

## **REPORT OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU Singapore, 24-25 October 2019**

### **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, welcomed the members of the Bureau and government representatives, and thanked Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources for their continued hospitality after hosting the Scoping Meeting for the Synthesis Report earlier in the week. He noted that the IPCC is now at the half-way point of the sixth assessment cycle, and that this Bureau session would provide guidance on a range of topics as the IPCC prepares and develops the Sixth Assessment Report.

Mr Jian Liu, Director of the Science Division and Chief Scientist of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said UNEP was looking forward to the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to enhance its support for the IPCC.

The Opening Ceremony was also addressed by Mr Florin Vladu, Manager in the Adaptation Programme of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and by Mr Chung Kyu Park, Director of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific of WMO.

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document BUR-LVII/Doc.1 with an adjustment to consider the Working Group III (WGIII) timeline and the staffing in the Secretariat under Any Other Business. The Agenda is attached as Annex 1.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 56TH SESSION**

The Bureau approved the draft report of the Fifty-Sixth Session of the IPCC Bureau contained in document BUR-LVII/Doc.2 with an amendment to agenda item 10 "Any Other Business".

### **3. TASK GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENTS (TG-DATA)**

Mr Sebastian Vicuna, Co-Chair of the TG-Data introduced document BUR-LVII/Doc.3, Corr. 1. He highlighted the establishment, objectives, first activities and workplan of the TG-Data. He reminded the Bureau that the Task Group was established by the Panel at the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-47) when the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) was renamed to "Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data)" and the new Terms of Reference for TG-Data (i.e. Annex 1 to [Decision IPCC-XLVII-9](#)) and guidance for the Data Distribution Centre (DDC), (i.e. Annex 2 to [Decision IPCC-XLVII-9](#)) IPCC were adopted.

Mr Vicuna presented the list of TG-Data and Ex-Officio members. He informed the Bureau that two of the members who were selected by the IPCC Bureau at its 56<sup>th</sup> Session stepped down. After the amendment of the TG-Data TORs to increase the maximum number of members, four people were invited to join the Task Group. At the time of reporting, two of those invited had accepted the invitation.

The activities which TG-Data was involved in included teleconferences with DDC Managers, and former TGICA Co-Chairs, and meetings with Working Group I (WGI) AR6 Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), WGI Technical Support Unit (TSU) staff, and some Bureau members.

Some key issues which were discussed during the teleconferences and meetings include current DDC activities, DDC funding and potential new DDC nodes, tools and resources developed by the DDC and WGI Chapter CLAs (e.g. Atlas,, ESMValTool, Climate4R, HPC infrastructure and virtual servers) which are required to meet some of the TG-Data objectives, and the strategy to implement FAIR<sup>1</sup> principles to data, which aims at ensuring transparency and reproducibility of AR6 resources. The Task Group wants to ensure that source material is made available and that intermediate and output data are archived and reproducible.

The TG-Data short-term objective was to support WGI in its effort to make data FAIR. The first activity of TG-Data was to ensure that all key material (figures, tables and key results) from the AR6 Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) include provenance information and could be reproduced, and that material from the Technical Summary (TS) minimally include provenance information. The Task Group would identify key source datasets and ensure they are archived either by the DDC or by other reliable data repositories; ensure that there is a mechanism in place to publicly archive “final data”, that is, the data used to create figures and tables; clarify the metadata requirements for final data (i.e. the description of the data); contribute to drafting and reviewing author guidelines; and identify priority material that should be made FAIR

The mid-term objectives are to adjust the guidelines for WGII and WGIII. The Task Group is working towards achieving other objectives which include data access and server-side analysis, long-term reproducibility, provenance information and public code access. Furthermore, in the long-term, TG-Data intends to implement FAIR strategy in other Working Groups (WGs), facilitate in cooperation with the DDC the availability and use of climate change related data resulting from the activities of the IPCC in accordance with the mandate of the IPCC, and increase external partners and help for DDC work.

As part of their preliminary recommendations to the Bureau, TG-Data suggested that for material to be included in the SPM and TS, authors should be encouraged to use open-source software (e.g. R, Python), version control their (git); keep track of the software environment their code runs in; use virtual workspaces provided by DDCs; disclose to TG-Data which datasets are being used to produce key IPCC material (beyond CMIP6, CORDEX and the IAM scenario database); and make code public on a timeline defined by CLAs on a chapter by chapter basis, but no later than one year after publication CMIP6.

Mr Vicuna presented the Task Group’s work plan with detailed activities and timelines, which covered up to 2021. He informed the Bureau that after the first face-to-face meeting of the Task Group, the work plan would be extended to include activities post 2021. The work plan included expected schedule of activities such as implementation of FAIR strategy including guidance at different levels; transfer to other WGs; the first face-to-face meeting and other meetings; and long-term activities.

