

REPORT OF THE 55TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU Geneva, Switzerland, 31 January 2018

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr Hoesung Lee, IPCC Chair, welcomed the members of the Bureau. He highlighted the importance of the meeting in producing a list of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), following two days of hard work by the Working Group bureaus.

Mr Lee emphasized the importance of regional information in the coming assessment and of regional balance in author representation. He recalled several important functions of the Bureau: overseeing the scientific quality of IPCC assessments; providing guidance on cross-cutting scientific issues in preparing assessments; advising coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors; and identifying relevant literature published in languages other than English and using the Working Group Vice-Chairs to approach authors of such literature to serve as expert reviewers, contributing authors and chapter scientists.

Finally Mr Lee noted that the Bureau was meeting at the start of a historic year, with the start of drafting of the Sixth Assessment Report, the finalization of the special report *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, and continuing work on the two other special reports and methodology report, all in the IPCC's 30th anniversary year.

Mr Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO, acknowledged the hard work of the Working Group bureaus in selecting the AR6 author teams. He recalled the WMO and the NMHS community had contributed in the past to the IPCC's work, particularly Working Group I, and would continue to do so.

He noted the rising political awareness of climate change that had paved the way to the Paris Agreement, thanks in good part to the work of the IPCC. There is now growing interest in climate change on the part of the private sector and investors. But trends in emissions and concentrations show that a solution to climate change is not yet at hand. He noted that 2017 was the warmest non-El Niño year on record and that the cost of extreme events had continued to rise. It was important to communicate the role of cumulative emissions to decision-makers.

Finally Mr Taalas congratulated the IPCC Chair and Secretary on their work to improve the financial position of the IPCC, and welcomed the increased financial contributions of several governments.

Mr Lee then introduced the provisional agenda and the timing of agenda items to be addressed. He noted that three break out groups would be held during lunch break. After some discussion the Bureau noted that in addition to convening in break-out groups, also an informal discussion among interested bureau members and government representatives on governance issues would be held.

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document BUR-LV/Doc.1 without changes.

The Agenda is attached as **Annex 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 2**.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 54TH SESSION

The Bureau approved the draft report of the Fifty-fourth Session of the IPCC Bureau contained in document BUR-LV/Doc.2 without changes and requested that the reports from Bureau sessions would henceforth be sent for comments also to the government representatives attending Bureau sessions.

The Chair concluded that this would be done.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

In introducing the agenda item, the legal officer of the IPCC Secretariat Ms Sophie Schlingemann, informed the Bureau that at the request of the Bureau at its 54th Session the Secretariat reviewed and updated the list of observer organizations. One organization was removed from the list since it ceased to exist, namely the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP). The Secretariat also checked the participation of observer organizations in IPCC Sessions since 2012, when the last review was done, which was reflected in document BUR-LVDoc.3, Rev.1 as submitted by the Secretariat. Furthermore the Bureau was informed that after the 46th I Session of the IPCC (Montreal, 6-10 October 2017) in accordance with the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations (hereafter: "IPCC Observer Policy") requests for IPCC observer status were received by the Secretariat from the following seven organizations:

(1) Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), (2) International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), (3) Rutgers University (USA), (4) SouthSouthNorth Projects Africa (SSN), (5) Oasis, (6) International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme (IEAGHG), and (7) InterAcademy Partnership (IAP).

The first five organizations were already accredited as UNFCCC, WMO or UNEP observer organization and therefore, in accordance with the IPCC Observer Policy, did not need to submit background information on their organization. The last two organizations submitted the necessary background documentation. In accordance with Rules II.5 and II.6 of the IPCC Observer Policy the seven requests were submitted to the Bureau for its review. The Bureau positively reviewed the seven requests.

IPCC Vice-Chair Ms Thelma Krug thanked the Secretariat for updating the list of observer organizations and the information on their participation in IPCC Sessions.

The Chair concluded that in accordance with the IPCC Observer Policy the requests would be presented to the next session of the Panel for its acceptance.

4. SELECTION OF COORDINATING LEAD AUTHORS, LEAD AUTHORS (CLAS AND LAS) AND REVIEW EDITORS FOR THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6)

Ms Valerie Masson Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I (WGI) presented the outcome from the WGI Bureau on the selection of Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (Las) and Review Editors (RE), also providing information and statistics on regional and gender distribution among the authors.

