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PROGRESS REPORTS

Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Introduction

At the 47th Session of the IPCC (Paris, France, 13-16 March 2018), the Panel adopted the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Task Group on the Organization of the future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (TG-FWLGST). According to its TORs, the Task Group is expected to present progress reports at IPCC Sessions and to comply with IPCC procedures and ensure transparency and inclusiveness.

At the 48th Session of the IPCC, the Co-chairs of the Task Group presented the first progress report highlighting the action plan and members of the Task Group who were either designated or IPCC Focal Points of member governments who expressed interest to join the Task Group during the 47th Session. The list of Task Group members is presented in Annex 1 of [IPCC-XLVIII/INF.2, Corr.2](#). To ensure inclusiveness, the Task Group will continue to accept member governments who may wish to join at any stage of its work.

Progress since the 48th Session of the IPCC

The Co-Chairs of the Task Group through the Secretary of the IPCC invited governments and IPCC Observer Organizations to identify and share possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the global stocktake, starting from the Seventh Assessment Cycle (AR7). The request aimed at soliciting information on the rationale behind the preferred possible options and possible updates of earlier submissions which are contained in document [IPCC-XLVII/Doc.8](#).

In response to the invitation, submissions from seventeen members governments and three IPCC Observer Organizations were received by the Task Group. In addition, some governments have indicated that their 2017 submission is still valid, and should be considered by the Task Group.

The submissions were sent to all Task Group members in January 2019. To facilitate discussions by the Task Group, the Co-chairs undertook a preliminary compilation of the options identified in the submissions by clustering the responses according to the suggested lengths of IPCC assessment cycles (i.e. maintaining the status quo, shortening the cycle to 5 years, and lengthening the cycle to 10 years). In addition, the preliminary compilation presents suggestions that address certain IPCC administrative, structural and/or procedural matters (i.e. type of IPCC product, transition period between cycles etc.). The preliminary compilation was sent to all Task Group members in February 2019 with an invitation to provide feedback. A summary of the options identified at this stage in governments' submissions has been then drafted by the co-chairs and rapporteur and sent to the Task Group members as a basis for discussion during the physical meeting to be held during the 49th session. This draft summary is available in Annex 1, while the full set of 2018 submissions are available in Annex 2.

The outcome of the analyses and discussion by the Task Group, which are undertaken through the IPCC e-Discussion Forum (<http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eboard/>), will be presented to the Panel at the 50th Session of the IPCC.

In addition, an information note on some outcomes of COP24 has been prepared by the co-chairs and rapporteur and sent to the Task Group members in order to share with them some information which is considered by the co-chairs and rapporteur as relevant for the Task Group activities (Annex 3).

Reporting to and engaging with the IPCC Bureau

The TORs of the Task Group describe that IPCC Bureau members and TSU representatives should be invited to advise the Task group in carrying out its activities. To solicit such advice an oral progress report was presented to the IPCC Bureau at its 56th Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 – 19 March 2019).

Conclusion

The Panel will be invited to discuss the report and advise on any follow-up action required.

Draft summary of the options identified in governments' submissions

In accordance with the TORs of TG-FWLGST, submissions received were analysed. It made it possible to identify options on the organization, including timing, of the future work of the IPCC taking into account the scientific information needs of the global stocktake and of the UNFCCC more generally, as well as audiences and purposes served by IPCC assessments.

These options are presented below in a general way for subsequent cycles and with specific details on their possible implementation during the 7th cycle. **Once the list (this one or a revised one) is consolidated after discussions to be held during IPCC-49**, it is suggested by the Task Group co-chairs that their respective pros and cons will be identified on the basis of **a new call for submissions** from member governments and observer organizations and from consultations of Bureau members and Secretariat.

The options have been established taking into account the following considerations, including those put forward by countries in their submissions:

- **Timing of IPCC cycles:** countries emphasized that the IPCC procedures do not specify the duration of an evaluation cycle. Each cycle is determined by the work program decided by the panel.

- **Timing of elections:** comments included consideration of timely election of bureau members. Indeed, **the start of the 7th cycle will depend on the date of the Plenary that will elect the new Bureau**. Following current practice, the election would take place **during IPCC-58**, after the SYR approval during IPCC-57, currently scheduled for **April 2022**. The main assumption used is that the election will take place around October 2022. For some options, assumptions are also made with an earlier election date.

- **Work program and length of the 6th and 7th cycles:** comments assumed that the 7th cycle will produce at least one special report on the cities following Decision IPCC/XLIII-6. It was noted that the duration of the 6th cycle can be estimated at 6 years, without counting approximately 6 months of work after the approval to finalize the SYR. This estimation takes into account the production of 3 special reports, the 2019 Refinement and the AR6, which lasted around 6.5 years (Bureau election in October 2015 and approval of the SYR in April 2022), but also that the production of AR6 itself actually started in mid-2016 (preparation of the Chair vision and the questionnaire to governments and observer organizations).

- **Preservation of the quality of the reports:** many countries emphasised the importance of maintaining scientific integrity and robustness of the reports. This could imply maintaining the amount of time dedicated to the preparation of the outlines, the selection of the authors, the drafting of the different versions and the governmental reviews.

- **Timing and content of the global stocktake:** Decision 19/CMA.1 specifies that IPCC information collected for **GST 2028 should be available by March or April 2027**. Decision 19/CMA.1 does not specify the nature of the information expected from the IPCC for the GST.

The Paris Agreement does not require the IPCC to produce specific reports for the GST, it is the IPCC itself that has decided to consider on how best to inform the GST (Decision IPCC/XLIII-7).

Options identified from the analysis of the submissions are presented below, with a focus on their practical implementation for the 7th cycle. It is assumed that AR7 will comprise a set of reports similar to current practice: 3 volumes and the SYR, but this is non-binding and only serves to illustrate the options. The dates mentioned are also purely illustrative.

Option A1 : Assessment and special reports currently available inform the GST every 5 years, assessment report in some cases relatively old (up to 6-7 years for some GSTs)

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: AR7 production before end of **2028 (no change from current practice)**.
- Production during 7th cycle: 2 or 3 special or technical reports, including special report on the cities and AR7.
- The 3 AR7 volumes are published between September 2027 and April 2028. The SYR is published late 2028.
- Cycle duration : 6-7 y
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** AR6 and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Option A2 : Special report specifically dedicated to the GST provided every 5 years when the assessment report produced on usual timescale is considered as too old for the GST

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: AR7 production before the end of 2028 and production before **March 2027 of a report specifically dedicated to the GST**.
- Production during 7th cycle: 2 or 3 special or technical reports, including special report on cities and special report for GST 2028 to be approved before March 2027 and AR7.
- The 3 AR7 volumes are published between September 2027 and April 2028. The SYR is published in October 2028.
- Cycle duration : 6-7 y
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** report specifically dedicated to the GST and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Option B1 : Full assessment report prepared for every GST, every 5 years

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: AR7 production before **March 2027**.
- Production during 7th cycle: the special report on cities and any other report decided by the panel and AR7.
- This option requires a very early election of the co-chairs of the 3 WGs and an immediate start of the preparatory work for AR7.
- Cycle duration : 5 y
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** AR7 and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Option B2 : A shorter, more focused assessment report prepared for every GST, every five years

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: production of a shorter and more focused AR7 than current ARs before **March 2027**.
- Production during 7th cycle: the special report on cities and any other report decided by the panel and a shorter and more focused AR7.
- Cycle duration : 5 y
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** shorter and more focused AR7 and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Option C1 : Full assessment report prepared for every other GST (every 10 years) and special reports currently available inform the GST

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: AR7 production **before March 2032**.
- Production during 7th cycle: 2 or 3 special or technical reports, including special report on cities and AR7.
- SYR is published before March 2032.
- Cycle duration : 10 y
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** AR6 and special reports published before March 2027.

- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2033:** AR7 and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Option C2 : Full assessment report prepared for every other GST (every 10 years) with interim products every 5 years

- Implementation in the 7th cycle: AR7 production **before March 2032** and production of a report specifically dedicated to the GST before March 2027.
- Production during 7th cycle: 2 or 3 special or technical reports, including special report on cities + a report specifically dedicated to the GST and AR7
- The report specifically dedicated to the GST is published before March 2027.
- SYR AR7 is published before March 2032.
- Cycle duration: 10 y.
- **Key IPCC products collected for the GST in 2028:** report specifically dedicated to the GST and special reports published before March 2027.
- **Key IPCC information collected for the GST in 2033:** AR7 and special reports published during the 7th cycle.

Each of these options could be pursued in cycles 8 and beyond, provided that cycles B1 and B2 are aligned with GST time lines for a total duration of 5 years and cycles C1 and C2 for a total duration of 10 years. Lessons will be learned from GST 2023, in particular on the nature of the information included in the GST technical assessment. This might lead to adapting the options identified or identifying new ones.