Mr Vicuna concluded by mentioning the agenda for the TG-Data first face-to-face meeting which included handing off from TGICA; update from TSU and DDC; availability of resources; discussion of FAIR Strategy; and a long-term strategy.

Gregory Flato, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Jim Skea, Debra Roberts, Kiyoto Tanabe, Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, China, Germany, Switzerland and the US took the floor.

Speakers welcomed the work of TG-Data and acknowledged the support of the governments hosting the DDCs. WG Co-Chairs reported on the collaboration with the TG-DATA.

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<sup>1</sup> findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable

WGIII requested the Bureau to approve the selection of the replacement for Sha Fu by Zhu Songli as recommended by WGIII. TFI Co-Chair pointed out that it was procedurally necessary for the Bureau to approve the selection of additional members who were not in the initial list. TG-Data Co-Chairs were requested to provide information on the resource requirements in their next report to the Bureau.

Government delegates raised a concern that it was late in the AR6 to provide training for authors and also that private sector services and resources (e.g. GitHub was a property of the Bank) might not be available in a sustainable manner. The Secretariat was requested to place the FAIR guidelines in one searchable file. The Co-Chairs were encouraged to pursue the offers to have DDC nodes in other countries.

The Bureau approved the selection of Winston Chow (Singapore), Kirstin Holsman (United States of America) and Zhu Songli (China) to be additional members of the TG-Data.

#### **4. ORGANIZATION OF THE FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC IN LIGHT OF THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE**

Mr Eric Brun, Co-Chair of the Task Group on the Organization of the future work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake (TG-FWLGST) presented an oral progress report. He highlighted the progress which was made by the Task Group after the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau which included two alternatives, which were identified. The first alternative had 7 options, with one additional option. This alternative would enable a decision to be taken at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-52) when the mandate of the Task Group was expected to end. The second alternative was to undertake an in-depth review after the IPCC-52 to assess the information required by the GST before making a decision.

Mr Brun mentioned that an invitation was sent to governments and IPCC Observer Organizations soliciting suggestions on the pros and cons of the 7 options of alternative 1 and those of alternative 2. A spreadsheet was developed which used 35 criteria clustered into 6 domains to evaluate the pros and cons of the two alternatives. The responses received from governments and IPCC Observer Organizations were presented to Task Group members during their meeting at the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC (Monaco, 20 – 23 October 2019). On 7 October 2019, IPCC Bureau members, Heads of TSUs and the Secretary of the IPCC were invited to submit their comments and suggestions on the alternatives and options identified by the Task Group. In particular, they were requested to highlight the pros and cons of each of the options and alternatives. Noting that the time given to IPCC Bureau members and Heads of TSUs to respond to the invitation was short, Mr Brun requested them to provide written inputs asap after the BUR-57 to enable the Task Group to finalize its report by the end of November 2019.

The 7 options associated with alternative 1 were presented. The main alternative 2 is to have a 3 stage process: 1) the work of the AR6 will proceed as scheduled; 2) undertake a review describing and analyzing relevant information from the IPCC and the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and the Global Stocktake; and 3) the output from the review should result in the selection of one or more viable options.

Preliminary results of the analysis of 24 responses from governments and IPCC observer organizations was presented. The responses were quite diverse. There were several countries who suggested that having an earlier election would help accelerate the transition across TSUs. Using a ranking system was suggested by one Task Group member. Average of the numerical scores assigned to each criteria were computed.

The next steps would involve consolidating submissions from the IPCC Bureau, TSU Heads and the Secretary of the IPCC, analysis of free comments for both alternatives, drafting of the final report and submitting the draft report to governments for their comments, and preparation of a document which would be presented about 4 weeks in advance of the IPCC-52. It was expected that the

decision on further steps would be taken by the Panel at IPCC-52 when the mandate of the Task Group was expected to end.

Mr Brun concluded by requesting the Bureau and the Secretariat to start thinking about conditions for facilitating decisions of the Panel during or after IPCC-52, including consideration of having earlier elections of the Bureau as a whole or partially.

Andreas Fischlin, Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Andy Reisinger and Debra Roberts took the floor. It was suggested that any option which looks mostly good should not be promoted if there is an area where it falls short of feasibility. The Co-Chairs of the TG-FWLGST were requested to conduct structured interviews with Co-Chairs and Heads of TSUs to elicit much richer information about the pros, cons, and ways to deal with some critical issues. There was a concern that voluntary written contributions might not give a rich picture and solutions to identify viable ways forward. There was also a suggestion that other activities which the IPCC could engage in were not captured such as organizing targeted expert workshops aimed at facilitating structured dialogues between policy-makers and IPCC scientists which would demonstrate that the IPCC is willing to provide information without being subsumed into a political process. It was suggested that whatever the options which are selected, the IPCC should provide the scientific and methodological support. There was a recommendation for the IPCC to draw lessons from the uptake of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the UNFCCC.

