

**REPORT OF THE 36TH SESSION  
OF THE IPCC BUREAU**

Geneva 14-15 March 2007

**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1.1 The Chair of the IPCC, Mr Rajendra K. Pachauri, opened the session at 10 a.m.

1.2 The annotated agenda as approved is attached as **Annex 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 2**.

1.3 Mr Hong Yan, Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), addressed the session on behalf of the Secretary-General. He welcomed all Bureau members, thanked the Chair, Working Group Co-chairs, authors, TSUs and the Secretariat for all efforts for the finalisation of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), and in particular, he thanked Working Group 1 for its efforts in completing its contribution to the AR4 in time. He noted and appreciated work progress on outreach, emission scenarios, and the IPCC terms of reference. He encouraged Bureau members to support outreach activities that have been planned and are being coordinated by the Secretariat, and re-iterated WMO's commitment to support current and future programs of the IPCC, including a possible AR5.

1.4 Mr Bakary Kante, Division Director of Environmental Law and Conventions of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), delivered a message from the Executive Director of UNEP. He thanked the Chair, the Bureau members and the Working Groups for their outstanding work in completion of the AR4. He appreciated very much the efforts made by Working Group 1 Co-chairs for the timely completion of its report, and was grateful to the Chair and the Secretary of the IPCC for the timely delivery of the findings of the Working Group 1 report to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Forum of Environmental Ministers held from 5 to 9 February 2007. He ensured the Bureau that UNEP would support the IPCC AR4 outreach activities in view of the importance of communicating the findings of AR4 to users and the public, and the long record of collaboration with the IPCC. He also committed UNEP's support to other activities of the IPCC.

1.5 As proposed by Mr Yuri A. Izrael, Vice Chair of the IPCC, a one-minute silence ceremony was held to honour the memory of Prof. Obasi, the former Secretary General of WMO and one of the founders of the IPCC, who passed away on 3 March 2007.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

The Bureau approved the draft report of its 35<sup>th</sup> Session without any amendments.

**3. REVIEW OF THE IPCC TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chair briefed the Bureau about the background for review of the IPCC Terms of Reference (TOR) and introduced a proposal for consideration by the Panel at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session.

Bureau members discussed issues such as relations with the UNFCCC, possible broadening of the link with the UN, capacity building in developing countries, usage of IPCC reports by major user groups, special and methodology reports, possible broadening of methodology work, and budget implications.

Most of the Bureau members however agreed that the current terms of references have served the IPCC well and that there is no need for a revision. Attention was also drawn to the Principles governing IPCC work, which have been reviewed recently and the fact that the IPCC is an independent body with its own decision making mechanism.

The view was also expressed that a clear distinction has to be made between terms of reference and the IPCC work programme. The Bureau agreed that the TOR should be broad, dynamic and robust, and not identify particular details. The suggestion by the IPCC Chair to initiate at IPCC-27 a discussion about key aspects of the future IPCC work programme, and to prepare a chairman's discussion paper was welcomed. The Bureau agreed to revise the document that will be submitted to IPCC-26 and suggested that it would convey the following points: the task group was set up to review the IPCC Terms of Reference and to analyze decisions which guided the IPCC work in the past. The recommendation was discussed by the Bureau which agreed that the current Terms of Reference have served the IPCC well and that there is no need for any revision. After consideration and decision by the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC, the Chair will make an oral presentation to the 15<sup>th</sup> WMO Congress and convey the decision also to the UNEP Governing Council.

#### **4. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

The Deputy Secretary introduced a proposal for admission of observer organizations (BUR-XXXVI/Doc.4) that was prepared based on submissions received. As this was the first time that the Bureau reviewed such a proposal, suggestions were made on a more liberal and open approach towards national organizations, and those organizations having close links with the IPCC such as the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP). A request was made to better distinguish UN bodies from other organizations. It was suggested that a short guidance to observers might be needed, in case questions about the role and activities of observers arise. The Secretary referred to the Panel's approved Policy and made a few clarifications on questions raised during the discussion such as "organizations need to be non-profit" set in paragraph 3, "UN organizations are considered participating organizations" in paragraph 4, and "application of national organizations" in paragraph 6. The Bureau agreed to present a revised proposal to the Panel for consideration.

#### **5. FURTHER WORK ON EMISSION SCENARIOS**

The Chair informed the Bureau about the scoping document for the Technical Paper on Emission Scenarios, in particular the conclusions of a meeting of the Chair, Secretary, WG Co-Chairs and TSU heads in mid February 2007. The proposal is mainly to invite the Panel to agree to meet the goals of the IPCC-25 decision without the Technical Paper. Instead, the expert meeting in September 2007 would be given an additional task to identify 2-3 benchmark concentration scenarios.

There were pros and cons expressed towards the new proposal. Some members strongly supported a Technical Paper as was decided by the Panel at its 25<sup>th</sup> Session. In response, some other members asked for IPCC's flexibility and responsiveness to the needs from the science community. It was noted that the material from the planned expert meeting in September 2007 would contain more updated information including the benchmark scenarios than would be possible in a Technical Paper that has to be based on information in the AR4. The Secretary clarified that according to IPCC Procedures the material from the expert meeting fell into the category of IPCC Supplementary Material. It was noted that the Technical Paper was only intended to address benchmark concentration scenarios and that other issues would be considered at the workshop on the new scenarios. Suggestions were also made to strengthen the socio- economic aspects and participation of developing country experts.