Submissions received from governments and observer organizations suggest a broad range of views. Several potential issues were raised, requiring a thorough analysis of the pros and cons for each of them. The co-chairs propose to analyse each of these issues by launching a new call for submissions which will be in the form of a table to fill in the following form. Criteria presented in this indicative table are to be consolidated by members of the Task Group.

	AR quality		Budget		Workload		Relevance for GST		Relevance for other users		Organisation		
	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Option X														
Option Y														
.....														

Bureau members and TSUs will be consulted, as well as some scientific organizations contributing to the production of essential data or information for ARs (WCRP, etc.).

An analysis should also be conducted with governments, Bureau members, TSUs and the Secretariat on the possibilities of electing the new Bureau much earlier than current practice, so that future TSUs can be put in place quickly and initiate the preparatory work for the next AR as soon as possible. It would be at least necessary to elect the Chair, the vice-chairs and the co-chairs of the 3 working groups.

CANADA

Fwd: IPCC Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the I... <https://groups.google.com/a/wmo.int/forum/print/msg/ipcc-alignment/t...>

Google Groups

Fwd: IPCC Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Joelle Fernandez <jfernandez@wmo.int>

Nov 29, 2018 9:02 AM

Posted in group: **ipcc-alignment**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hamzawi, Nancy (EC)** <nancy.hamzawi@canada.ca>

Date: Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 8:30 PM

Subject: RE: IPCC Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

To: jfernandez@wmo.int <jfernandez@wmo.int>

Cc: Bhawal-Montmorency2, Rupa (EC) <rupa.bhawal-montmorency2@canada.ca>, Fortin, Doris (EC) <doris.fortin@canada.ca>, Barry2, Amanda (EC) <amanda.barry2@canada.ca>, GIEC / IPCC (EC) <ec.giec-ipcc.ec@canada.ca>, STB_BU / UB_DGS (EC) <ec.stb_buub_dgs.ec@canada.ca>, Hayne, Shari (EC) <shari.hayne@canada.ca>

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. Please find below Canada's input for this request.

- It would be appropriate for a global stocktake process to be reasonably flexible regarding the timing of inputs, which include reports of the IPCC. IPCC inputs would ideally be available between 6 months to 2 years before each *Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)* in a stocktaking year (2023, 2028, etc.).
- *Regarding the option of reducing the IPCC assessment cycle to five years:*
 - Shortening the cycle to five years would prescribe rigidity to the IPCC assessment process, increase the strain on the IPCC and the scientific community and limit opportunities for Special Reports on topics of interest.
- *Regarding the option of increasing the IPCC assessment cycle to ten years:*
 - Extending the cycle to ten years could hamper the IPCC's ability to assess, in a timely manner, areas of science that are evolving quickly, and pose challenges for IPCC authors faced with an increased volume of literature to assess.
- *Regarding the option to maintain the existing seven-year IPCC assessment cycle and the development of targeted Special Reports to meet the needs of the UNFCCC global stocktake:*
 - Recognizing that the information needs of the global stocktake are not fully defined, and that the timing of technical work is being deliberated among Parties, this option allows the IPCC the flexibility to best meet the needs of the stocktake process on an ongoing basis.
 - Canada recommends a fourth option, namely that a targeted 'Supplemental Report' be developed instead of a 'Special Report' as in option 3. The latter implies an assessment of a specific issue, which may not accurately reflect the needs of the global stocktake. Differentiating a Supplemental Report from Special Reports and the main Assessment Reports could also help to avoid scope creep beyond the intent of the targeted report. This

consideration recognizes the precedent of the Supplemental Report that the IPCC released in 1992 in order to respond to the needs of the Rio Earth Summit. Canada would welcome having direction from the UNFCCC on key questions relevant to specific needs in that given year, to make a supplementary report as relevant as possible to the information needs of the UNFCCC.

- o While Canada views that maintaining the approximately seven-year assessment cycle is the best way forward at this time, choosing this option should not preclude re-considering the length of the IPCC cycle in the future, if deemed necessary after the experience of the first global stocktake.
- Canada looks forward to continued input to the Task Group to ensure that the IPCC can support the information requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as they pertain to the global stocktake.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Nancy Hamzawi

Sous-ministre adjointe, Direction générale des sciences et technologie

Environnement et changement climatique Canada

nancy.hamzawi@canada.ca / Tél: 819-938-5629

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Branch

Environment and Climate Change Canada

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From: jfernandez@wmo.int [<mailto:jfernandez@wmo.int>] **On Behalf Of** IPCC-Sec IPCC-Sec

Sent: September-21-18 3:17 PM

To: IPCC-Sec IPCC-Sec

Subject: IPCC Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Sir/Madam,

Please find attached, for your information, a Copy of the Letter No.5292-18/IPCC/GEN sent to IPCC Focal Points.

CHILE

Thanks for the opportunity to submit our views on the alignment of the work of the IPCC and the global stocktake foreseen in the Paris Agreement.

The relationship between the work of the IPCC and the World Balance cycle is very important. As seen in the 1.5 ° C Report, having well-structured scientific evidence has a huge influence on the collective understanding of the level of urgency and sends a strong signal for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

From this point of view, it seems clear that it is necessary to make an effort of synchronization between the cycles of the IPCC and the World Balance.

Thus, the options that are presented as possible are basically two:

1. Reduce the IPCC work cycle to five years.
2. Extend the work cycle of the IPCC to ten years, with intermediate partial reports every five years.

There are clearly financial considerations behind this discussion. The developed countries, which are the ones that mostly finance the work of the IPCC, are generally opposed to a shorter cycle, since it would require increasing resources. Then, it seems that the second option is the most reasonable and cost-efficient.

Nonetheless, none of these options are considered suitable. There is another possible route that has not been proposed: The role of the IPCC in the development of the global stocktake could be bounded to create the system with guidelines, methodologies and indicators to be able to make these balances, develop guides and improve them.

Once the methodologies have been created and indicators have been defined, another organization could make these reports periodically, depending on the information provided by the countries and the results of scientific research. The IPCC could prepare a special report in each cycle with special inputs for the global balance, but it will also require information to be provided by each country.



Secretary of the IPCC
Abdalah Mokssit

Office/Department
PP/KS

Date
29 November 2018

J nr. 2018-216

/i/c

Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

We welcome the opportunity to submit to the Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake our views on possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC, starting from the 7th Assessment Cycle.

The following options should be considered in the light of

- There are lessons to be learned from COP24 which are relevant for the considerations of the Task Group, e.g. on how the IPCC SR1.5 feeds into the UNFCCC Talanoa Dialogue, and on the timeframe of the phases of the Global Stocktake.
- It is crucial that the integrity of the work of the IPCC is not compromised, and in this regard it is important to have sufficient time for the thorough IPCC review processes.
- There is a transition period for each incoming Bureau e.g. for setting up new TSU's and hiring staff.

Option 1. Keep the current cycle length.

The Panel should consider in each cycle how best to meet the needs of the Global Stocktake. The IPCC product that best addresses the needs of the Global Stocktake might be the Assessment Report itself or it might be a Special Report, depending on the timing. The current cycle length is appropriate for a cycle that produces 2 Special Reports, 1 Assessment Report and 1-2 Methodology Reports with adequate time for a thorough review process.

Option 2. No predefined length of the assessment cycles.

The cycle length can be decided shortly before the beginning of each cycle, taking into account how best to meet the needs of the Global Stocktake, depending on its timing in relation to the assessment cycle. The decision needs to also take into account the products of the cycle, e.g. the feasible number of Special Reports might change with a change in cycle length.

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Option 3. A 5 year cycle aligned with the 5 year cycle of the Global Stocktake.

A shortened cycle length may require changes in the IPCC rules and procedures. The comprehensiveness and/or number of products in the cycle are likely to be affected.

Option 4. A 10 year cycle.

If the 5 year cycle is considered too short to be feasible, a 10 year cycle might be considered. However, this is a very long commitment period for Bureau members, and some countries might find it challenging to find national financing for such an extended period. There is also a risk the information may become outdated.

Best regards

Tina Christensen
PhD, Scientific Adviser
IPCC Focal Point for Denmark

GERMANY

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for providing us the chance to identify and share possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake, starting from the Seventh Assessment Cycle (AR7). Please find our suggestions below. We look forward to further engaging in this important work with you.

Best regards,

Christiane Textor
Deputy IPCC Focal Point Germany

We reiterate the characteristics of the IPCC's work that we see as most important to preserve the strengths of the IPCC while optimally responding to the needs of the Global Stocktake:

- guarantee the scientific excellence and high quality of products
- improve user friendliness and political relevance of IPCC products in light of the Global Stocktake
- reduce the workload for the IPCC bureau, authors, TSUs, Secretariat and government focal points by limiting the number of reports and increasing their focus
- improve efficiency of the work processes
- further increase coherence and consistency across IPCC products
- continue to provide a communication platform that facilitates the integration of climate research across scientific disciplines

We regard these characteristics of the IPCC's work as a starting point in the discussion, remaining flexible about issues of scheduling, format and product types in order to come up with a concept optimal for both the scientific community and the political sphere.