The Bureau took note of the progress report.

## **5. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

The Secretary of the IPCC, Mr Abdalah Mokssit introduced document BUR-LVII/Doc. 3. He informed the Bureau that the IPCC Legal Officer, Ms Sophie Schlingemann could not attend the meeting because of health-related issues.

Mr Mokssit informed the Bureau that since the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC (Kyoto, Japan, 8-12 May 2019), the five organizations requested IPCC observer status: (1) Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF); (2) Dalit Welfare Association (Nepal); (3) Royal Meteorological Society (UK); (4) Institute for Environment and Development Sustainability (IEDS); and (5) the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). These five organizations are already accredited as observer organizations with the UNFCCC. In accordance with Rule I.5 of the IPCC Observer Policy, these organizations do not need to submit additional documentation concerning them. The application of the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Hsinchu is still pending.

In addition, the Secretariat received a letter from the Secretary of State of the Holy See requesting admission to the IPCC as a non-member Observer State. In its application, the Holy See requested that it is granted procedural rights at Sessions of the IPCC and of any of its Working Groups: the right to speak in turn, rather than after all participating States; the right to have its communications circulated to participating States; the right to introduce proposals and to co-sponsor the proposals of other States; the right to provide comments on the Government/expert review of IPCC Reports and Technical Papers and the final review stage of Summaries for Policymakers; the right of reply; the right to raise points of order to any proceeding involving the Holy See. These rights do not grant the ability to vote or to be elected. Furthermore, the request included a specific seating position, so that the Holy See will be positioned immediately after the IPCC Member countries and before the other IPCC observers. The rights requested by the Holy See are similar to those already granted by the IPCC to the European Union in 2012, which are indicated in Rule I.8 of the IPCC Observer Policy, and in line with the rights granted to the Holy See by the United Nations General Assembly in the above mentioned Resolution of July 2004. Since the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations deals with organizations only, admitting the Holy See as a non-member Observer State required a separate Panel decision. The draft Panel decision was presented to the Bureau.

Amjad Abdulla, Gregory Flato, Valérie Masson-Delmotte and Jim Skea took the floor. The question of precedence of a request similar to that of the Holy See was raised and the details of the rights. Clarity was also sought regarding the seating order during Panel Sessions.

The Chair of the IPCC concluded that the applications of the five organizations which applied for IPCC Observer Status and the special request by the Holy See would be presented to the Panel at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session for a decision.

## **6. JOINT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN IPCC AND IPBES**

The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC, Ms Kerstin Stendahl introduced document BUR-LVII/Doc.6 which presented a proposal for joint activities between the IPCC and the IPBES. She informed the Bureau that the Plenary of the IPBES, at its seventh session which was held in Paris, France on 29 April – 4 May 2019, agreed as part of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, to the preparation of a technical paper on biodiversity and climate change, based on the material referenced or contained in the assessment reports of the IPBES and, on an exceptional basis, the assessment reports of the IPCC. The technical paper should be completed in time for the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) and the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPBES Plenary, acknowledging the current workload of the IPCC, requested the Executive Secretary of IPBES to explore with the Secretariat of the IPCC possible joint activities on biodiversity and climate change, including the possibility of jointly preparing the technical paper and further options for potential joint activities and deliverables related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and climate change, and to report back to the Plenary at its eighth session. The Executive Secretary of IPBES transmitted the decision by the Plenary to the IPCC Secretary on 5 May 2019, ahead of the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the IPCC (Kyoto, Japan, 8 – 12 May 2019). The issue was briefly discussed during the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the IPCC.

At its 50<sup>th</sup> Session, the IPCC decided to refer the matter for further preparation by the IPCC Secretariat in consultation with the IPBES Secretariat, requesting that the preparation should involve drafting of a background note including mandates and options for further action to be discussed at 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Bureau of the IPCC. During the discussions among the IPCC and IPBES communities and Secretariats, it became evident that while the decision by the IPBES Plenary foresaw a possibility for a joint technical paper by the IPCC and IPBES, this option was not seen as feasible at this time, considering that the IPBES Plenary decision would require the paper to be available in time for CBD COP 15, scheduled for October 2020, and that the next opportunity for the IPCC to approve the preparation of a joint technical paper would be at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session in February 2020.

Following some suggestions by delegates during the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC, the Secretariats of the IPCC and IPBES explored the possibilities of organizing a joint workshop or expert meeting on biodiversity and climate change. It was proposed that following the principles governing IPCC Workshops and Expert Meetings, an IPCC co-sponsorship could be extended to an expert meeting on biodiversity and climate change in March 2020 with the objective of identifying key messages on potential synergies and trade-offs between efforts aimed at conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity and efforts that support climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A workshop steering committee was proposed, which could comprise the Co-Chairs of the workshop/expert meeting (selected from among the experts to the workshop/expert meeting), two members of the IPCC Bureau, one member of the IPBES Bureau and one member of the IPBES MEP. The steering committee would determine the agenda of the workshop; prepare an outline for the workshop report; and coordinate the preparation of background documents and proceedings.

