

Decision IPCC/XLI-4. FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has reviewed its future work and taken a series of decisions to guide the work under the next assessment cycle. In implementing these decisions budgetary implications as well as minimizing the carbon footprint of IPCC activities shall be taken into account.

With regards to IPCC product types and their timing, the Panel decided:

1. It will continue to prepare every 5-7 years comprehensive Assessment Reports (AR), including regional aspects, together with the three-stage review process, supplemented by Special Reports. In determining its future reports and their timing the IPCC will take into account the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The identification of Special Reports, including those with a focus on regional information and priorities, should be made as early as possible and in the context of all deliverables of the cycle. Should new requests be received, in particular from the UNFCCC, they will be dealt with consistent with the “Decision Framework for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers”.
3. The scoping of Synthesis Report (SYR) as well as attention to cross cutting issues should start at an early stage.
4. To emphasize the increasing importance of enhanced cross-working group cooperation and to request the new Bureau to pay particular attention to that matter, taking into consideration lessons learnt in previous assessments.
5. All parts of an AR should be released within about one year but no more than eighteen months, with a staggering between the WG reports allowing for information presented by one Working Group (WG) to be adequately reflected by the other WGs and the SYR.
6. It will continue to prepare Methodology Reports on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
7. It will consider to develop other methodology reports or good practice guidance reports, for example, to facilitate preparation of regional and/ or national scientific assessments.
8. It will further explore ways to enhance collaboration with other relevant international and scientific organizations.

With regards to further enhancing the usability of IPCC reports, the Panel decided:

9. To request the IPCC Secretariat to facilitate and enhance further the consistent and coherent use of up to date digital technology for sharing and disseminating information.

10. To enhance the readability of IPCC products, advice from various specialists should be sought.
11. To better reflect non-English language literature in IPCC reports and recommends to the upcoming Bureau to consider the following measures:
 - To use relevant regional committees or networks, IPCC Focal Points and Working Group Vice Chairs to improve access to non-English language literature.
 - To identify, in consultation with governments and international agencies, relevant literature published in languages other than English, in particular from Developing Countries (DCs). A UN-based language service could assist in translating such documents.
 - Approach authors of such literature to serve as Expert Reviewers, Contributing Authors, and Chapter Scientists.

With regards to IPCC Structure, the Panel decided:

12. To increase the size of the IPCC Bureau to 34 through an increase in the representation of Region I from 5 to 7 and of Region II from 5 to 6 and to distribute these additional positions equally among the working groups amending Annex B to Appendix C of the *Principles Governing IPCC Work – “Procedures for IPCC Elections”* accordingly; and to initiate also a review at IPCC-43 of the approaches and criteria that would be used to determine the size, structure and composition of a future Bureau, including consideration of any implications for the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Bureau with respect to members’ role in regional representation (see Annex 1 to this decision).
13. The current structure and mandate of the three Working Groups will be retained.
14. The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) will be retained with current mandate and structure.
15. To revisit the mandate of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) at the 43rd Session of the IPCC. To this end it requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the TGICA Co-Chairs, to update the TGICA vision paper for the 43rd Session, taking into account views from scientists, IPCC Bureau, submissions from governments and IPCC observer organizations, and recommendations from an IPCC meeting of experts on this issue, organized by the Secretariat.

With respect to administrative matters and respective roles of the IPCC Secretariat and IPCC Technical Support Units (TSU), the Panel decided:

16. The administrative arrangements for the IPCC Secretariat remain as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between WMO and UNEP on the

establishment of the IPCC. The functions of the IPCC Secretariat remain as decided by IPCC at its 35th Session.