The following aspects can be helpful in the discussion of how to organize the work of the IPCC:

- **Political relevance of and public interest regarding IPCC reports**
 - Providing most authoritative source of information on climate science
 - Raising public awareness of climate change
 - Enhancing readability of IPCC products for the users
- **Research aspects**
 - Including the most recent research findings
 - Allowing enough time for the generation of new knowledge
 - Allowing time for integration of work between the working group (e.g. WGI in WGIII)
- **Resources (human and financial)**
 - Keeping the workload at manageable limits
 - Keeping commitments to serve as Bureau members at a reasonable length
 - Enabling financial support for TSUs by keeping their time period at a reasonable length
- **Institutional / organizational aspects**

- The importance of cross-cutting issues requires cooperation across WGs as already implemented in the SR1.5 and the AR6 cycle.
- Electoral cycle for bureau members and financing commitments for TSUs are currently linked to the time needed to prepare an assessment report. Changes in report frequencies might have implications for the organization of the IPCC administration.

The optimal organization of the work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake does not only involve the duration of the cycle but also format and number of the reports. Two options seem to be feasible:

- **Targeting one product every five years to the GST** (be it a Special Report or another format) could support the purpose of the UNFCCC. This would maintain flexibility regarding the cycle length. Other Special Reports on issues decided by the Panel could complement the main Assessment Reports – being mindful of not overstretching the workload.
- **Consideration of the needs of the GST within the main Assessment Reports** would require a five year assessment cycle. In order to keep the workload manageable, the number of Special Reports per cycle might have to be adjusted accordingly. In addition, the transition period between two assessment cycles has potential to be streamlined, as earlier elections towards the end of one cycle can save time at the beginning of the next cycle.

A 10 years cycle does not seem feasible taking into account the aspects mentioned above. It would become very difficult to ensure financing for TSUs and the commitment of IPCC leadership for such a long timespan. In addition, the political relevance of a report might not be ensured for the whole duration of the cycle.



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Submission on; Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake

Ireland welcomes the establishment by the IPCC, at its 47th Session in Paris, of a Task Group to consider the organisation of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC. It is noted that the global stocktake is expected to take place every five years. Ireland supports France and Mexico as co-chairs of this Task Group and welcomes this opportunity to outline its views.

In 2018 the IPCC celebrates thirty years since its establishment. The IPCC has proved to be remarkable successful in carrying out its work and informing policy development in a balanced and non-prescriptive manner. The award of the Noble Prize to the IPCC for its work is testimony to its achievement.

It is however, also timely for the IPCC to use this milestone to initiate consideration of its future and how it can continue to play a leading role in a world that has changed significantly over the last 30 years. It would be important for the task group to

- Review lessons learned over this period including on how its products inform global actions on climate change have evolved in this period and how these may continue.
- Consider how its overall work and procedures can respond effectively and efficiently to current challenges and demands such as the request to provide input to the UNFCCC global stocktake.

In doing this it would be important to consider

- The major expansion of scientific analysis of climate change issues as well as the concurrent increase in the numbers of publications which require assessment by the IPCC in producing its reports
- The spectrum of systems and processes that are designed to provide scientific information including developments under the Global Climate Observation Systems (GCOS)
- Developments in technologies and communication systems which may allow for streamlining of its work and operational systems

The considerations should have the aim of maintaining the integrity of the IPCC systems and processes that enables it to continue in being the authoritative source of information on climate change in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

A key challenge will be how the IPCC can inform the global stocktake. This process has not yet been fully determined under the UNFCCC. The reports from the 6th Assessment Cycle and particularly the full Assessment Report will be a key input for the first global stock take in 2023. This event will itself clarify how the IPCC can contribute to future stocktakes. In this context the Task Group should at this point identify options for future inputs which can be further developed as the global stocktake process emerges.

These can be informed by the overall review of the IPCC systems and processes. In this context elements of its terms of reference could include the following elements

- To review the current Assessment report writing and review process, and options to enhance or streamline this process
- To consider other IPCC activities, including the process for production of Special Reports, the operation of the Task Force on Inventories and process for production of its reports
- To consider how the IPCC has previously communicated with the UNFCCC and how lessons for these activities might inform options to facilitate the IPCC to input to the global stocktake

In conclusion, the work of this Task Group is also important for the future of the IPCC which is at a pivotal point. It should aim to complete its work well ahead of the completion of 6th Assessment Report but where feasible retain flexibility to respond to lessons from the first GST.

Kind regards,

Colin O’Hehir
IPCC Focal Point
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
IRELAND



Japan's view on the possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Japan is very grateful for the TG-FWLGST Co-Chairs' and the IPCC secretariat's untiring efforts to working on these issues.

Japan, in response to the letter 5292-18/IPCC/GEN dated 20 September 2018, which was issued in line with the Panel decision at the 48th Session, inform its view on the possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (GST) as follow.

Possible options (*no particular order*):

1. To increase the assessment cycle to ten years and producing an update (hereinafter “the update report”) of relevant information for GST in the middle of the assessment cycle (identical to the Option 2 in IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 8).
2. To maintain the approximately seven-year assessment cycle as has been the case over the last few cycles. If the time of approval of the Assessment Report for a given cycle does not align with the timing of the immediate next GST, the IPCC would produce a targeted special report the scope and timing of which would be designed to address the needs of the UNFCCC Global Stocktake in a similar manner as the special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5) (identical to the Option 3 in IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 8).

The Special report will not be necessary in case the timing of GST and current IPCC cycle coincides without any particular arrangement.

Points to be considered:

Japan understands that the current IPCC assessment cycles have been developed in a most suitable manner for an assessment of scientific knowledge in line with the cycles of scientific research. Changing the assessment cycle requires IPCC to adjust its modality in publishing the assessment reports. It is important to ensure the quality over quantity/frequency on these very significant scientific products. However, there has not been sufficient information to figure whether the changing cycle would pose any risk in maintaining the current quality of IPCC reports.

Japan therefore would like to suggest discussing the following points to evaluate appropriateness of each option at the TG-FWI.GST based on the experience of SR1.5.

- Whether or not the option causes any confusion due to additional assessment work (for the update/special reports) for GST in addition to the regular assessment cycle for the Assessment Reports in parallel.
- Whether the burden on the authors would be increased. If so, how much increase is envisaged?
- Whether the preparation of other possible future special reports would be constrained by developing the update report or the special report for every GST.
- Efficiency and feasibility of the detailed schedule of assessment and budget of each option.

LUXEMBOURG

Response by Luxembourg to the request of the Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in the Light of the Global Stocktake

Luxembourg welcomes the establishment of the Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in the Light of the Global Stocktake (TG-FWLGST) at the 47th Session of the IPCC and wishes to reiterate its willingness to actively contribute to the work of the TG-FWLGST.

We also welcome the opportunity to share possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake, starting from the Seventh Assessment Cycle (AR7).

The IPCC should deliver fit for purpose reports

As noted in the Paris Agreement, the first GST should take place in 2023 and every five years thereafter, and be based on the best available science. We consider that the IPCC reports are the most authoritative assessments of climate change and will thus be the most important input to the GST.

In order to keep this reputation as a leading science on climate change authority of the IPCC, we recommend that the TG takes a holistic approach, and should consider, inter alia:

- that the IPCC should continue to support the needs of the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and deliver a product ideally three to six months in advance of relevant UNFCCC meetings ;
- the needs and commitment of the scientific community (author's time and timescale for research), the IPCC's Technical Support Units (TSUs) and bureau members ;
- the lessons learned from the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and how it fed into the Talanoa Dialogue ;
- the possible necessary changes to the Principles Governing IPCC Work and budgetary implications of the different options.

Viable options that should be explored by the TG-FWLGST

Based on the above considerations we consider that the following options to be viable, and the pro and cons of each of them should be further explored by the TG-FWLGST (the order of the options does not express an appreciation):

- **Maintain the status quo:** The Principles Governing IPCC Work allow the Panel to fix the length of each assessment cycle at the beginning of the cycle and it is thus possible to fix the length in a way that the synthesis report of each Assessment Report (AR) will be approved and adopted three to six months before the next GST. This approach would not need a change in the Principles Governing IPCC Work.
- **Production of a product dedicated to the GST:** The IPCC could decide to maintain the present approximately seven-year assessment cycle and produce a specific product (e.g. a special report) for either each GST, or whenever the release of the AR does not meet the requirement of the next GST. This specific product on the GST would be scoped to respond to the evolving needs of the GST.
- **Reduction of the IPCC cycle to five years:** This approach would allow the IPCC to produce a full AR in timely manner for each GST. The production of a more focused report (with e.g. combined WG contributions) would allow the IPCC to continue to produce Special/ Methodology Reports and Technical Papers.