Edvin Aldrian, Ko Barrett, Andreas Fischlin, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Joy Pereira, Ramón Pichs-Madruga, Andy Reisinger, Debra Roberts, Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, Jim Skea, Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Pius Yanda, France, Norway, Switzerland and the US took the floor.

WGII Co-Chair mentioned that, consistent with past practice, a co-sponsored workshop should be under the scientific leadership of one of the IPCC Working Groups. It was suggested that WGII Co-Chairs would be allowed to engage with the IPBES Secretariat to determine the most appropriate timing of the workshop to enable WGII play the scientific leadership role on behalf of the IPCC. WGI Co-Chair supported the initiative highlighting the relevance of WGI in the discussion, citing topics covered in WGI AR6 such as the assessment of the global carbon cycle and changes in local vegetation as examples of areas of common interest. WGIII Co-Chair expressed WGIII's interest in participating in the joint activities highlighting areas of interest such as large-scale mitigation options that have consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems services.

Concerns were expressed about entering into the discussion on a minor objective without an explicit rationale of such a joint activity, noting that the IPCC is already oversubscribed with regard to the approved IPCC work programme in the AR6 cycle. It was suggested that a co-sponsored workshop is the best the IPCC could accept considering its existing priorities and human capacity.

The government of Switzerland offered funding to support the workshop. One government representative mentioned the risk of scheduling the work of the IPCC based on the timeframes of another international body and suggested that WGII Co-Chairs could prepare a proposal for an activity that would be fully controlled by the IPCC.

The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC informed that a decision was taken to only convene a workshop instead of preparing a Technical Paper.

The Bureau agreed to task Working Group II to engage with the IPBES Secretariat to investigate the proposal further in terms of time and the type of scientific emphasis. WGII Co-Chairs in consultation with other WGs were requested to proceed with the preparations and present a plan to the IPCC Executive Committee.

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AT IPCC BUREAU SESSIONS**

### **7.1 Report from the informal group on risk, and uncertainty and reproducibility of the burning embers diagrams**

Ms Ko Barrett, made reference to the previous discussion during the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau on IPCC synthesis techniques for the characterization of uncertainty and risks (i.e. document BUR-LVI/INF.3). The Bureau at its 56<sup>th</sup> Session established an informal group, coordinated by Ms Barrett, to look at the issues with the view to develop or amend or update guidance notes for use within the AR6.

The Informal Group has worked along three streams: 1) characterization of uncertainty; 2) improving traceable accounts; and 3) developing risk guidance including for the reproducibility of the burning ember diagrams. A number of Bureau members and Lead Authors (Las) are involved in the work which has progressed and is expected to yield useful information for the work of the IPCC. The status of the output from the informal group had not yet been considered.

Mr Sergey Semenov added that in the Open Informal Cross-Working Group on uncertainty, risk and burning embers, work was assigned to Bureau Members: 1) Andy Reisinger and Mark Howden lead work on applications of definitions and risks; 2) Sergey Semenov and Carlos Méndez work on greater consistency in the implementation of existing uncertainty guidance including expert judgement; and 3) Gregory Flato, Andreas Fischlin and Jan Fuglestad focus on application of traceable accounts and the generation of highly visible burning embers.

Regarding uncertainty treatment, Mr Semenov informed the Bureau that Gregory Insarov, a WGII AR6 Lead Author from the Russian Federation was invited to jointly investigate the current IPCC practice for the characterization of uncertainty and the underlying literature, including the [Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of](#)

[Uncertainties](#), hereinafter IPCC Guidance Note. Preliminary findings revealed that the existing IPCC Guidance Note is still valid and that further developments are needed especially with regards to using qualitative confidence statements. Suggestions for possible developments and future work are contained in a paper which was published in the [Fundamental and Applied Climatology](#) journal. A draft addendum to the IPCC Guidance Note was developed which discusses how the degree of confidence of a qualitative statement depends on the number of supportive pieces of evidence. This is addressed in the form of a table in which three confidence figures were used. The draft addendum was not fully supported by members of the Informal Group in part because: pieces of evidence and published papers for simplicity might not be of the same quality; there could be overlaps across papers rendering the pieces of evidence not entirely independent; and expert judgement is the traditional way. Mr Semenov suggested that authors should preferably collect and present pieces of evidence which are solid and independent and apply expert judgement to assign a given uncertainty level. He recommended that the IPCC should organize an expert meeting or seminar late in 2020 or early in 2021 to discuss relevant topics such as: reduction of subjectivity in the assignment of confidence degrees for qualitative statements; methodology for construction of burning ember diagrams; attribution methodologies; and IPCC risk concept. He offered to provide a statement to be included in the report for the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Bureau (attached as **Annex 2**).