The Bureau agreed to modify the document (BUR-XXXVI/Doc.5) addressing the concerns expressed by Bureau members and noting them in the design of the expert meeting. The revised document, which will cover all aspects of climate change, will be presented to the Panel at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session for consideration.

#### **6. AR4 COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

The Secretary introduced ongoing and planned AR4 outreach activities, and asked Bureau members to actively support these activities in their countries and regions.

The Bureau expressed appreciation for the efforts by the Secretary and the information officer and the progress made towards a coordinated outreach approach. Bureau members exchanged information concerning planned activities in their countries and regions and agreed to keep the Secretariat informed and coordinate activities with the Secretariat.

A concern was expressed over the accuracy of the AR4 findings in the conversion from report to media material, but it was noted that this goes beyond IPCC control. Attention was drawn to budgetary implications and a request was made to increase that budget provision. The Bureau requested for timely readiness of outreach materials, mainly the WG reports, translated summaries and PowerPoint presentations and the Secretary briefed the Bureau about planned timelines.

## **7. MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNFCCC**

The Secretary informed the Bureau about decisions taken and conclusions reached by UNFCCC COP 12, COP/MOP 2 and SBSTA 25, which are relevant to the IPCC programme, including the request for IPCC input in the SBSTA five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and the use of the IPCC 2006 Guidelines. She further informed the Bureau that a 4-hour presentation has been arranged with the Climate Change Secretariat to present the three AR4 working Group Reports at the SBSTA 26 in May 2007.

## **8. PROGRESS REPORTS**

8.1 Mr Zhenlin Chen from Working Group 1 TSU introduced activities undertaken by WG1 since the last report, in particular the completion of the WG1 contribution to the AR4. Some Bureau members raised concerns about the timeliness of making the final report available and requested Mr Chen to relay this to the WGI Co-chairs.

8.2 Mr John Stone, Vice-chair of the WG2 Bureau, introduced progress made by WG2, particularly the preparation of the final draft of the WG2 contribution to the AR4.

8.3 Mr Ogunlade Davison, WG3 Co-chair, introduced progress made by the WG including preparation of the AR4 and its outreach activities, scoping for the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy, and New Emission Scenarios. Questions were raised mainly on the economic aspects of mitigation, yet the Bureau agreed to wait until the approval and acceptance of both reports from WG2 and WG3.

8.4 Mr Simon Eggleston introduced recent activities conducted by the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), mainly the Doha meeting on software and the Geneva meeting on the future work programme of TFI, both held in January 2007, to support the use of the 2006 Guidelines.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 A letter from the Secretary-General of WMO to Mr Geoff Love to invite Australia to host a workshop on "Future Climate Change Research and Observations: GCOS and WCRP Learning from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report" was noted.

9.2 The Secretary brought to the attention of Bureau members a letter from the Environment Ministry of Venezuela, to replace the current Bureau member Maria Martelo. Some Bureau members requested more information from the government such as the reason for replacement and a resume of the recommended person. It was agreed the Secretariat would try to get more information from the government and bring this to the attention of the Panel at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session.

9.3 The Chair briefed the Bureau on progress in the preparation of the Synthesis Report (SYR), including completion of the informal review of the preliminary draft and completion of the new draft for formal expert/government review in May, after approval/acceptance of all AR4 Working Group reports.

**10. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

The Secretary proposed that there would not be a next session of the Bureau in 2007 unless there is an urgent request from IPCC-26.

**11. CLOSING**

The Bureau concluded its 36<sup>th</sup> Session at 12:30 hrs on 15 March 2007.

APPENDIX 1

IPCC BUREAU  
THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION  
Geneva, 14-15 March 2007

BUR-XXXVI/Doc. 1, Corr. 1  
(5.III.2007)  
Agenda item: 1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION (BUR-XXXVI/Doc. 2)**

**3. REVIEW OF THE IPCC TERMS OF REFERENCE (BUR-XXXVI/Doc. 3)**

The Chair will present a draft proposal for consideration by the Panel at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session and brief the Bureau about reactions received from governments.

**4. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS (BUR-XXXVI /Doc. 4)**

Consistent with the policy and process for admitting observer organisations the Bureau will consider a proposal, which was prepared by the IPCC Secretariat based on submissions received.

**5. FURTHER WORK ON EMISSIONS SCENARIOS (BUR-XXXVI /Doc. 5)**

The IPCC Chair will inform the Bureau about the scoping document for a Technical Paper, which was prepared for consideration by the Panel at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session. He will also brief the Bureau about the response by the scientific community to his letter asking for information concerning their scenario plans and activities in scenario development

**6. AR4 COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (BUR-XXXVI /Doc. 6)**

The IPCC Secretariat and the Technical Support Units will brief the Bureau about ongoing and planned information and outreach activities. Bureau members will be asked to actively support such activities, including through hosting and sponsoring events in their countries and regions.

**7. MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNFCCC (BUR-XXXVI /Doc. 7)**

The Bureau will be informed about decisions taken by COP-12 and other conclusions of meetings of UNFCCC Bodies in Nairobi, November 2006, that are relevant for the IPCC work programme.

**8. PROGRESS REPORTS**

The IPCC Chair and Working Group and TFF Co-chairs would bring to the attention of the Bureau progress reports as appropriate.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**10. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

**11. CLOSING**



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU**

(Geneva, 14-15 March 2007)

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU  
Geneva, 14-15 March 2007**

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