In each of the above scenarios, the election of the bureau members before the end of the current Assessment Cycle could help the new bureau to set up all necessary structures before the actual work on the Reports is starting.

An extension of the present length of the Assessment cycle (approximately seven-year) seems not viable for Luxembourg. Such an extension (e.g. ten-year assessment cycles) could endanger the authoritative voice of the IPCC as updates of the findings of the reports would be too far apart and it would be very difficult for any single country to commit to the support a TSU for such an extended time period.

NEPAL'S VIEWS ON ALIGNING THE WORK OF THE IPCC WITH THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Nepal welcomes the opportunity to submit our views on the alignment of the work of the IPCC and the global stocktake referring to the letter received from IPCC secretariat dated 20 September, 2018.

A - What is your point of view on the alignment of the cycles of the IPCC and the global stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement?

1. Reducing the assessment cycle to five years, including by conducting the assessment of the future IPCC products and the elections for the next assessment cycle in parallel with the final part of the current assessment cycle.

View: Nepal stands for making compatible to global stock take, if it doesn't create any technical problem to produce the standard reports periodically.

2. Increasing the assessment cycle to ten years and producing an update of relevant information for the global stocktake in the middle of the assessment cycle.

View: In recent years, climate extreme incidents are very frequently occurring. Therefore, it is better to keep stick to current assessment cycle than increasing to 10 years.

3. The IPCC would maintain the approximately seven-year assessment cycle as has been the case over the last few cycles. If the time of approval of the Assessment Report for a given cycle does not align with the timing of the immediate next global stocktake (GST), the IPCC would produce a targeted Special Report the scope and timing of which would be designed to address the needs of the UNFCCC global stocktake in a similar manner as the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5).

The Special Report would, inter alia, address topics such as most recent evolutions of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and updated observations and trends of key variables such as global temperature and precipitation, and their regional impacts

View: This will be the most applicable option.

4. Any other suggestions and proposals

View: The IPCC TG should simplify the reporting process and its schedules. Individual countries may need technical support to meet their technical reporting on periodic basis.

B - Terms of reference of the Task Group

1. What should be the tasks of the Task Group?

View: -

- Prepare the work plan and fixing the report schedule periodically
- Identify the report types for different situations and global needs
- Prepare and distribute the guiding materials to the parties regarding GST

NETHERLANDS

Submission of the Netherlands on the alignment of IPCC products with the needs of the Global Stocktake (GST)

The Netherlands thanks the IPCC Secretariat for consulting the members of the Panel on the alignment of the IPCC work with the needs of the Global Stocktake (GST). We believe that IPCC should aim at delivering timely, robust input to the UNFCCC's global stocktakes (GST) that is based on the best available science. IPCC has a reputation as a leading authority on climate change science. The IPCC reports and in particular the ARs carry considerable weight worldwide, and are recognized as the leading assessment on climate change science, generating significant interest in the public sphere, media, enterprises and national policy, in addition to the delivery of scientific findings for the UNFCCC.

Aligning the IPCC cycles with GST will have implications for the IPCC workflow, products and budget. Whatever changes will be made, the quality and independency of the IPCC reports should be ensured. In this submission we focus on the 7th IPCC assessment cycle starting in 2023 and the alignment with GST2 at the end of 2028. This implies that an IPCC report, either the 7th IPCC Assessment Report or a Special Report should be delivered in spring 2028 at latest in order to be used as an input for GST2. It should also be kept in mind that the IPCC plenary decided to produce a Special Report on cities in the 7th cycle.

In our view two options are feasible:

- 1) Short cycle 2023-2028: IPCC may only produce the 7th Assessment Report (in 2028) and a Special Report on cities (in 2026/2027)
- 2) Long cycle 2023-2033: for this option the production of several Special Reports besides the Special Report on cities is feasible. A Special Report should then be dedicated to GST2 in 2028. As a final product the 7th Assessment Report should be published in 2033 in time for GST3.

Both options have implications for the budget and possibly for the timing of the election of a new Bureau. The latter depending on the number of Special Reports. If the plenary decides to produce more than one Special Report in the short cycle (5 years), it may be necessary to elect the new Bureau members one year before the official end of the 6th assessment cycle. The budgetary issue concerns mainly in kind contributions of hosting countries for the TSUs in the long cycle (10 years) option.

The Netherlands is not in favor of the third option, maintaining the present duration of the assessment cycle of approximately 7 years. It implies the delivery of a Special Report in 2028, serving as input for the GST2, and the production of the 7th Assessment Report in 2030. We consider the Assessment Reports as the key product of IPCC. In a 7 year cycle, however, the Special Report in relation to GST2 may become the most policy relevant product with negative implications for the participation of authors in the 7th Assessment Report.

Rob van Dorland
IPCC acting Focal Point for the Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND

Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

New Zealand supports the Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake, and welcomes this opportunity to share its views on this matter.

We recognise the importance of the IPCC providing support for the global stocktake, but do not envision this becoming the primary purpose of the IPCC's products. At this stage, we have only considered the three options presented in the earlier questionnaire.

A five year cycle. Since our earlier submission on this matter, the IPCC has completed the SR15, in a shorter time than is usual for IPCC Special Reports. While this has been a success, it has also indicated that tightening the time frames for producing reports introduces greater stresses on everyone involved. Without addressing these, attempting to shorten the assessment cycle could threaten the high standards of IPCC products, which would not provide the best support for the stocktake. It could also increase the likelihood of a substantive error, which would pose a serious risk to the reputation and authority of the IPCC.

A ten year cycle: Lengthening the assessment cycle to ten years would raise greater challenges for keeping the assessment report up-to-date. Addressing this would require a thorough review of the IPCC products. Lengthening the cycle would also decrease the number of individuals, and the number of countries, able to commit to Bureau positions for an entire cycle. This would likely affect the performance of these most important roles.

Maintaining the current cycle length: Acknowledging that the needs of the global stocktake are not yet clearly defined, it appears that most of the next few assessment reports are reasonably well timed with respect to stocktake years.

Based on the options and discussion so far, New Zealand supports maintaining current the length of the assessment cycle. We remain open to other views and suggestions, particularly regarding the nature of intermediate products between assessment reports, and look forward to discussing these as the work of the Task Group develops.

30 November 2018

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ
И ЭКОЛОГИИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**ФЕДЕРАЛЬНАЯ СЛУЖБА
ПО ГИДРОМЕТЕОРОЛОГИИ
И МОНИТОРИНГУ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ
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.....№.....

29.10.18 № 100-90-10/144

Dr. Abdalah Mokssit,
Secretary of the IPCC

Fax: +41227308025

Ref.: you letter 5292-18/IPCC/GEN

Dear Dr. Mokssit,

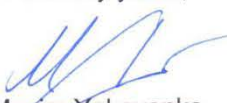
We have considered an issue of the interactions of the IPCC and the global stocktake process suggested under the UNFCCC.

The global stocktake is a part of the implementation of important political agreement, namely the Paris agreement. This process may be informed by the international research community and respective international scientific bodies, including the IPCC, about scientific aspects of mitigation and adaptation, associated outcomes of the global assessments.

The appropriate mode of the interaction is the preparation by the IPCC, upon request of UNFCCC, Technical papers presenting up to date information relevant to the global stocktake needs from already approved IPCC reports.

The proposed approach will allow, on one hand, to facilitate the global stocktake process through submission needed scientific information, and, on the other hand, to maintain functioning of the IPCC according to its own work plans in politically independent mode.

Faithfully yours,


Maxim Yakovenko
Head of Roshydromet

SAINT LUCIA

Saint Lucia submission on options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (November 2018)

The IPCC Secretariat has identified three options for organizing the IPCC's work in light of the Global Stocktake (GST):

- IPCC cycles of 5 years, with each successive Assessment Report feeding into each successive GST
- IPCC cycles of 7 years, with a special report being produced for the GST (GST SR) in cases where the approval of an Assessment Report does not align with the information gathering phase of the GST.
- IPCC cycles of 10 years, with an update every five years to feed into the GST

As has been noted in Saint Lucia's previous submission on the alignment of the IPCC's cycles with the Global Stocktake, Saint Lucia finds the option of **five-yearly IPCC cycles** to be the most appropriate option for organising and scheduling the IPCC's future work in light of the Global Stocktake.

This submission outlines reasoning for adopting a five-year cycle, rather than a longer cycle with a special report or update report, and includes consideration of the scientific information needs of the UNFCCC and the Global Stocktake, and the information needs of other users.

Key arguments for a five-year cycle:

1) The timely and comprehensive input of the IPCC is of utmost importance for the success of the Global Stocktake and other processes under the UNFCCC

Publishing the key products every five years would allow the IPCC products to continue to be relevant and influential both in the policy and public domains, including the Global Stocktake and other processes under the UNFCCC. A lengthening of this cycle would reduce this relevance, leaving a gap that would need to be filled by other institutions with less comprehensive and rigorous processes.