In the ensuing discussion Bureau members and government representatives discussed the fact that IPCC Vice-Chairs had not had an opportunity to participate in the selection process and therefore sought some explanations and clarifications as regards gender and regional balance in the selection, especially for chapter 7. A suggestion was made to send a letter to the focal points to request additional contributing authors. In response, one WGI Bureau member noted that this specific case had been extensively discussed in the Working Group I bureau, as had scientific, regional, and gender balance more generally. Many expressed satisfaction with the gender and regional distribution and expressed gratitude for the work done by the WGI Bureau. Many said emphasis should be on scientific experience and expertise, while others expressed concern as regards regional distribution of experts and financial constraints. Specific concerns were expressed for chapters 9 and 10. A request was also made for information on the statistics to be disseminated to the Bureau members.

Working Group I Co-Chair Valerie Masson-Delmotte explained the selection process and noted that experts that had not been selected could form a pool of authors for contributing chapter teams. She noted the need for diversity while also recognizing the limits set by trust fund availability. One government representative noted that one country seemed to be overrepresented in view of their

financial contributions. Another government noted its strict adherence to process laid out for nominating authors.

Ms Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of Working Group II (WGII) presented the outcome from the WGII Bureau on the selection of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, also providing information and statistics on regional and gender distribution among the authors. She thanked the Working Group Bureau for energetic and fully engaged discussions and presented the outcome from the selection process.

In the ensuing discussions, Bureau members and government representatives expressed concern about the imbalance in the regional representation among authors noting that specific chapters such as 5,7,8 and 17 would benefit from having lead authors from a specific region. Also some expressed concern about intraregional balance and sought a fully inclusive process. Some pointed out that efforts should be made to find authors from Africa, others requested a better mix of authors from different regions.

WGII Co-Chair Debra Roberts explained that explicit efforts had been made to treat all regions fairly, especially as regards the regional chapters. Hans Pörtner, WGII Co-Chair noted that a targeted search for authors had been conducted.

Working Group III (WGIII) Co-Chair Jim Skea presented the outcome from the WGIII Bureau on the selection of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, also providing information and statistics on regional and gender distribution among the authors. One Bureau member expressed concern about regional imbalances that would need to be addressed, noting the overrepresentation of authors from China and India in particular. Another Bureau member noted that region 5 encompasses 22 countries but authors selected were only from five countries which seemed to suggest a need for better intraregional coverage. Many government representatives noted the need for specific expertise for specific chapters but also noted that they adhered to rigid standards as to the selection process.

Government representatives also asked for additional information on the selected experts across working groups, noting the need to specify attribution to country, citing citizenship but also nominating country. Bureau members also discussed the various ways in which their governments support the selected experts nominated by them or working within institutions in their country. Many noted that developed countries should support their nominated and selected experts. Experts working for international organizations are assessed on a case by case basis as regards funding support. One government representative noted that it would be helpful to have five keywords describe the selected expert. It was, however, also noted that keywords can sometimes be skewed.

The Chair thanked the Bureau and acknowledged the excellent work done by the Working Group Co-Chairs and bureaux throughout the selection process of the lists of authors, review editors and expert reviewers for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

The Bureau took note of the lists of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR 6) as presented by Working Group I, Working Group II and Working Group III. The Chair further noted that the report from the 55th Session of the IPCC Bureau would reflect the rich discussion under this agenda item.

5. CONSIDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AT IPCC BUREAU SESSIONS

Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea presented the information document BUR-LV/INF.3 and noted that the intention was for the Bureau to consider including in the agenda of all Bureau sessions a scientific segment which would comprise one or more agenda items addressing scientific matters with a view to underpinning coordination across Working Groups and coherence across IPCC products. Some Bureau members and government representatives expressed support for this idea. The Chair noted that the agenda for the Bureau meeting is proposed by the Bureau and formalized

by the Secretariat and that this process would facilitate including an item on scientific matters on the agenda.

The Bureau took note of the information document and expressed support for the proposal to include in the agenda of all Bureau sessions a scientific segment, which comprises one or more agenda items addressing scientific matters with a view to underpinning coordination across Working Groups and coherence across IPCC products.

6. ROLE OF WORKING GROUP VICE-CHAIRS

Mr Greg Flato, Working Group I Vice-Chair presented the document BUR-LV/INF.1. on the role of Working Group Vice-Chairs. Many Bureau members welcomed the document expressing an interest in achieving clarification of the roles and clear guidance and a decision from the Bureau. Some said they did not want to make haste on the matter. Some suggested to have a guidance note on the role of Working Group Vice-Chairs. Others noted that there should not be a change of rules of procedure or rules and regulations. Many said that while the issue is an important one, the solutions offered should not be too rigid nor complicate matters, noting the need for guidance on practical steps.

