

REPORT OF THE 39TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

(Antalya, 20 April 2009)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Chair of the IPCC, Mr Rajendra K. Pachauri, opened the session on 20 April 2009 at 10 a.m.

The agenda, approved without change, is attached as **Annex 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 3**

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 38th SESSION

The draft report of the 38th Session was approved with one minor change (revised report attached as **Annex 2**)

3. SCOPING OF THE IPCC 5TH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Mr van Ypersele, Chair of the task group set up by the Panel at its 28th Session on future IPCC work and priority items to be addressed in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), reported on behalf of the group and introduced IPCC-XXX/Doc.10, which had already been circulated to the Bureau members and had taken into account their comments prior to the upcoming 30th Session.

The key points discussed were the need to involve governments early enough in the scoping process, to guarantee a good coverage of relevant cross-cutting issues, to ensure a good balance of expertise and regional sensitivities in the Venice scoping meeting, to refine the treatment of regional issues, to ensure an efficient iterative process in the preparation of the Synthesis Report (SYR), to enable a good participation of developing country participants and authors during the whole AR5 process. The scoping process and its various stages were discussed in some detail, including the possible need for an additional scoping meeting. It was suggested that contact groups be formed to deal with regional issues and SYR topics. It was also requested that a special effort be made with the help of focal points to identify and make use of grey literature and publications in all languages.

The IPCC Chair responded that he will prepare a document to be shared with the IPCC Bureau and which will be used for guidance in Venice, that he invited the IPCC Vice-Chairs to have a coordinating role in the definition and treatment of cross-cutting issues, that the principle of a single scoping meeting will be maintained but it will be followed by a Bureau meeting in September mostly aimed at reacting on its outcomes, in order to optimize the preparation of the scoping decisions to be taken at the following Plenary Session, and that a specific scoping meeting for the SYR to be held in 2010 will be proposed to the Plenary. The formation of appropriate contact groups on some of the issues raised by the Bureau will also be proposed to the Plenary.

4. POSSIBLE IPCC SPECIAL REPORTS

4.1. Extreme Events and disasters: Managing the risks

Mr Barros, on behalf of the steering committee, introduced the conclusions of the scoping meeting held in Oslo in March 2009 for a Special Report on "Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation" (IPCC-XXX/Doc.14) and mentioned the proposal by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to co-sponsor the proposed Special Report. Bureau members expressed satisfaction with respect to the wide range of attendees from the three main IPCC communities, and positive feedback from participants. They also insisted on the need to focus the content of the report on IPCC priorities. Some members including Mr Love, WMO representative, mentioned the importance of accessing a wide variety of data sources from the practitioners in the various domains to be covered, in addition to the scientific literature. Some

members also stressed the importance of regional information and of dealing with regional extremes. The IPCC Chair congratulated the authors and noted the general support provided by the Bureau for this Special Report. The collaboration with ISDR will be welcome, for example through their participation to the steering committee, but the guidance for the content of the report should remain with IPCC. The above issues will be considered in more detail by the Plenary, however the Co-Chairs of WG 2 were invited to take into account comments made during the Session.

4.2. Any other proposals for special reports

Ms Christ, Secretary of the IPCC, drew attention of the Bureau to IPCC-XXX/INF.7, which includes comments received from some governments. Mr Warrilow provided further information on a proposal by the United Kingdom for three possible topics for Special Reports, on new climate change science, on investments for low carbon economy and on impact of climate change on ocean ecosystems. These proposals will be transmitted for consideration by the scoping meeting. However, the general view was that any new proposal for Special Reports should be carefully examined to avoid overloading AR5 writing teams. The opportunity of an expert meeting on some oceanic aspects of climate change will be conveyed to the Plenary.

5. MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNFCCC

5.1. Report of the Expert Meeting on Alternative Metrics (IPCC-XXX/Doc.13)

Mr Stocker presented, on behalf of its scientific committee, the conclusions of the expert meeting on the “science of alternative metrics”, as outlined in IPCC-XXX/Doc.13, hosted by Norway in March 2009. It provides important conclusions in response to the UNFCCC request, and as input to the scientific community and to the AR5 scoping process. The discussion covered a number of aspects, such as how the key messages should be conveyed by IPCC, how they may be interpreted by policy makers, and which additional explanations may be required. Mr Stocker indicated that a full report will be available shortly, on the web within a few weeks, and subsequently in print. The IPCC Chair agreed that he will transmit the report to UNFCCC, with a cover letter prepared by Mr Stocker, clearly indicating the scope and limitations of the findings, and including the usual sentences with caveats applicable to conclusions from expert meetings.

5.2. Any other issues arising from ongoing negotiations

Ms Christ, with complementary information from Mr Florin Vladu, UNFCCC delegate, introduced the calendar of meetings for the remaining of 2009 and expectations for IPCC support. The Bureau agreed that IPCC participation in response to UNFCCC requests should be encouraged, and that a good representation at the next SBSTA in Bonn is essential.

6. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Mr Sommeria, acting Deputy Secretary, presented the applications from organizations soliciting observer status, as contained in BUR-XXXIX/Doc.3. Consistent with the *IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organisations*, new applications have to be reviewed by the Bureau before being presented to the Plenary. Since the last Bureau meeting, two applications coming from national organizations had been pending, awaiting reactions from respective focal points: Energy Research Austria, registered in Vienna (Austria) and Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), registered in Hsinchu (China). A deadline of 28 February had been set up for focal points' responses: at that date only the focal point from China had responded (letter attached to the document), whereas a response from Austria had been received after the preparation of the document. In view of some of the legal arguments raised during the discussion, the Bureau did not feel appropriate to issue a specific recommendation on those two applications, leaving the decision to the Plenary. A third application, from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, an NGO registered under US law in Minneapolis, USA, was endorsed for positive recommendation to the Plenary.

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

7.1. WMO WCC-3

Mr Love on behalf of WMO presented the status of the preparation of the World Climate Conference 3, as outline in BUR-XXXIX/Doc.5. He mentioned that the IPCC Chair was invited to give an opening address and that the involvement of IPCC at various levels was welcome, including the preparation of the ministerial “declaration”, and the participation in some of the round tables. Mr Romero, representative of Switzerland and Chairman of the high level segment, mentioned that a draft of the declaration was already available for consultation. Bureau members emphasized the need for IPCC visibility in this important event and expressed support for active participation, particularly from Working Group I and Working Group II Co-Chairs.

7.2. Proposed co-sponsored Expert Meeting with GEOSS

Ms Christ presented the proposal prepared with the “Group on Earth Observation”(GEO) for a joint GEO-IPCC workshop entitled “How GEOSS could serve the data needs of the climate impacts and adaptation research communities and support the IPCC assessments”, as outlined in BUR-XXXIX/Doc.4. The principle of such a workshop was agreed by the Executive Team (E-team), with a tentative date in September 2009. The organizing committee would include representatives from the Task Group on Scenarios for Climate and Impact Assessment (TGICA), Working Group II, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) and Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), as well as from the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and IPCC Secretariat.

7.3. Any other activities and initiatives relevant for the work of the IPCC

Ms Christ informed the Bureau about an invitation from the United Nations Statistical Commission, as outlined in BUR-XXXIX/Doc.6, to consider how official statistics can better contribute to the work on climate change and better support policy and decision making. She solicited one expert from the TFI and one from Working Group III to come forward and prepare a response.

Mr Sommeria informed the Bureau about the status of the project (outlined in BUR-XXXIX/INF.1), “Understanding the Findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report “Climate Change 2007” – Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Development Planning”, co-sponsored by the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to be implemented by the Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), with technical support by UNEP and scientific oversight by IPCC, and involving three regional partners in Africa and Asia. The IPCC Bureau members and scientists are invited to support the project as members of the steering committee and speakers in a number of capacity building and outreach events.

Ms Christ informed the Bureau on some UNEP activities relevant for the work of the Panel, and introduced the issue of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, initiative encouraged by the United Nations (UN) for all its agencies and programs. Mr Gilruth, UNEP representative, summarized some of the UNEP climate change related activities and announced the nomination of Mr Alcamo as Chief Scientist. He presented the UNEP annual Yearbook, which reviews climate science on an annual basis, but does not intend to produce any annual assessment of climate change. The Bureau stressed the need to avoid confusion between those products and IPCC assessments, but commended UNEP in its efforts to disseminate IPCC results and support outreach activities. Mr Gilruth also introduced IPCC-XXX/INF.5 describing the proposal for a UN Greenhouse Gaz Calculator, and provided some information about the way UNEP was dealing with the issue of emissions offsetting. The Bureau agreed that it will be appropriate for IPCC to address this question in the near future.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The request to include in the Working Group III Bureau a Vice-Chair from Asia was raised by Saudi Arabia, it was decided that it would be submitted to the Plenary.

Ms Christ presented the new visual identity prepared on behalf of the Secretariat by Ms Saibante, Information and Communication Specialist, as well as some novel features for the website, including the opening of a closed website, aimed at improving exchanges of messages and documents between Bureau members. These developments were welcome by the Bureau.

Some clarification was requested about the agenda for the availability and use of new scenarios by modellers, about the incorporation of new technologies, and the prolongation of scenarios after 2100. It was decided that a contact group be proposed on this subject to the Plenary.

9. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

It was agreed that the next Session of the Bureau would be mainly dedicated to discussion on the scoping document ahead of the next Plenary. It will take place in Geneva at WMO Headquarters on 18 September 2009, and be preceded by 3 Working Group parallel meetings on 17 September.

10. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The session was closed by the IPCC Chair on 20 November at 18.00.

ANNEX 1

IPCC BUREAU
THIRTY-NINTH SESSION
Antalya, 20 April 2009

BUR-XXXIX/Doc.1
(1.IV.2009)
Agenda item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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 - 14.1. Extreme Events and disasters: Managing the risks**
 - 14.2. Any other proposals for special reports**
- 15. MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNFCCC**
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- 16. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**
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 - 17.1. WMO WCC-3**
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- 18. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 19. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
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**REPORT OF THE 38TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
IS POSTED SEPARATELY**

**List of Participants 39th Session of the IPCC Bureau
Antalya, 20 April 2009**

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