With five-year cycles, the Synthesis Report for each cycle could be structured to cover the GST themes, with inputs from the three working groups. This would enable a comprehensive and timely IPCC input to the GST, as is the case with AR6.

2) Exponential growth in scientific literature make longer cycles less and less preferable. IPCC cycles and assessments should keep pace with the major fast-moving developments in the scientific community

Research on climate change is moving forward rapidly, in particular in the domains of Working Groups 2 and 3 (but also parts of Working Group 1, including research on the cryosphere and near-term climate projections). The number of peer-reviewed publications

in the Scopus database has increased 10-fold since 1990 (see Figure 1), when the first IPCC assessment report was written, and we can expect more than 50,000 publications by 2025.

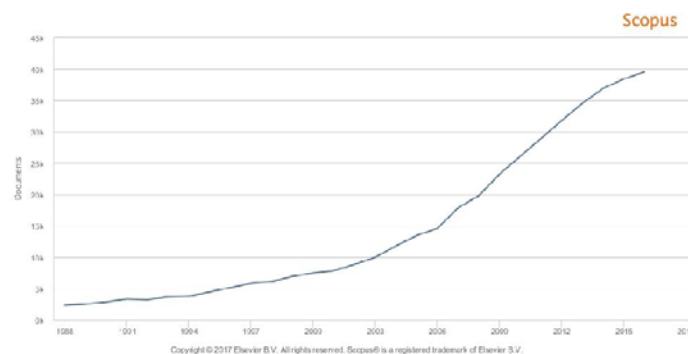
For the Global Stocktake to be informed by the best available science, this growing body of research must be thoroughly assessed and channelled to the policy community. A special report would not have the capacity to assess such a large body of literature.

Other scientific activities move at a much slower pace, an example being the development of climate models and climate modelling efforts under Working Group 1, such as the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP). Such activities can continue to move on their own time horizons, independently of the research that is based on their results, and therefore do not need to be aligned with the IPCC's cycles.

Long breaks between cycles lead to exceptional burdens on the first IPCC product of each cycle. This has already been apparent for the SR1.5: the five-year gap between the WG1 AR and the SR1.5 meant that the SR1.5 needed to cover a lot of topics for which important updates have occurred since the AR5. These range from improved understanding of the so-called 'hiatus' to climate sensitivity, attribution, ice sheet stability, cloud dynamics, land-climate interactions, etc. Although this might be partly specific for the SR1.5 due to the comprehensive nature of this report, this issue will likely be exaggerated with scientific knowledge advancing at an ever-faster pace.

If the IPCC is not able to provide science updates more regularly, this will be more and more filled by other organisations, such as for example the World Bank with their Turn Down the Heat series and the 'Shockwave' report.

Figure 1: number of peer-reviewed publications in the Scopus database with "climate" in the title, abstract or keywords since the IPCC started its assessment cycles.



3) A shorter periodicity would allow an efficient transfer of knowledge between cycles

A continuous transfer of knowledge between the incoming and outgoing Technical Support Units (TSUs) and Co-Chairs would be beneficial for the IPCC's work and for a more effective interaction between the IPCC the users of its products, including the UNFCCC. An organised transition with a period of overlap and handover between TSUs would enable a smooth transition. This could be most easily achieved with short cycles. If cycles were lengthened to 10 years, overlap between TSUs would require a further extension of TSU cycles beyond 10 years, which would have implications for funding.

4) To be of best use to the SBSTA and UNFCCC processes, as well as to other IPCC product users, the IPCC must be responsive to policy developments

It is essential that IPCC work is not policy prescriptive. However, it does need to be highly responsive to policy developments, which typically moves over time periods much shorter than 10 years. The IPCC products of each assessment cycle are agreed upon at the start of a cycle, and it is hard to imagine how relevant and timely products could be agreed upon over a decadal period.

The Paris Agreement, now almost universal, provides the multilateral framework for five-year policy cycles, through Parties' communication of successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs), that did not really exist prior to its adoption. Therefore, the organisation of the IPCC's work to best align with these policy cycles under the Paris Agreement would make the IPCC's products more timely and useful.

5) The IPCC also provides input into other key processes under the UNFCCC such as the Review of the long-term goal

Beyond the global stocktake, there are fundamental processes under the UNFCCC that are linked to IPCC products. The Review of the long-term global temperature goal is a key example: as outlined in paragraph 167, 2/CP.17, the Review should take place after an adoption of an IPCC Assessment Report or 'or at least every seven years'. If Assessment Reports are not available by a sufficient margin ahead of each Review, the Review would have to be conducted without the best available science provided by the IPCC. A seven-year cycle would not provide enough time for the findings of the IPCC to be fully digested and taken into account as part of the Review.

Reasoning against a longer cycle with a special report

A seven-year cycle with a special report to feed into the Global Stocktake would come at substantial costs for the relevance of the IPCC, and it would deliver little benefit.

For a GST SR to adequately inform the global stocktake, it would need a very broad scope, even broader than the Special Report on 1.5°C (SR1.5). It would need to address topics such as recent evolutions of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and updated observations and trends of key variables such as global temperature and precipitation, and their regional impacts, as well as information on mitigation pathways, mitigation actions, adaptation actions, needs and barriers, loss and damage, finance flows, mechanisms for capacity building and technology transfer etc. This would require inputs from all three working groups, and would place a substantial burden on the IPCC's resources, with the risk of undermining the work progress under the individual working groups.

In order to keep a GST SR to a manageable length, the IPCC would be required to pick and choose scientific assessments that it considers to be relevant for the global stocktake. This would risk placing IPCC in a policy prescriptive role and undermining its relevance for the Global Stocktake. Furthermore, IPCC special reports have to rely on much smaller author teams than the full assessment reports. Calling for such comprehensive assessments from

only a small author team inevitably leads to the risk of expertise gaps and places a substantial burden on those authors who voluntarily contribute to the work of the IPCC.

With global stocktakes taking place every five years, starting in 2023, regular five-yearly GST SRs would be required for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th etc. global stocktakes in 2028, 2033 and 2038 etc. Therefore, for some global stocktakes the GST SR may need to be written near the end of an assessment cycle, when the IPCC is already over-stretched.

The argument that seven years would leave more room for additional special reports does not hold as a GST SR would already be a fixed special report that needs to be produced every five years. It seems highly unlikely that a two year extended period (from five to seven years) would allow for more than one additional special report, in particular given the breadth of topics and resourcing requirements for a GST SR. Thus, there would be no 'gain' from the prolonged period in terms of the flexibility of the IPCC's products, but instead it would mean establishing an additional mandatory report element that would need to be linked to exogenous schedules.

SAUDI ARABIA

Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake

Saudi Arabia welcomes the invitation to provide input to the organization of the future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake process of the UNFCCC, starting from the seventh assessment report.

Saudi Arabia strongly believes in the need to maintain the scientific integrity of the IPCC work and its deliverables and ensure that current cycle of 7 years interval is maintained and is only changed due to scientific reasons of physical science and other peer-reviewed social science.

It is well known that the process and time interval established under the UNFCCC's global stocktake is politically driven and was a compromise reached under Paris Agreement, hence, there is no scientific basis for determining its 5 year cycle. Therefore, it would be absolutely unacceptable to twist the cycle of IPCC assessment reports, or influence its initiation in consideration of the global stocktake. Undoubtedly, any notion to consider a political process under the UNFCCC, such as the global stocktake, will be to the detriment of the IPCC's integrity and its scientific value, as well as risking its reputation in general.

We strongly urge to maintain the work of the IPCC to be on the basis of science and the availability of scientific literature without any undue pressure to satisfy other political requirements such as the global stocktake.

SINGAPORE

Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Singapore's submission

At IPCC-47, there was an initial exchange of views on the organisation of the future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement. The meeting noted that the IPCC should ensure there is adequate time allocated to the development and review of its reports, to ensure that their quality is not compromised. Specifically, to ensure adequate time for assessment reports (ARs) to be developed and reviewed, the meeting noted that it would be important to consider various factors e.g. the time available for authors to develop the content of future reports. It was also proposed that Bureau Members and Technical Support Unit (TSU) representatives could become either full members or ex-officio members of the Task Group to share their ideas and expertise on the science-policy interface and to guide against possible risks associated with tightening workloads.

- Singapore is of the view that these are useful suggestions. They are also similar to practical suggestions raised by various countries, including Singapore, in the earlier round of country submissions prior to IPCC-47. As it is important that the IPCC remains driven by science, it is a key priority for the IPCC to organise and schedule its future work in such a way that supports the scientific rigour of the IPCC's ARs and products. At the same time, we recognise that products from the IPCC, will serve as the authoritative input to the GST on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- Singapore therefore suggests that the Task Group undertakes, as part of its work, an engagement with Bureau Members, TSU representatives, and other relevant representatives involved in developing and reviewing the IPCC's ARs, to seek their views on possible options for the organisation of the IPCC's future work and the optimal timeframe between ARs, to ensure that their quality is not compromised.
- Subsequently, the collated views can be circulated for further consideration, to see if new or useful options on the organisation and scheduling of the IPCC's future work are surfaced.



