCC meetings, it would be critical for the TSUs, WGs, and the TFI to involve the Secretariat from the start to facilitate the process.

The Chair invited the ExCom to alert the Secretariat of potential host country-related discussions from the outset of the process.

The ExCom took note of the update on the selection of the host country for future IPCC meetings.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

6.1. Matters related to the UNFCCC

- **Upcoming SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group meeting**

The Deputy Secretary provided information about the upcoming SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting, which was to take place on 13 May 2024. She presented the draft programme focusing on the collaboration between IPCC and UNFCCC in 2024, particularly during the upcoming SB60. The meeting would have two main parts. The first one was dedicated to updates from the UNFCCC six months following the last COP29 and updates from the IPCC with focus on the AR7. The second part of the meeting would look at the plans for IPCC engagements at SB60.

The Chair emphasised that the updates by the Chair, Vice-Chairs, the WGs, and the TFI would be made in a similar sequence as at Bureau meetings. He highlighted that there might be strong interest in updates about SR-Cities and topics related to adaptation, including the IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations.

The ExCom took note of the information about the upcoming SBSTA-IPCC JWG meeting.

- **IPCC engagement at SB60 (3-13 June)**

The Deputy Secretary provided information on the IPCC engagements at SB60 (3-13 June 2024, Bonn, Germany), highlighting four areas.

The mandated events with IPCC participation included the Dialogue on the Importance of Just Transition Pathways to Achieving the Goals of the Paris Agreement, the 11th Meeting of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), the Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change and the Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change, and the In-session Workshop on Progress in Implementing the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.

The joint TFI-UNFCCC side event on the IPCC Inventory Software was scheduled for 5 June, and the IPCC side event on the scientific foundations of the products in the IPCC's seventh assessment cycle and plans to enhance engagement with IPCC Focal Points for 6 June 2024.

The Secretariat would follow at least four negotiation processes relevant to the IPCC, including, but not limited to, the Research and Systematic Observation (RSO), the Global Stocktake Modalities, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the UNFCCC budget-related discussions.

In addition, potential meetings would be organised for the Chair and the Secretary with the COP29 President, the SBSTA Chair, the UNFCCC constituencies, and others.

The Chair flagged that the location of the COP28 Pavilion would be a priority for the conversation with the COP29 Presidency.

The ExCom took note of the information about the IPCC engagements at SB60.

- **IPCC presence at COP29**

The Secretary provided information about the opportunity to have an IPCC pavilion at COP29. Since having pavilions for the first time in 2018, these have been shared with partners, including the WMO, the national meteorological institutions of the host country, and the MERI Foundation. The UNFCCC has also supported the IPCC pavilion. Meetings with WMO and other partners continue, and the Secretariat would be updating the ExCom on the progress.

The pavilions have brought visibility and awareness about the IPCC's work. The programmes have been tailored to serve as a toolbox for the negotiators, providing thematic scientific information a day before the relevant discussions were held at the COPs. The pavilions' locations have been strategic.

The IPCC delegation's participation and accreditation would depend on each speaker's IPCC-related engagements.

IPCC Vice-Chair took the floor, highlighting the importance of the pavilion's location.

The Chair indicated that as the IPCC was early in the cycle, it was challenging to present new content, and therefore, the programme would be thoroughly considered.

The ExCom took note of the update on IPCC's presence at COP29.

The meeting concluded at 15:30h.

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(3.V.2024)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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- 2.2. Scoping meeting of the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)

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- 3.1. Ongoing and planned activities

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