

THIRTY- FIFTH MEETING OF THE IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3 February 2016, 15h00 (CET), teleconference

CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

Participants:

Members:

E. Calvo; V. Masson-Delmotte; H. Lee; H. Pörtner; D. Roberts; P. Shukla; J. Skea; Y. Sokona; K. Tanabe; P. Zhai.

Advisory Members:

C.Martin-Novella; A. Pirani; M.Tignor.

Secretariat:

J. Lynn.

Apologies:

K. Barrett; T.Krug; J. Pereira;

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Two additional topics were suggested to be addressed under agenda item 6 on Any Other Matters: Mr Martin-Novella suggested addressing a proposal for a meeting with the Chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and Mr Zhai suggested addressing a proposal for co-sponsoring the 10th International Carbon Dioxide Conference (ICDC10) to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 August 2017. With these two additions the Executive Committee (ExCom) adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting (EXCOM-XXXV/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. Update on the establishment of Technical Support Units

The Co-Chairs of Working Groups I, II, III and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) provided oral updates on the establishment of their respective Technical Support Units (TSUs).

Ms Masson-Delmotte reported that the Head of Working Group I (WGI) Technical Support Unit (TSU) and an Administrative Assistant have already been hired. The recruitment process is well advanced for the position of Head of Science . The job description for an Information Technology Specialist has been drafted and the Secretariat is providing support in the recruitment procedure. A contract with the French Ministries of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy; Research and Foreign Affairs for the establishment of the WGI TSU in France is being finalized. Mr Zhai will have additional support in his office in China.

Mr Pörtner reported that the Head of Working Group II (WG II) TSU, Ms Tignor, has already re-located to Bremen (Germany). The advertising of other posts is awaiting clearance from the host institute. Budget negotiations with the German Government have not yet been finalized. A funding agreement is being drafted between Germany and South Africa to provide support to Ms Roberts.

Mr Skea reported that draft funding agreements with the United Kingdom are still under consideration. A collaboration agreement between the United Kingdom and India is also being considered. Job descriptions for the staff are already drafted but recruitment is pending on the finalization of the funding agreements. Mr Shukla reported that the recruitment procedures of two positions for professional staff and one for administrative support staff in India are progressing.

Mr Tanabe informed that the TFI TSU remains the same as for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and yet a short list of candidates for the post of Head of the TSU is being prepared.

The ExCom took note of the reports.

Mr Skea urged speeding up the process for recruiting the Secretary of the IPCC. Mr Lee will approach the Secretary-General of the WMO and the Executive Director of UNEP in this regard.

2.2. Strategic Planning-Timeframes

Mr Martin-Novella reported that comments received from the members of the ExCom on the tables discussed at ExCom 34 have been integrated into a single table with a 2022 horizon. An Information document including the excel table has been made available to Bureau members for the 51st Session of the IPCC Bureau. The Information document also includes a description of the main features and limitations of the schedule as well as the purposes for its consideration by the IPCC Bureau. The more relevant point from the legal point of view is that the schedule implies that the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) will be approved by October 2022 and therefore the new elections of the IPCC Bureau would take place in October 2023, one year later than what was established in paragraph 1 of Decision IPCC/XLI-4 on the Future Work of the IPCC. This change will need to be discussed at the 51st Session of the IPCC Bureau and agreed by the Panel at its next session.

The Co-chairs expressed support to the idea of developing a volume on Regional Reports during AR6. These Regional Reports would be individual chapters for each region, all compiled in one single volume with contributions mainly from Working Groups I and II but also from Working Groups III, to be further defined during the scoping process.

The ExCom took note of the report.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3.1. Overview of ongoing and planned communication and outreach activities

Mr Lynn provided an oral report on the preparations for the Expert Meeting on Communication (Oslo, Norway, 9 - 10 February 2016) and the media training for members of the IPCC Bureau that will be organized in the afternoon of 17 February 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

Mr Martin-Novella provided an oral report on the six outstanding error claims that are being processed in accordance with the Error Protocol. Mr Tanabe explained the difficulties in contacting some authors when errors are claimed in publications of assessment cycles prior to the AR5.

The ExCom took note of the 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 proposals for Special Reports

Mr Martin-Novella reported on the state of play on the preparation of the relevant documents for the consideration by the IPCC Bureau at its 51st Session in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16-17 February 2016.