The Chair concluded by noting that the essence of the discussions under this agenda item would be included in the report.

The Bureau took note of document BUR-LV/INF.1.

7. SCIENTIFIC ISSUES CUTTING ACROSS DIFFERENT IPCC PRODUCTS DURING THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) CYCLE

The Chair invited Andy Reisinger, Working Group III (WGIII) Vice-Chair to introduce the item and the document BUR-LV/INF.2 as well as the working modalities of the follow up discussions. He noted that three break-out groups consisting of Bureau members and Technical support Unit (TSU)staff would convene during the lunch break to discuss crosscutting issues in order to gain a better overview and understanding. The break – out groups would be chaired by the IPCC Vice-Chairs,. After lunch IPCC Vice-Chair Ko Barrett presented a summary of the discussions in the three groups, with additional comments from IPCC Vice-Chairs Thelma Krug and Youba Sokona.

In the ensuing discussion, one Bureau member expressed disappointment as to the quality of the report back from the discussions, noting that it did not reflect the outcome. He wished for a proper discussion. Some Bureau members disagreed and said that the spirit of the discussions in the break-out groups was conveyed well enough in the presentation.

IPCC Vice-Chair Ko Barrett explained that break out group Chairs had met and consolidated the discussions from the break out groups at the request of the IPCC Chair. She noted that the consolidated report could be improved if deemed not sufficient. Also IPCC Vice-Chairs Thelma Krug and Youba Sokona intervened clarifying the process followed.

The Bureau took note of document BUR-LV/INF.2 on the approach to crosscutting issues during the AR6 cycle. The Bureau members discussed work specifically on the four first items highlighted in the Summary of Cross-cutting Discussions presented by the IPCC Vice-Chairs serving as Chairs of the break-out groups on crosscutting issues. The Summary of the cross-cutting discussions will be sent to the Bureau members. Bureau members were asked to send their comments on the remaining items of the Summary of cross-cutting discussions to the IPCC Vice-Chairs.

8. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE IPCC AND THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IPCC

The Secretary of the IPCC resented document on the preparations for the 47th Session of the IPCC and the thirtieth anniversary of the IPCC. Bureau members discussed the agenda for the Plenary. Several delegations expressed support for gender to be included on the agenda, report on cities conference, honoring stalwart scientists, revision of the procedures of the IPCC, Ad Hoc Task Group on Financial Stability (ATG-Finance) and briefing for ExCom members in chairing approval sessions. Some noted that also the 48th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-48) should include other agenda items, not only the approval of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. The Secretary of the IPCC said that the Secretariat is planning to have an informal presentation on the budget in advance of the meetings of the Finance Task Team (FiTT) and also that a pre-meeting with the Co-Chairs of the FiTT would be held to assist the budget and finance discussions.

The Bureau took note of document BUR-LV/Doc.4, Rev.1. and the Chair asked that Bureau delegations send comments to the proposed agenda of IPCC-47 to the Secretariat.

9. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 48TH SESSION OF THE IPCC (APPROVAL SESSION)

The Bureau took note of document BUR-LV/Doc.5.

10. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

This agenda item was not addressed for lack of time.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No any other business.

12. PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 56TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

After a brief discussions on options for holding the next Bureau session which included; adjacent to IPCC-48; in between IPCC-47 and IPCC-48, and; jointly with some other meeting, before the end of the year, the Chair requested that Bureau members communicate their views on the timing of the next Bureau session to the Secretariat.

13. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.22 pm CET.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 54TH SESSION**
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**
4. **SELECTION OF COORDINATING LEAD AUTHORS, LEAD AUTHORS (CLAs and LAs) AND REVIEW EDITORS FOR THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6)**
5. **CONSIDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AT IPCC BUREAU SESSIONS**
6. **ROLE OF WORKING GROUP VICE-CHAIRS**
7. **SCIENTIFIC ISSUES CUTTING ACROSS DIFFERENT IPCC PRODUCTS DURING THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) CYCLE**
8. **PREPARATIONS FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE IPCC AND THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IPCC**
9. **PREPARATIONS FOR THE 48TH SESSION OF THE IPCC (APPROVAL SESSION)**
10. **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
12. **PLACE AND DATE FOR THE 56TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU**
13. **CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 55th SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
Geneva, Switzerland, 31 January 2018

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