To: ipcc-alignment@wmo.int

Date: 30 November, 2018

Our ref: 2018/577/11.4

Your ref: 5292-18/IPCC/GEN

Sweden's views on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in Light of the Global Stocktake

Sweden appreciates the opportunity to comment on the possible options for organizing and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake starting from AR7.

Sweden would like to emphasise both the importance of the availability of timely and relevant scientific, technical and socio-economic information for the Global Stocktake, as well as other arenas, and the importance of maintaining the rigor, quality and inclusiveness of the work of the IPCC and its outcomes. These should be the guiding principles for the continued efforts on the alignment.

There are several options in how to organize the work of the IPCC in the future, as is already reflected in the earlier discussions. Sweden is ready to work on the further considerations of these, as well as possible new views on any alternatives.

While recognizing that the organization and extent of the full Assessment Reports may come to be discussed in the future within the alignment, or in another framing, and without prejudging such a process or its outcome, one possibility could be to:

Establish a specific product to be provided ahead of each Global Stocktake, scoped and formed for the needs of the Global Stocktake. The format and process could be inspired by the Special Reports, not least the recent Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C that engaged all three Working Groups. The current length of the Assessment Cycle would be maintained.

A further possibility could be to incorporate the specific product above, but still as an identifiable material as a across-WG chapter or an extract within the full AR, in the cases that the timing of a specific Global Stocktake coincides with the AR in question.

Sincerely,

Markku Rummukainen

Swedish Focal Point for IPCC

SMHI / Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

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SWITZERLAND

“Alignment” of the cycles of the IPCC and the Global Stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement

November 2018

Context of our submission

- This submission is an update of our previous submission of December 2017 in preparation of IPCC 47 (contained in document IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 8). We remain convinced that the preservation of the integrity of the IPCC and the high quality of its works is a priority.
- In 2018, during the UNFCCC negotiations, additional elements of the Global Stocktake (GST) gradually began to emerge and, although they have not yet found a definitive answer, they seem to indicate the UNFCCC process by which they should be clarified. This is useful for the IPCC to better consider how it can effectively support the GST.

GST1 in 2023

- In 2023, GST1 will take place only two years after the Paris Agreement and the submitted (I)NDCs come into effect. By that time, only limited data on the implementation of the Paris Agreement will be available for consideration by the GST1.
- Therefore, GST1 will evaluate the implementation of the Paris Agreement at a moment in time when there are only limited data post-2020 available¹. This may require COP decisions to clarify some elements of GST1.

COP decisions on GST (COP24 and beyond)

- It is anticipated that COP 24 will adopt relevant decisions to facilitate optimal preparation of GST1. In addition, additional decisions may be required at next COPs before 2023.
- For example, the COP may decide to establish a Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) to address GST1 issues, in particular those related to scientific matters.

Role of the IPCC in the GST1

- In this context, it is certain that the IPCC will play a key role as the primary source of input providing the best available scientific and technological knowledge on climate change matters, able to ensure the scientific integrity of GST1. To fulfil this role, the AR6 will be available and a SED can serve as a useful interface with the GST1.

About alignment of IPCC and GST cycles

- Responding to the needs of the GST does not need forcefully an alignment of the IPCC and GST cycles. The idea of an alignment of cycles implies that the GST would need an IPCC Assessment Report, which may not be the case.
- Therefore, IPCC 49 should be informed about COP 24's decisions on GST1 and beyond, and establish a dialogue with the UNFCCC in view of clarifying what are the exact requests and expectations. Based on these elements, the IPCC may take the relevant decisions.
- If the COP would request to align cycles in view of having an Assessment Report available before each GST, in particular AR7 for GST2 in 2028, then the IPCC should start the AR7 cycle in 2020 by electing the Bureau, as suggested in our previous submission.

¹ GST1 will start in May 2023. Assuming that the preparatory process takes one year, the individual reports by Parties will need to be ready by the end of 2021. Given the current lack of synchronization of GHG inventory and Biennial Reports, the newest data for developed countries in these reports will stem from 2019. For developing countries, they might even stem from 2017.

UNITED KINGDOM

UK response on the future work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in light of the Global Stocktake (GST)

Dear Co-Chairs,

Thank you for your invitation to submit potential options with regards to the future products and organisation of the IPCC.

The UK considered the following aspects when collating viable options:

- **The needs of IPCC's audiences, including the GST:**
- **Relevance and timeliness.** Feedback from policy, academia and business stakeholders from the UK suggests a need for more frequent updates, particularly on adaptation and mitigation, via shorter and more policy focussed reports. This view has also been expressed by a number of member states during discussions on the IPCC's Future Work after Assessment Report 5¹.
- **Best available science for the GSTs.** The GST is due to take place every 5 years, from 2023. It is an assessment of collective progress towards the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their NDCs, actions, support and international cooperation for climate action. For this assessment to take place, Parties will require the latest available science from the IPCC, as stated in Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 99b. Each GST should therefore be informed by an IPCC product. To ensure that the most up-to-date science is fed into the process, IPCC products, typically no older than one year, would need to be delivered in due time ahead of the start of any GST. (Although the GST has not specified its requirements yet, it is unlikely that the range of viable options would change. The pros and cons of each option might.) An IPCC report would also need to be delivered in sufficient time to allow for detailed consideration by Parties ahead of a GST. This is estimated to be ideally two to four months in advance of relevant UNFCCC meetings.
- **Resources and budget**
- **Length of Technical Support Unit (TSU) Funding.** The TSUs manage the assessment process and are supported financially by individual countries. These countries are currently required to commit funding for the entire assessment cycle. Changes to the length of the cycle would have implications to the funding commitment cycles of national administrations.
- **IPCC financial situation.** In recent years, annual contributions to the Trust Fund have not always been sufficient to cover expenditure, necessitating the use of reserves. The Task Group on Sustainable Finance is seeking to address this issue, but these recent financial difficulties highlight the need for efficiency across all IPCC activities, careful planning and design of relevant products. Therefore, the financial viability and value for money of any explored options also need to be taken into account. Alternative formats, focus or a reduced number of reports each cycle could help to remain within budgetary constraints while ensuring that the IPCC continues to deliver relevant and valued reports to UNFCCC and other stakeholders.
- **Operations**
- **Duration of term for bureau members.** Currently, the bureau members hold post for the entire duration of an assessment cycle which ends one year after the publication of an Assessment Report (AR). Longer cycles may therefore make it difficult to find Bureau members for the entire term, whilst there could be advantages to shorter cycles.
- **TSU handover and set up.** Given there is little to no continuity between TSU staff from one IPCC cycle to the next, there is a significant 'start-up time' involved in each cycle. Changes

1

https://www.ipcc.ch/organization/docs/future_summary_37_fin.pdf

in cycle lengths or products may need to consider the agility of the TSU set up process, including approaches to staffing and continuity and may require a change of process.

- **Scientific input, authoritativeness & the quality and type of IPCC reports**
- **Author time commitment and availability.** Authors volunteer a significant amount of their time to contribute to IPCC products and changes in cycle length and products will have an impact on this. The IPCC should consider the amount and timing of involvement required from the authors during an assessment cycle, particularly when multiple products have been agreed.
- **Timescales for research.** New research, particularly in the physical and environmental sciences and impacts research, often entails lengthy timescales to conduct practical and model experiments. Historically, each full AR included model results from a new generation of global circulation models (GCMs), though this may not be necessary for each cycle². *TSUs, research institutions and authors should be consulted for an up to date view on this.*
- **Integration between the IPCC WGs.** There are interdependencies between the three working groups which impact on the sequence of preparation and publication of the WG reports. There is also a desire to encourage interdisciplinary work and further integration across the WGs, which may need to be taken into account. Alternative formats for reports or reorganisation of WGs could impact on the possibility and potential of interdisciplinary working.
- **Types of products.** It is unclear whether a full AR of the type produced in past cycles is necessary for the GST – updates on the science could also be delivered by other formats and **it would be useful for IPCC to explore what the right format of assessment might be**, based on the needs of its audience. For example, the UNFCCC's Talanoa Dialogue in 2018 is informed by the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5). The scope of this SR is considerably broader than previous IPCC SRs and lessons on how successfully SR1.5 informed Parties should be taken into account in deciding whether this type of IPCC product would be appropriate for the GST. SRs are subject to the same rigorous review and approval process as ARs and are equally robust.
- **The volume of literature and the rate of increase in knowledge.**
- **Reputation as a leading authority on climate science.** The IPCC ARs and SRs carry considerable weight worldwide and are recognised as the leading assessment on climate change science, generating significant interest in the public sphere, media, enterprises and national policy, in addition to the delivery of scientific findings for the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and other organisations.

OPTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK in light of the GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

A. No change to status quo + production of a Special Report/Supplementary Report/other format dedicated to the GST when necessary

The IPCC continues to decide on the length of its cycles at the beginning of each cycle (approximately seven-years for the last two). If the timing of the release of the AR does not meet the requirement of the next GST (as is expected after 2028), a Special Report or Supplementary Report of some specified format is timed to directly address UNFCCC GST needs in a similar manner to the special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

This could mean minimal adjustments to the process, there is however a risk that if the GST's requirements are broad in nature, the production of a parallel AR and SRs (/other format) would represent a major undertaking in terms of author workload and split focus could impact on report quality. There is also a risk of overlaps with the AR in content and a parallel writing process could be less than ideal if it spreads across bureau mandates. Inconsistency in the types of products feeding into consecutive GSTs could also be problematic.

² Model development, testing, scenario runs and their publication have recently taken about 7 years, explaining the length of recent IPCC cycles.

B. Five-year assessment cycles

B1. The assessment cycle focuses solely on the preparation of a **full AR** every five years and there are **no regular interim Special Reports** (except Methodology Reports).

This would ensure the GST is provided with the best available science and all IPCC stakeholders with more frequent updates, which, as identified during discussions on the Future Work of IPCC post the 5th AR, would be a welcome change and would make the IPCC's findings more up to date and relevant. This should provide no problems for material on adaptation and mitigation, however, the issue of timeframes required for physical and environmental science input needs to be considered, as should the handover and start-up times for TSUs.

B2. The IPCC produces a **shorter, more focused AR** (with either considerably shortened or combined WG contributions or some other format) in place of a lengthy, full AR, **with/without Special Reports/Technical Papers**. The establishment of a new report format would require the amendment of the IPCC's procedures.

This option would represent a substantial change, however would be welcomed by UK-, and probably other-, stakeholders, resulting in a less resource intensive, more policy focussed and readable report that better caters to the needs of the IPCC's audience and ensures that the IPCC evolves with a changing political landscape. This option would need careful scoping and a new approach to structuring the report. The issue of physical science input needs must also be considered as should implications to TSU handover and start-up times.

From our deliberations and consultations, we do not consider 10-year cycles to be viable and therefore do not suggest it as an option

Best wishes,

Dr Jolene Cook
IPCC Focal Point UK

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Your ref.: 5293-18/IPCC/GEN



Climate Action Network-International
administration@climatenetwork.org
www.climatenetwork.org

31/10/2018

To the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Dear Madam or Sir,

Climate Action Network International (CAN), a network of 1300 NGOs globally, is writing in response to your invitation of 20th September 2018 to identify and share possible options for scheduling and organizing future work of the IPCC in light of the global stocktake (GST), starting from the Seventh Assessment Cycle. We welcome this opportunity to provide inputs to the development of the IPCC's action plan.

We consider the work of the IPCC to be a crucial input into the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and note the times within the UNFCCC cycles where the Assessment Reports and their accompanying publicity, have helped to spur major political shifts in the UNFCCC work. These include providing impetus for the Convention itself, for the Kyoto Protocol, for the Bali Action Plan and, most recently, for the Paris Agreement.

For CAN then, this synchronicity with UNFCCC cycles, thereby retaining the IPCC's important policy relevance, is crucial. In this regard, we note the following provisions in the Paris Agreement (emphases added);

***Article 4.9:** Each Party shall communicate a nationally determined contribution every five years ... and be informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake referred to in Article 14.*

***Article 14.1:** [The CMA] shall periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals (referred to as the "global stocktake"). It shall do so in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.*

***Article 14.2:** The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall undertake its first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter ...*

Based on these provisions and the rapidly changing external circumstances, caused by climate change and other enviro-socioeconomic factors, and **CAN strongly thinks that the cycle of IPCC Assessment Reports should operate on 5-yearly cycles¹, starting after the AR6 being published in 2021-2022** to inform the UNFCCC's first GST, such that it is indeed based on "the best available science". This science should be available to Parties to inform their updating and enhancing of their NDCs. Without the crucial work of the IPCC in compiling the Assessment Reports, parties would be in no position to consider "the best available science" during the GSTs, thus limiting their potential to enhance ambition in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

¹ unless there is variation in the cycle periodicity, as per Article 14.2

In order to ensure that the IPCC products (including, but not limited to, the Assessment Reports) can inform the GST as directly and effectively as possible, we encourage the IPCC to reflect the structure of the GST in these products, in other words, to organize the scientific knowledge assessed in the Reports in ways that coincide with the thematic workstreams and overarching topics of the global stocktakes, as far as is practicable.

Further, given the Paris Agreement's mandate to also conduct the GST "in the light of equity," we encourage the IPCC to consider the equity dimensions across all applicable themes and subjects of its Assessment Reports for each topic as applicable. In this context, we commend the treatment of equity in the SR1.5°C.

Sincerely,



Wael Hmaidan
Executive Director
Climate Action Network - International

CAN International is a tax-exempt organization registered in Germany under the name Climate Action Network Association e.V.
Registration number VR 8266 - Tax ID 205/5760/1441

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Climate Action and Resource Efficiency
Climate Action and Earth Observation

Brussels, 29 November 2018
RTD.I.4/AK/rtd.ddg2.i.4(2018)6679543

Sent via e-mail ipcc-alignment@wmo.int

Your ref.: 5293-18/IPCC/GEN

Dear Mr Mokssit,

The European Union¹ (represented by the European Commission) welcomes the opportunity to present initial views on possible options for organising and scheduling future work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake (GST) starting from the Seventh Assessment Cycle (AR7).

1. Introduction

Under the Paris Agreement, a GST is to take place in 2023 and every five years thereafter. The full purpose of the GST is outlined in the Paris Agreement's Article 14. Of greatest relevance to the IPCC is the fact that each GST will take stock of the collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals in a comprehensive manner, in light of the best available science.

Noting that the GST's five-year cycle does not match the 6-7 year (on average) length of an IPCC Assessment Cycle, previous analysis by the IPCC Secretary² has identified that options for organising and scheduling future IPCC work could include: i) reducing the assessment cycle to five years; ii) increasing the assessment cycle to ten years; or iii) maintaining the current cycle length and producing a targeted Special Report in case the assessment cycle timing does not align with the next GST.

Given the above, we would like to make the following observations:

Firstly – The IPCC's response to the information needs of the GST should be considered in a holistic manner. It is not merely a question of whether and how to synchronise IPCC cycles with those of the GST. In this regard, we welcome the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Task Group proposed at IPCC-47 under the title *Organization of the Future*

¹ Here represented by the European Commission, not acting on behalf of its Members States

² <http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/47/250720170705-Doc.3-AlignmentCycle.pdf>

Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake and we underline the important role of this tasks group in moving the discussion and analysis forward.

Secondly – In addition to their inherent pros and cons, different cycle alignment options could imply fundamental changes to the operations of the IPCC. For example: A five-year assessment cycle would condense the time available for a full scientific assessment, stress further the scientific community and limit the time available for Special Reports. A ten-year cycle would reduce the frequency of Assessment Reports and would require consideration of how to inform (with the latest scientific findings) the GST occurring between Assessment Reports. Furthermore, any change to the cycle length would affect the scientific and administrative business of the IPCC including: the number and nature of reports other than the Assessment Report (including Special Reports), the timing of elections and term length of the bureau, and the time available for plenary meetings, report approval and decision-making.

Thirdly – The urgency and timeline of IPCC considerations on this matter depends in part on the timing of the 6th & 7th assessment cycles in relation to the 1st and 2nd GST. The complete 6th Assessment Report of the IPCC will be available in April 2022, approximately 18 months before the GST-1. The 7th assessment cycle of the IPCC is expected to begin in spring 2023, approximately six years before GST-2³. This would be the latest point in time at which IPCC must decide both on how it proposes to inform GST-2 and on the length of the 7th assessment cycle.

2. Suggestions and issues to take into consideration

As indicated above, the question of how to organize the work of IPCC in light of the GST has several inter-related components. We therefore propose establishing some basic priorities in order to simplify the task.

i) **The Task Group should work on the assumption that every GST will be informed by a new IPCC report.** The report could be an Assessment Report, a Special Report or a new type of IPCC product designed specifically to inform the GST. The exact timing of adoption should be considered by the group. As a starting point, it is worth considering the time required to produce a report (noting that the AR6 cycle Special Reports are to be produced 3-4 years into the assessment cycle), and the time needed for the GST to consider the report (balancing the timeliness of the analysis with the need to allow policymakers to consider its findings).

ii) **The Task Group should keep an open mind regarding assessment cycle length.** The 7th and subsequent assessment cycles do not necessarily need to have same duration as each other. Also, as noted above, AR7 could inform GST-2 through an assessment cycle of 5 years, 10 years, or any point in between. Therefore, it may be better to consider the needs of IPCC and the GST more generally rather than immediately decide on the optimal cycle length.

iii) **The Task Group should consider what the key characteristics of an IPCC report informing the GST should be.** The Task Group should consider the information needs of the GST and the type of product that IPCC could provide to meet these needs on a 5-yearly basis, in the context of the other audiences and purposes served by IPCC assessments. Once the Task Group has clarified the key characteristics of an IPCC

³ Assuming each GST takes place at the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, and therefore occurs around November every 5 years

product informing the GST, it will better placed to decide what type of report can serve this function (whether it be an Assessment Report, a Special Report or a new type of product).

