

Our ref.: 5141-13/IPCC/GEN

Annex(es): 2

To designated IPCC Focal Points and  
Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs)  
(if no focal point has been designated)

Geneva, 13 March 2013

Sir/Madam,

With the fifth assessment period coming to a close I have the honor of addressing you on the matter of the future of the IPCC.

You may recall that in the past the IPCC carried out a discussion about the future of the IPCC at the end of an assessment process, addressing questions such as mandate of the IPCC Working Groups, structure and scope of future products, and duration and schedule of the next assessment cycle. Such a consultation process was also carried out after the completion of the Fourth Assessment Report. Governments, observers, authors and scientific organizations were invited to provide comments and suggestions. A Task Group was set up by the Panel to study all submissions and to facilitate consideration by the Panel. The Panel addressed the matter at its 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Sessions and took a number of decisions to guide the Fifth Assessment Report. At the 31<sup>st</sup> Session (Bali, Indonesia, 26-29 October 2009) after the outlines of the Working Group contributions to the Fifth Assessment Report were approved it was suggested to address remaining longer term issues in more depth two years before the end of the fifth assessment cycle.

I also draw your attention to Rule 7 of Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Election of the IPCC Bureau and Any Task Force Bureau, which requires that the “size, structure and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau will be reviewed and amended, as necessary, by the Panel at least one Session prior to the Session at which the IPCC Bureau and/or any Task Force Bureau are elected.”

According to Rule 8 the “Term of the Bureau shall be sufficient for the preparation of an Assessment Report and shall extend approximately one year after the Session at which the Assessment Report has been accepted and shall end at the Session at which the succeeding IPCC Bureau is elected.” Rule 8 requires also that the Term of the IPCC Bureau shall be defined at least one Session prior to the one at which the IPCC Bureau is elected and that the Term of any Task Force Bureau shall normally be the same as the Term of the IPCC Bureau.

In accordance with the guidance by the Panel referred to above and the provisions of Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work consideration of the future of the IPCC should start at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Panel scheduled from 14-18 October 2013 in Batumi, Georgia. Consistent with its Terms of Reference, the Bureau held an initial discussion at its 46<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 28 February -1 March 2013. The background document prepared by the IPCC Secretariat for the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Bureau is attached for your information (BUR-XLVI/Doc.15).

The Bureau agreed that a discussion on the future of the IPCC should start at the 37<sup>th</sup> Panel Session. It further agreed that the questions raised in the background document could be among

those addressed in the context of the debate. To advance the process and facilitate the conduct of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Panel, the Bureau requested the IPCC Secretariat to invite written submissions from government with respect to the process for consideration of the future of the IPCC and topics to be addressed.

I therefore would like to invite your government to provide **by 14 June 2013** your views on which topics and questions should be addressed with respect to the future of the IPCC, as well as suggestions about the process the Panel may establish for efficient and timely consideration of the matter. We kindly ask you to use the attached form for your submissions and send it to [ipccfuture@wmo.int](mailto:ipccfuture@wmo.int). The Secretariat will collate and synthesize the submissions. A discussion document will then be prepared for consideration at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, IPCC Contact Point(s), the Permanent Representative with WMO and Focal Point(s) of UNEP of your country for information.

Yours sincerely,



(Renate Christ)  
Secretary of the IPCC