Gregory Flato informed the Bureau that in collaboration with WGI TSU, a draft document was prepared which will be provided to WGI AR6 authors and possibly to other WG authors if the relevant Bureaus find it necessary. The draft document provides additional advice on the application of the methodology laid out in the IPCC Guidance Note, the use of the calibrated language and the way in which traceable accounts are established and documented in the reports leading from the underlying report to the Technical Summary up to the SPM. Examples of good practice which could be used for constructing assessment statements using the calibrated language are provided.

Andy Reisinger reported on the work stream on preparation of additional guidance on using the concept of risk in IPCC assessments. This work stream, which is overseen by him, Mark Howden and Carolina Vera, builds on extensive work undertaken during the preparation of the three AR6 Special Reports to arrive at a consistent shared definition of risk across the three WGs. There is currently a common definition of the concept of risk which was used in the IPCC Special Report Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) and the Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL). The need to provide additional guidance or practical advice for authors on how to use the definition of risk practically were identified. A draft document was prepared with a wide participation of authors who work on the concept of risk from the main AR6 and Special Reports. At the time of BUR-57 the draft document, which is not meant to be an overarching guidance on risk framing in IPCC Assessments, was still under review.

Mark Howden informed the Bureau that during the preparation of the SRCCL using burning embers, there was a general view that it was essential to clearly document how they were constructed to improve traceability. Consequently, Zinta Zommers and other authors prepared a paper whose title has the words, "Improving the relevance, traceability and reliability of the burning embers concept", and was due for submission to Nature Reviews Earth & Environment. The nineteen inclusive author set of the paper was drawn from Bureau members and authors from the SROCC, SRCCL and across the three Working Group AR6.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte suggested that the Informal Group could consider the concept of deep uncertainty which was discussed in the SROCC and to establish a robust approach for developing the burning embers to explicitly determine the match between the levels of warming and the different metrics, and to integrate in a strict and calibrated manner what WGI expects to provide on linking metrics at various time horizons. This would to some extent facilitate the preparation of the AR6 Synthesis Report. The proposal for organizing an expert meeting or seminar was supported.

The Chair of the IPCC concluded that this issue would be revisited during the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau.

## **8. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Secretary of the IPCC, Mr Abdalah Mokssit reminded the Bureau that at the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC (Monaco, 20 – 23 September 2019), it was announced that the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session would be held in Geneva, Switzerland. There were consultations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Director General's office over possibilities for them to host the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-52) in Rome. The United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok was also considered. However, the venue was only available in March. Two members governments (i.e. Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) requested the Secretariat to provide information they could use to consult the relevant government departments regarding the possibility to host an IPCC Panel Session. The United Nations Environment Programme also offered to host the IPCC-52 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ms Ko Barrett expressed concern about the recent propensity to standardly add evening sessions and working on weekends, which often take a toll on some delegates. She requested that when arranging Panel sessions, consideration could be made to return to normal working hours even if it would mean scheduling an extra day. France discouraged having an approval IPCC session within the WMO Building in Geneva, Switzerland citing difficulties which were encountered to host all delegates during the adoption of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL). It should be noted, however, that all delegations, Governments and observers were accommodated in the main room, the Obasi Room. For the large delegations, some of their minute-takers were seated in Room C1, from where participants could request, or take the floor, and be seen in the main room.

The decision about the venue of the IPCC-52 would be taken within the next few weeks after the BUR-57.

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **9.1 Communications and outreach activities**

Mr Jonathan Lynn, Senior Communications Manager, presented the report on communications and outreach activities contained in document BUR-LVII/INF. 1.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Noureddine Yassaa, Gregory Flato, France, Pius Yanda, Edvin Aldrian, Norway, Japan, Panmao Zhai, Jim Skea, Tanzania, Debra Roberts, the United States, Roberto Sánchez Rodríguez, Andreas Fischlin, Ko Barrett and Amjad Abdulla took the floor.

Speakers thanked the Secretariat and communications team for the communications and outreach work, in particular the communications around the release of the two IPCC Special Reports, Climate Change and Land, and Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, including efforts to support government press conferences on the releases.

Speakers proposed circulating a survey to Bureau members, authors and governments evaluating the IPCC's outreach activities, and taking part in high-level activities such as meetings of Ministers of the Environment or regional bodies such as the African Union, to use regional networks in Asia-Pacific, and to work with technical experts. They urged the communications team to work to reach media in all countries including Africa, and in languages other than English, and supported their efforts to make greater use of video. They said there was potential to expand and upscale outreach activities further, using accessible materials and graphics. Outreach activities could also target future potential authors. It was also important to monitor expenditure carefully. They urged developing materials for use by Bureau members and a plan to empower authors to talk about the reports. They noted the limited capacity of the IPCC to meet all the demands, and suggested developing materials that could be used by Bureau members and others. More use could be made of headline statements. At the same time the IPCC should find a way to prioritize requests. WGIII hopes to give authors the opportunity to hear from stakeholders such as business, and is engaging



with media and civil society organizations in advance. Speakers expressed concerns about delays in translating reports and supported efforts to find alternatives.

