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COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6)

Communications and the scoping processes

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6)

Communications and the scoping processes

1. In Decision IPCC/XLIII-10 on Communications for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) the IPCC agreed *inter alia*:
 - “1. *To request* the respective Working Group Bureau, or in the case of the Synthesis Report, the IPCC Chair, in preparing a scoping meeting:
 - To engage with governments and a wide range of stakeholders in the scoping process, seek greater input from stakeholder groups in the scoping process, and identify, with the help of governments and observer organizations, audiences and stakeholders who can provide input;
 - To consider different options to enable stakeholders to contribute to the scoping process, for instance through a call for submissions or other pre-scoping contacts;
 - To invite the IPCC Bureau to clarify the scoping process for the Sixth Assessment Report and suggest a process for consideration at the 44th Session of the IPCC.
 2. To request the respective Working Group Co-Chairs, or in the case of the Synthesis Report, the IPCC Chair, in preparing a Summary for Policymakers:
 - To start the Summary for Policymakers with a highly accessible Executive Summary or storyline, focusing on the most policy-relevant messages, and include headline statements;
 - To consult on the length, structure and content with stakeholders during the scoping process;...”
2. Audiences for IPCC reports have broadened considerably over the years and many policymakers and stakeholders have urged the IPCC to be more inclusive in particular in preparing and communicating its reports.
3. The scoping process is a critical opportunity for the IPCC to engage with stakeholders and demonstrate this inclusiveness. The IPCC Expert Meeting on Communication, held in Oslo, Norway, on 9-10 February, 2016, expressly recommended engaging with stakeholders from the outset to understand their priorities and requirements so that the report is policy-relevant, and to seek greater input from stakeholder groups in the scoping process (see the Meeting Report (http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/supporting-material/EMR_COM_full_report.pdf), Section 5 Conclusions and Recommendations).

Following up on the third indent of paragraph 1 of Decision IPCC/XLIII-10, the IPCC Bureau considered at its 52nd Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 August 2016) initiatives to be undertaken prior to scoping meetings in order to strengthen the scoping process laid out in paragraph 4.1 of the Appendix A to the Principles Governing the IPCC Work (<http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>). Members of the Bureau and government representatives highlighted the importance of avoiding new processes with budgetary implications, and keeping such pre-scoping activities representative and free from bias.

4. The IPCC is invited to consider the draft Decision contained in Annex 1 drafted in the light of comments made by the IPCC Bureau at its 52nd Session on a number of initiatives that may be undertaken prior to scoping meetings in order to strengthen the scoping process laid out in paragraph 4.1 of the Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work:
<http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>.

For the AR6 such activities would have to be held in the first four months of 2017.

None of these options has budgetary implications for the IPCC, besides travel costs for the Chair or Working Groups Co-Chairs to participate in conferences under options (e), (f) or (g).

Draft Decision

Recalling the first indent of paragraph 1 of Decision IPCC/XLIII-10 on Communications for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) “to engage with governments and a wide range of stakeholders in the scoping process, seek greater input from stakeholder groups in the scoping process, and identify, with the help of governments and observer organizations, audiences and stakeholders who can provide input”;

Recalling the second indent of paragraph 1 of the same Decision IPCC/XLIII-10 on Communications for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) “to consider different options to enable stakeholders to contribute to the scoping process”;

Recalling the third indent of paragraph 1 of the same Decision IPCC/XLIII-10 on Communications for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) “to invite the IPCC Bureau to clarify the scoping process for the Sixth Assessment Report and suggest a process for consideration at the 44th Session of the IPCC”;

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change decides:

1. That when preparing scoping meetings the following options should be considered in order to obtain contributions from relevant stakeholders in advance of the meeting:
 - Circulating a pre-scoping questionnaire to identify key issues and questions to be addressed in the scoping meeting;
 - Inviting National Focal Points to undertake consultations with stakeholders at the national level and make a summary of the outcomes of these consultations available to the participants of the scoping meeting;
 - Identifying – including with the help of National Focal Points and observer organizations – relevant organizations and industry associations that can contribute to the scoping process and consider possibilities for holding virtual meetings with them;
 - Holding virtual meetings with observer organizations;
 - Organizing events on the sidelines of relevant international/sectoral/industry conferences;
 - Partnering with observer organizations, industry groups, scientific associations, universities etc. to drive awareness of the scoping process;
 - Holding co-sponsored workshops as provided under paragraph 7.2 of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work.
2. That such pre-scoping activities are to be kept targeted, free from bias and should identify possible conflicts of interest.