Yours faithfully,

(e-Signed)
Anastasios KENTARCHOS
Acting Head of Unit

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)

RE: IPCC Task Group on the Organization of the Future Work of the IPCC in light of the Global Stocktake

Lindsey Fielder Cook <lfcCook@quno.ch>

Nov 30, 2018 6:01 PM

Posted in group: [ipcc-alignment](#)

Dear IPCC

Thank you for giving Observers the opportunity to input on the Task Force work.

As observers to the IPCC, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), through its focal point of the Quaker UN Office, would encourage the following:

A - What is your point of view on the alignment of the cycles of the IPCC and the global stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement:

1. Reducing the assessment cycle to five years, including by conducting the assessment of the future IPCC products and the elections for the next assessment cycle in parallel with the final part of the current assessment cycle.
 1. **Noting the rapid escalation of climate change, a five year cycle is far better than #2 of every ten years.**

1. Increasing the assessment cycle to ten years and producing an update of relevant information for the global stocktake in the middle of the assessment cycle.
 1. **Would be irresponsible considering how fast warming is now happening, often faster than predicted in IPCC reports. And this includes other environmental changes that are related to, or resulting from, climate change.**

1. The IPCC would maintain the approximately seven-year assessment cycle as has been the case over the last few cycles. If the time of approval of the Assessment Report for a given cycle does not align with the timing of the immediate next global stocktake (GST), the IPCC would produce a targeted Special Report the scope and timing of which would be designed to address the needs of the UNFCCC global stocktake in a similar manner as the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5). The Special Report would, inter alia, address topics such as most recent evolutions of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and updated observations and trends of key variables such as global temperature and precipitation, and their regional impacts.
 1. **This would seem best, allowing the IPCC to focus on needed inputs while not leaving the AR cycle too late, as long as the SRs are regular and the pre-global stocktake report is given sufficient support.**

Any other suggestions and proposals

- It is critical that the IPCC be able to make a thorough analysis of the situation prior to each global stocktake. If this can include the latest, critical information concerning human influence on climate change, to enable time to act, then this should also be included in the SRs done between each AR.

Kindest

Lindsey Fielder Cook

Lindsey Fielder Cook

Representative for Climate Change

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Information note for the TG-FWLGST - Outcome of COP24 regarding the Global Stocktake

The following information note has been prepared in order to share with the TG FWLGST members some information which is considered as relevant for the TG activities by the co-chairs and rapporteur. It is not an official document which will not have to be endorsed neither by the TG FWLGST nor by any other body of the IPCC.

[Decision 19/CMA.1](#), adopted at COP24 in Katowice, defines the modalities and sources of inputs of the global stocktake, referred to in Article 14 of the Paris agreement. It also decides that equity and the best available science will be considered in a Party-driven and cross-cutting manner, throughout the global stocktake. It gives some indications on how IPCC reports³ will be taken up in the global stocktake, and when they need to be available. It consists of three components: "information collection and preparation", "technical assessment" and "consideration of outputs" as described below.

The global stocktake will assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including under Article 2, paragraph 1(a–c), in the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, noting, in this context, that the global stocktake may take into account, as appropriate, efforts related to its work that:

- (i) Address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures ;
- (ii) Avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

Short description of all three components of the global stocktake

- **Information collection and preparation**, focusing on gathering, compiling and synthesizing information.
 - The latest reports of the IPCC are explicitly mentioned in the decision from COP24 as source of inputs for the global stocktake.
 - Furthermore, the COP 24 decision lists additional sources of inputs and specifies information needs, additional to those already identified in the decision 1/CP.21. For example in preparation for the technical assessment, the UNFCCC secretariat is requested to prepare four synthesis reports, listed below, where IPCC reports also may be relevant:
 - the state of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks and mitigation efforts undertaken by Parties;
 - the state of adaptation efforts, experiences and priorities;
 - the overall effect of, and progress made by Parties related to their, communicated nationally determined contributions;
 - the finance flows, including both means of implementation and support as well as information on financial flows consistent with low emission pathways and climate resilient development.
- **Technical assessment**, focusing on taking stock of the implementation of the Paris agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as opportunities for enhanced action and support. The technical assessment will be facilitated by two co-facilitators.
 - Reports from the IPCC should be considered in an effective and balanced manner, as part of the overall input to the global stocktake.

³

IPCC reports includes Assessment reports, Synthesis reports, Special reports and Methodology reports.

- In addition, the COP24 decision also recognizes that a dialogue between IPCC experts and Parties, through the SBSTA-IPCC special events, should be used to enable a focused scientific and technical exchange of information on the findings of the IPCC in an open and transparent manner. Traditionally, such special events have been held as soon as possible after IPCC reports are approved, and may be an additional opportunity to consider IPCC reports independently of the timing related to the technical assessment.
 - The SBSTA-IPCC joint working group should continue to be used to enhance communication and coordination between the two bodies in the context of the global stocktake.
- **Consideration of outputs**, focusing on discussing the implications of the findings of the technical assessment with a view to informing Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support, as well as enhancing international cooperation for climate action. A high-level committee consisting of the Presidencies of the COP⁴ and the Chairs of the SBSTA/SBI will chair the high-level events.

This component of the global stocktake should identify opportunities and challenges in enhancing action and support in collective progress, as well as possible measures, good practices and international cooperation. It should also summarize key political messages, including recommendations, for strengthening action and enhancing support, and will be referenced in a COP decision and/or a declaration.

Timeline

The endpoint of the first global stocktake, during which the consideration of outputs will take place, will be at the COP in November 2023, and similarly such endpoints will be repeated every five years thereafter. The COP24 decision describes when the other components of the global stocktake should start relative to these endpoints. The technical assessment will take place during the two (or depending on the timing of the publication of the IPCC reports, three) preceding SBSTA/SBI sessions. Lastly, the information collection and preparation component of the global stocktake will commence one session before the start of the technical assessment. The COP 24 decision also specifies that inputs to the global stocktake should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment.

The first Technical assessment component could therefore start at either the 2022 mid-session or the 2022 COP session depending on the availability of IPCC reports. Since all three working group reports of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report will be available during 2021 and the Synthesis Report are to be approved as soon as possible in 2022⁵, it is reasonable that the technical assessment of the first global stocktake should consist of three sessions starting at the mid-session in 2022. This would imply that the first information collection and preparation component should commence at COP in 2021.

The subsequent global stocktakes will follow the same patterns, but the length of the technical assessment will again depend on the timing of the IPCC reports in the coming IPCC cycles. For example this means that for the second global stocktake the technical assessment could start at the 2027 mid-session or 2027 COP session, and to be repeated every fifth year for subsequent global stocktakes.

⁴ Serving as the meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).

⁵ As decided in IPCC/XLIII-7

Furthermore, the COP24 decision also recognizes the role of the SBSTA-IPCC joint working group when it comes to communication and coordination between the two bodies in the context of the global stocktake.

In addition, the dialogue between IPCC experts and Parties through SBSTA–IPCC special events could be expected to be held as soon as an IPCC product are available e.g. at the 2021 mid-session meeting for the IPCC Working Group I report.

Information note for the TG-FWLGST – The Talanoa dialogue process

The Talanoa dialogue, which ran during the whole of 2018 and concluded at COP24, had been described by some as a prefiguration of the global stocktake. There are some lessons that can be drawn from the Talanoa experience even if the global stocktake will be longer, more structured, with roles given to various bodies, and covers more thematic areas.

The Talanoa dialogue comprised two phases: a **preparatory phase**, and a **political phase**. The first one ran from January to December 2018, with submissions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders both in April and October 2018. At the April/May intersession, meetings were held, both in plenaries and break-out groups, focusing on the selected three questions i) where are we ; ii) where do we want to go ; iii) how to get there.

The IPCC Special report on global warming of 1.5°C was used to inform the discussions of the Talanoa dialogue. However, it was released after the May intersession and could not be discussed then at the technical level. A **SBSTA-IPCC special event** was organized on December 4 to enable scientific and technical exchanges on the findings of the report. During the **political phase of the Talanoa**, there was also a key note speech by the IPCC to inform Ministers of the content of the report.

The Talanoa Dialogue and the IPCC Special report are both referred to in [Decision 1/CP.24](#). The Talanoa dialogue resulted in a "[Talanoa Call for Action](#)" from the Presidents of COP23 and COP24.