There will be a document submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC introducing four information documents and action to be taken by the IPCC Bureau. The Secretariat has already made available to Bureau members an Information document with a compendium of all proposals received and will provide them in the course of this week with a second Information document with additional information provided by international organizations. There also will be an Information document with the commentaries from the Co-chairs on individual proposals and an Information document with their commentaries on clusters of proposals.

Mr Martin-Novella informed about the informal proposals from UNEP and from Brazil (communicated through Ms Krug) to host an ad hoc TSU for one of the Special Reports.

The ExCom took note of the report and agreed to further consider the possibility of establishing an ad hoc TSU for a Special Report. It was pointed out the need for receiving the proposals formally and in written form.

5.2. Access to scientific literature during the AR6 cycle

Mr Martin-Novella reported that following up on ExCom 34 discussions on this topic he contacted the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) exploring their willingness to support the establishment of an IPCC library facility through UNEP. The initial reaction from UNEP was very positive. As next steps it would be necessary for the Secretariat to write a paper on the technical specifications of the facility to be agreed with UNEP and finally, in order to formalize UNEP's commitments it will be necessary for the Panel at its 43rd Session to make a decision giving a precise mandate to UNEP.

The ExCom agreed that the Co-chairs will support the Secretariat in drafting the technical specifications paper.

5.3. Workshop with PROVIA and Future Earth

Mr Martin-Novella reported that following on discussions at ExCom 34, he contacted the leadership of PROVIA and Future Earth in order to clarify possibilities for organizing a workshop on knowledge gaps in the AR5 and possible synergies or overlaps with the Adaptation Futures 2016 conference. The Secretariat, Ms Roberts and Ms Tignor participated in different teleconferences with the leadership of PROVIA and of Future Earth.

Mr Martin-Novella and Ms Roberts reported that the conclusions of these consultations were as follows:

- The Adaptation Futures 2016 conference although relevant for the work of the IPCC does not fit well with the intentions of the workshop.
- The Scoping Paper for the workshop originally adopted by the ExCom in September 2015 will need to be reviewed by PROVIA and Future Earth leadership in collaboration with Mr Pörtner and Ms Roberts.

- It would be more feasible if instead of an “IPCC Workshop” it would be an “IPCC co-sponsored workshop (in which organization PROVIA and Future Earth would take the lead).
- In order to organize the co-sponsored workshop an organization committee would be established with participation of the three organizations (Mr Martin-Novella and MsTignor representing the IPCC) and a scientific committee where Mr Pörtner and Ms Roberts would represent IPCC.
- The workshop would be held in September 2016.

The ExCom agreed on the points above.

5.4. Global Stocktaking

Mr Martin-Novella gave an oral briefing on the Global Stocktake mentioned in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and its relevance for the work of the IPCC. He explained that the bottom line is that progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement will be made in 5 year cycles (starting in 2023) using as background reference points, inter alia, the IPCC reports. He suggested that this may imply changing the assessment cycles to 5 years after 2023 (which may imply setting up more permanent TSUs). He also pointed out that this would also suggest a need for making the Assessment Reports better tools for evaluating the composite of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which may imply to take a more sector-oriented approach in IPCC reports (this should be reflected in the scoping process). And finally he suggested that this should be matched with the methodologies to be updated by TFI to be used by member States when updating their NDCs.

Ms Roberts and Mr Zhai pointed out the importance of IPCC being present at the forthcoming meetings of the UNFCCC where this topic will be considered.

The ExCom took note of the report and agreed to continue addressing this topic in the future.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mr Martin-Novella confirmed that the meeting of the Excom with the Chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) will be held in the afternoon of 17 February 2016.

Mr Zhai reported on an informal proposal received for the IPCC to co-sponsor the 10th International Carbon Dioxide Conference (ICDC10) to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 August 2017. The ExCom agreed on the convenience of receiving a formal written proposal in the context of article 7.2 (Co-sponsored Workshops and Expert Meetings) of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work on the “Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of IPCC reports”.

**IPCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING
Teleconference, 3 February 2016**

EXCOM-XXXV/Doc. 1
(28.I.2016)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

- 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. Update on the establishment of Technical Support Units
 - 2.2. Strategic Planning-Timeframes
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1. Overview of ongoing and planned communication 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
- 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 proposals for Special Reports
 - 5.2. Access to scientific literature during the AR6 cycle
 - 5.3. Workshop with PROVIA and Future Earth
 - 5.4. Global stocktaking
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