The Bureau took note of the report.

## **9.2 IPCC communications material**

Mr Jonathan Lynn, Senior Communications Manager, presented document BUR-LVII/Doc. 4, which set out proposals to develop, under the authority of the Co-Chairs, communications materials to present IPCC reports that would be more accessible to different audiences.

Ms Thelma Krug, welcomed the proposal, and said the IPCC had the responsibility to inform different audiences around the world about its work. She supported the proposal to design a process in which third parties would prepare materials under the supervision of the Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Technical Support Units. Ms Debra Roberts, emphasized the need to be able to present IPCC findings to audiences in different countries such as policymakers, technicians and scientists in a way that would enable them to use IPCC material.

Pius Yanda, Jim Skea, Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Joy Pereira, Diriba Kourecha Dadi, Nouredine Yassaa, Norway, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Germany, Tanzania, Roberto Sánchez Rodríguez, Edwin Aldrian, Priyadarshi Shukla, Andy Reisinger, the US, Andreas Fischlin and Mark Howden took the floor.

Speakers said it was important to bring country- and region-specific material into outreach presentations so that audiences would understand impacts on the ground. Some policymakers audiences would still require sophisticated materials, so presentations needed to be targeted to different audiences. One option would be to include complex figures in the Technical Summary and simpler versions in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM), which could be drawn on as needed for various audiences. Appropriate figures that can be used in presentations can also be displayed on the website. Building up a few key figures in an animated version could greatly enhance accessibility and understanding. Bureau members could also contribute to new materials, bringing in regional detail and expertise. Innovative communications methods as well as written materials should be considered. Materials should also target National Focal Points and make them aware of relevant sections in the reports. Communications materials should draw on material from the chapters as well as the SPM where appropriate, e.g. case studies. It was important to have sufficient capacity in the Secretariat to manage communications activities. Short videos by authors describing their work would strengthen the human face of the IPCC and communicate its diversity. It was important to assess outreach activities in a systematic way, including past outreach. Strategic guidance on how the IPCC conducts outreach should be developed to ensure a sustainable approach. Sources and platforms used by young people such as Wikipedia and YouTube should be included in our toolbox. Factsheets summarizing basic facts, and policy briefs with key messages could be useful tools. A compendium of materials could be gathered on a platform on the website. Slide presentations should be available to Bureau members through document management systems. Outreach in languages other than English should not be ignored.

Speakers also emphasized the need to protect the quality of the reports through disclaimers on such materials. Because of capacity constraints, the IPCC cannot produce presentations targeting every audience. Therefore a strategic approach is needed to decide which audiences to serve. Involving the Bureau or the Scientific Steering Committee of the report in question to review materials could bolster quality.

The Bureau asked the Secretariat to revise the document for the next Session of the Bureau, taking into account the comments made.

### 9.3 Publications and translation

Mr Jonathan Lynn, Senior Communications Manager, described the procurement process under the WMO rules and procedures that had led to the selection of a publisher for the reports in the Sixth Assessment cycle.

Ms Valérie Masson-Delmotte, emphasized the importance of selecting publishers for the IPCC reports that were in the top ranking of academic publishers and active in the fields of all Working Groups, and highlighted that the publisher holding the WMO contract lacked such quality.

Every member of the Bureau, France, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Tanzania, the US, and the UK took the floor.

Speakers expressed concerns about the publisher and recommended bringing IPCC Bureau members into the procurement process and setting criteria for publishing, with the IPCC taking responsibility for the outcomes. They underlined the importance of bringing the IPCC reports into citation databases such as Web of Science.

Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the IPCC, emphasized the importance of following due process under the WMO procurement rules through a transparent process, and all-vendors were required to observe the conditions of the tender and be treated equally.

The Bureau agreed to establish a small group to develop proposals for a long-term approach to publications and to consider immediate steps for publications in the Sixth Assessment cycle, such as minting Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). The small group consisting of several Bureau members and the Co-Chairs of WG/TFI, supported by staff from the Secretariat and TSUs, would report back to the Bureau the following day.

It was agreed that organizing DOIs and other publishing arrangements for the current reports was a high priority than developing a medium-term strategy for publications.

The Bureau asked the Secretariat to work with the Executive Committee, Technical Support Units and the WMO to explore options to enhance the publications process and deal with issues raised in the discussion.