17. The Panel may decide to establish Technical Support Units (TSUs) to support the preparations of IPCC products and activities during the Sixth Assessment Report cycle. TSUs provide scientific, technical and organisational support to the respective IPCC Working Groups (WGs) and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). TSUs may be formed to support the preparation of a Synthesis Report or any other Task Force or group constituted by the Panel. The functions of the TSUs remain as decided by IPCC at its 35th Session.
18. To request the IPCC Secretariat and TSUs to report periodically to the Panel on the collaboration, roles and responsibilities, during the sixth assessment cycle.
19. To request the Secretariat and all TSUs to command a respectful workplace, emphasizing policies and practices that promote diversity, fairness, collaboration and inclusiveness. This should involve recruiting professional staff internationally, consistent with their respective rules and legal framework, and aiming for regional representation, in particular from developing countries in order to enhance the involvement of more regional diversity. Selection, performance appraisal and contract extension of TSU staff will be done jointly by both relevant Co-Chairs.
20. The TSU is hosted by one or jointly by both countries of the Working Group or Task Force Bureau Co-Chairs. If only one country hosts the TSU, then the Panel requests assistance to the other Co-Chair with a strong link to, and coordination with, the WG/TF TSU. A TSU can be managed jointly by the two co-chairs of a WG/TF, or by the IPCC Chair in case of the SYR TSU. Financing could be from several sources.

With respect to the selection of and support to Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs) and Review Editors (RE) and improving the writing and review process, the Panel decided:

21. It will further consider the matter of broadening the nomination process in particular with respect to implications for the intergovernmental nature of the IPCC and funding, taking into consideration the results of the questionnaire sent out by the IPCC Secretariat.
22. In order to support the task of CLAs and LAs, the enhanced use of research assistants or chapter scientists is encouraged, as well as assistance through IT technology, for instance with reference management. Financial implications for the IPCC Trust Fund or TSU hosts will have to be further considered and clarified.
23. It will explore ways of providing enhanced technical and administrative support including access to scientific literature for CLAs and LAs who require it, in particular from developing countries, in recognition of the increasing burden of a comprehensive assessment.

The Panel further agreed that a number of additional measures would be suitable to attract qualified experts from developing countries and enhance and facilitate their engagement with the IPCC, including the following:

24. Further encourage Co-Chairs and other Bureau members to engage experts from developing countries in TSUs, author teams and as reviewers. Increasing training for TSUs and author teams will help ensure effective participation by all authors.
25. Increase the number of IPCC activities in developing countries.
26. Arrange briefings and training sessions for government representatives e.g. before sessions of the IPCC.
27. In the context of communication and outreach activities, to provide experts with information about the IPCC process and how they can participate in IPCC work.

With Respect to the Term of Office of the IPCC Bureau and the Task Force Bureau the Panel decided:

28. That the term of office of the IPCC Bureau and Task Force Bureau for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) shall be the duration of the Sixth Assessment Report cycle, starting in October 2015 and ending one year after the session at which the final product of the AR6 has been accepted, expected to end in 2022 at the latest.

Annex B to Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work

Composition of the IPCC Bureau and task Force Bureau

I. IPCC Bureau

The IPCC Bureau is composed of 34 members.

It consists of:

1. the IPCC-Chair;
2. three IPCC Vice-Chairs with specific responsibilities;
3. two Co-Chairs of the Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;
4. The Working Group I Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and seven Working Group Vice-Chairs;
5. The Working Group II Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and eight Working Group Vice-Chairs;
6. The Working Group III Bureau, with two Working Group Co-Chairs and seven Working Group Vice-Chairs.

Subject to the following overall regional balance within the IPCC Bureau:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Region I: | 7 positions |
| Region II: | 6 positions |
| Region III: | 4 positions |
| Region IV: | 4 positions |
| Region V: | 4 positions |
| Region VI: | 8 positions |

In filling elective positions, account should be taken of the need to ensure that:

- the three IPCC Vice-Chairpersons are from different regions including at least one from a developing country and one from a developed country;
- one Co-Chair in each Working Group and any Task Force Bureau is from a developing country;
- at least one Co-Chair in each Working Group and in the Task Force Bureau is from a country which is ready to host the Technical Support Unit;
- Each Region is represented in each of the following four formations within the Bureau: the Executive Committee, Working Group I, Working Group II, Working Group III.

Consideration should also be given to promoting gender balance.

The IPCC Chair does not represent a region.

II. Task Force Bureau

The Task Force Bureau on national Greenhouse Gas Inventories is composed of 2 Co-chairs and 12 members, 2 each of which should be drawn from each Region.