During this agenda item, one government representative took the floor remotely, and there was a discussion on the procedures for remote participation of Bureau members and government representatives in Bureau sessions.

According to Principle 14 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work, Bureau members and government representatives may participate in a session of the Bureau via video conferencing or other electronic means, subject to agreement by the Bureau in advance of the meeting, and availability of technical facilities.

It was also recalled that in line with the current practice and procedures, the participation of a government representative in sessions of the Bureau is only possible when the Bureau member is present. It was agreed that as with physical participation in the meeting, a government representative may only participate remotely at the times that the corresponding Bureau member is participating either in person or remotely.

Following this discussion, with the agreement of the Bureau, consideration of the agenda item continued on the second day with the participation of government representatives in line with practice described in the previous paragraph.

## **10. REPORT BACK FROM THE SCOPING MEETING ON THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) SYNTHESIS REPORT**

The Chair of the IPCC, Mr Hoesung Lee, reported on the outcome of the AR6 Synthesis Report Scoping Meeting which preceded the BUR-57 from 21 – 23 October 2019. He gave an overview of the AR6 Synthesis Report (SYR) Outline, which would be presented at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-52) for approval by the Panel along with background documents and the tentative timetable for the production of the AR6 SYR. The background documents would include a report on the selection process for the scoping nominations and participants with associated statistics and an information document reflecting scoping discussions by the participants during the scoping sessions. The Bureau was informed that the next Bureau 58<sup>th</sup> Session would agree on the selection of the SYR core writing team (CWT). The tentative timetable would have five CWT meetings which will conclude with the Adoption/Approval Plenary of the SYR in 2022. The Chair informed that the Bureau would receive progress reports of the SYR as it evolves through the timeline and that the Korean Government would provide full funding for the Technical Support Unit of the SYR.

Ko Barrett, Gregory Flato, Jan Fuglestvegt, Mark Howden, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Andy Reisinger, Debra Roberts, Sergey Semenov, Jim Skea, Pius Yanda, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Tanzania and United Kingdom took the floor. Speakers emphasized the importance of an information document that would capture the rich discussion within the scoping meeting participants about the structure and bullet points of the SYR outline as providing guidance and context to synthesis authors for their work on developing SYR. Speakers also emphasized the importance of incorporating suggestions submitted by governments into the scoping of the SYR and cross working group integration through a careful selection of CWT.

The government of Switzerland offered to cover the full costs of the Adoption/Approval Plenary of the AR6 SYR scheduled for early in 2022.

The Chair noted that an information document would capture the comments by the scoping meeting participants, and thanked the government of Switzerland for offering funding for the Approval Session of the AR6 SYR.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Timeline of Working Group III report and final plenary**

Mr Raphael Slade, Working Group III (WGIII) Head of TSU (Science) reported on the outcome of the WGIII Bureau discussion about the AR6 work. He mentioned that according to the original schedule, WGIII authors had 53 weeks to write their entire report, compared to about 77 and 82 writing weeks for WGI and WGII, respectively. This shorter time for WGIII was putting a lot of pressure on the authors thus making it infeasible to guarantee a high quality report. The WGIII Bureau proposed to move the final adoption plenary for the WGIII AR6 forward by about 8 weeks to around 7 – 11 September 2021, an option which increases the number of effective writing weeks for the WGIII authors.

Mr Andreas Fischlin, Germany and Norway took the floor. Speakers requested the Secretariat to update the calendar of IPCC events and meetings on the website and supported the WGIII proposal.

The Bureau took note of the proposed WGIII timeline.

### **11.2 The staffing situation in the IPCC Secretariat and management issues**

Mr Youba Sokona, mentioned the imminent retirement of the IPCC Legal Officer, Ms Sophie Schlingemann on 30 November 2019 and raised a concern that the process of replacing her had apparently not started. He noted that the Secretariat was understaffed.

Mr Abdalah Mokssit mentioned that the process of advertising the position was ongoing. He also reported that the contract of the Head of Communication and Media Relations, Mr Jonathan Lynn who was also due for retirement in January 2020 was extended by one year.

Ko Barrett, Andy Reisinger, Pius Yanda, Noureddine Yassaa, Panmao Zhai and Germany took the floor. It was recommended that whoever would be recruited for the Legal Officer's position should be someone with not only the required qualifications but also have a good understanding of how IPCC works. It was suggested that it would be necessary to review the staff situation. Regarding the travel arrangements for people who are funded from the IPCC Trust Fund, it was suggested that visa arrangements for Bureau members could be improved in future and that whenever the venue of the meetings is selected, the accessibility of the place should be taken into account.

The Secretary of the IPCC concurred that the evaluation of the staffing situation in the IPCC Secretariat was necessary. He pledged to continue with the improvement in arranging travel for delegates to IPCC meetings.

## **12. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU**

The Secretary indicated that the Secretariat would inform the place and date for the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau in due time.

## **13. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

**IPCC BUREAU – FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**  
**Singapore, 24 – 25 October 2019**

BUR-LVII/Doc. 1  
(1.X.2019)  
Agenda Item: 1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE BUREAU**
- 3. TASK GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENTS (TG-DATA)**
- 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC IN LIGHT OF THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE**
- 5. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**
- 6. JOINT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN IPCC AND IPBES**
- 7. CONSIDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AT IPCC BUREAU SESSIONS**
  - 7.1 Report from the informal group on risk, and uncertainty and reproducibility of the burning embers diagrams
- 8. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC AND OTHER MEETINGS**
- 9. COMMUNICATIONS**
  - 9.1 Communications and outreach activities
  - 9.2 IPCC communications material
  - 9.3 Publications and translation
- 10. REPORT BACK FROM THE SCOPING MEETING ON THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) SYNTHESIS REPORT**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU**
- 13. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

25.10.2019

57th IPCC Bureau meeting, Singapore,

Item 7.1 of the Agenda

## ON THE CHARACTERIZATION OF UNCERTAINTIES

### A statement by Sergey Semenov, IPCC WG2 Vice-chair

Dear Colleagues,

Our open informal cross-WGs group of the IPCC Bureau members on uncertainties, risks and burning embers was self-organized after discussions taken place during the previous 56th IPCC Bureau meeting. IPCC Vice-Chair Ko Barret kindly agreed to chair the group. The assignments were agreed as follows:

- 1) Application of the definition of risk. (Andy Reisinger/Mark Howden).
- 2) Greater consistency in the implementation of the existing uncertainty guidance, including with regard to expert judgement. (Sergey Semenov/Carlos Mendes).
- 3) Application of traceable accounts, with specific consideration of the highly visible generation of “burning embers” diagrams. (Greg Flato/Andreas Fischlin/Jan Fuglestedt).

Regarding item 2 on uncertainty treatment, let me report, that Carlos Mendes and I have invited one of the LA of IPCC WG2 Gregory Insarov (Russia) to investigate jointly current IPCC practice for the characterization of uncertainties and underlying literature, first of all, the IPCC Guidance Note by Mastrandrea et al (2010).

Our reflections can be summarized as follows:

- existing IPCC guidance note for uncertainty treatment (Mastrandrea et al., 2010) is still valid;
- further developments are needed, especially in regard to characterization of qualitative statements using the ‘confidence’ category.

Our reflections and suggestions on possible developments are published in English in Russian scientific journal *Fundamental and Applied Climatology* (Semenov, Insarov, Méndez, 2019).

On the basis of the publication the draft ‘**Addendum-2019** to the *Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties*’. This short draft document of 2 pages is devoted to the following question:

#### ***How degree of confidence of a qualitative statement depends on the number of supportive pieces of evidence for a given total number of pieces of evidence that we have?***

The answer is provided in the form of a table indicating minimal number of supportive pieces of evidence for a given total number of them and a confidence figure. Three confidence figures were used: 0.33, 0.10 and 0.01 corresponding to likelihood grades ‘likely’, ‘very likely’ and ‘virtually certain’, respectively. Associated degree of confidence would be appropriate to qualify as ‘medium’, ‘high’ and ‘very high’. Thus, a certain merger of two uncertainty scales using in the IPCC was suggested.

The draft addendum was discussed with the members of our informal group and **not received their support**. The main contra argument were as follows:

- pieces of evidence, published papers for simplicity, may not of equal quality;
- there could be overlaps of papers, therefore the pieces of evidence can be not independent;
- expert judgement is the better way.

**I think that it is the author group responsibility to collect and present complete (to extent possible) set of pieces of evidence that are solid and independent. The use of minimal number of supportive pieces of evidence may provide NECESSARY (but may be not sufficient) criterion for assigning a given degree of uncertainty. After it, the author team may apply expert judgements to take the final decision. Such procedure can at least reduce subjectivity.**

The divergence of views described above means that

- refinement of existing IPCC guidance note on uncertainty is delayed and cannot be completed during the AR6 cycle;
- an IPCC seminar on the topic is needed to explore the issue.

Such seminar is expedient to organize in late 2020 or early 2021. The following themes are to be considered:

- reduction of subjectivity in the assignment of confidence degree for qualitative statements;
- methodologies for construction of burning ember diagrams (some improvements are shown in SRCL and SROCC; but respective IPCC guidance note is still nonexistent);
- attribution methodologies (some discussions are ongoing in the WG2, however it should be cross-WGs process);
- IPCC risk concept (current definition is more explanation, not consistent with traditional understanding of the term).

The seminar will provide, hopefully, a valuable input to AR7. I propose to consider this suggestion at the next IPCC Bureau meeting and take decision.

Thank you.

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Singapore, 24-25 October 2019

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