

REPORT OF THE 48th SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
Geneva, Switzerland, 27 January 2015

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 1

Mr Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC, opened the Bureau session at 10 a.m. on 27 January 2015. The Chair expressed his satisfaction about the completion of the Synthesis Report (SYR) of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) at the end of October 2014 in Copenhagen and its release to the public on 2 November 2014. He also expressed his satisfaction on the impact that the report had at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 20th Conference of the Parties (COP-20) in Lima in December 2014. He welcomed the representative of the WMO Secretary-General, Mr Maxx Dilley, and the representative of the UNEP Executive Director, Ms Sylvie Motard and invited them to make their statements.

Mr Dilley and Ms Motard expressed their Organizations' appreciation for the findings of the AR5 and commended the IPCC Chair, the Secretariat, scientists and all those involved for this endeavor.

The provisional agenda (*BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 1*) was approved without any changes and is attached as **Annex 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 2**.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 47TH SESSION

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 2

The draft report of the 47th Session of the Bureau was approved without changes.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

3.1 Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI)

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 5

The progress report of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) was presented by Mr Taka Hiraishi, Co-Chair of the Task Force Bureau. He highlighted that the TFI completed the publication of English versions of the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*, and the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol*. He also referred to TFI activities organized during 2014 and planned for 2015. In response to the intervention by the delegate from Germany, Mr Taka Hiraishi indicated that he would expect a precise programme of work for TFI to be adopted at the 42nd Session of the Panel.

3.2 Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA)

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 10

The Secretary of the IPCC, Ms Renate Christ, reported on recent activities of TGICA. Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of Working Group II (WGII), noted the need to consider options for the future of the TGICA. The Chair of the IPCC and Mr Ismail El Gizouli, Vice-Chair of the IPCC, as well as

Mr David Wratt, Mr Abdalah Mokssit, and the delegate from Saudi Arabia, expressed the view that the Task Group provides value added and called for strengthening some functions. Mr Francis Zwiers said that some functions would not necessarily need to be strengthened while Mr Sergey Semenov supported reviewing the operations of the TGICA. The delegate from the United States of America stressed the value of the work of the TGICA which enhances coordination across Working Groups, and called for continuation of its archiving tasks while being mindful of the resources implications.

Mr Tim Carter, TGICA Co-Chair, welcomed the support expressed for the continuation and review of the functions of the Task Group. He stated that the Data Distribution Centre could do more in the future and in this context he pointed out that the TGICA Expert Meeting scheduled for 2015 would address topics regarding decision making in the use of IPCC data by agencies involved in adaptation and mitigation initiatives. The Chair of the IPCC concluded saying that this possibility might be considered by the Panel.

3.3 Expert meeting on potential studies of the IPCC

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 9

The Secretary of the IPCC introduced the progress report and reminded the Bureau that the meeting will take place the two following days.

Mr Jim Skea stressed the importance of ensuring the independence of studies. The delegate from Switzerland added considerations regarding policies on access to information, and Mr David Wratt pointed out the importance to consider the interaction of researchers and IPCC authors.

3.4. Scholarship Programme

Document BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 8

The Secretary of the IPCC introduced the progress report.

The Chair of the IPCC and Mr Dahe Qin, Co-Chair of Working Group I (WGI), referred to the potential sponsorship from the China Energy Fund Committee. The Chair of the IPCC and Mr Qin will follow up with a visit to Mr Ye, Chairman of the Committee, in Shanghai by the end of February. The Chair of the IPCC acknowledged the efforts of Mr Martin Lee in preparing for this potential partnership.

The delegates from Madagascar and the United Kingdom expressed their satisfaction on the implementation of the IPCC Scholarship Programme.

The delegate from the United Kingdom expressed concerns for the age limit set for applicants to the programme and Mr Ismail El Gizouli, Vice-Chair of the IPCC, suggested more flexibility regarding deadlines for applications. The Secretary of the IPCC recalled how the age limit was established by the Science Board and that the deadlines for applications have to match those established by the funding partners while allowing for sufficient time to conduct the necessary evaluation of applications.

3.5 Other progress reports

Documents: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 7 and BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 12

Mr Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of Working Group I, introduced the progress report on WGI (BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 7), Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of Working Group II, reported on WGII, Mr Youba Sokona, Co-Chair of Working Group III (WGIII) introduced the report on WGIII (BUR XLVIII/Doc. 12) and the Chair of IPCC reported on the Synthesis Report.

Responding to a question from Mr Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-Chair of the IPCC, the Secretary of the IPCC provided an update on the translations of IPCC products. Mr Sergey Semenov, Mr Abdalah Mokssit and Mr Jose Moreno, as well as Mr Dahe Qin, Co-Chair of WGI and Mr Youba Sokona, Co-Chair of WGIII, complained about the unsatisfactory quality of translations into Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. Mr Abdalah Mokssit, Mr Taha Zadari, Ms Antonina Ivanova, Mr Ismail El Gizouli, Vice-Chair of the IPCC and Mr Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of WGI suggested possible avenues for improvement and Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of WGII stressed the need for reviewing the process in the light of experience. The Secretary of the IPCC recalled discussions and decisions on this topic during the last years, including the introduction of scientific translation editors, recognizing the need for striking a balance between quality and timelines. She clarified further that glossaries are always the first to be translated to ensure coherence.

4. REPORT ABOUT IPCC ACTIVITIES AT COP-20 AND OTHER ONGOING AND PLANNED COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 13

The Secretary of the IPCC and the Senior Communications Officer, Mr Jonathan Lynn, introduced the report.

The Secretary of the IPCC focused on activities at COP-20 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Lima, Peru, which included:

- Statement by the Chair of the IPCC during the opening ceremony on 1 December 2014;
- Statement by the Secretary of the IPCC at the opening plenary of SBSTA 41 on 1 December 2014;
- SBSTA-IPCC special event to present the Synthesis Report of AR5 on 2 December 2014;
- IPCC experts' participation and scientific presentations at the fourth meeting of the Structured Expert Dialogue on the 2013-2015 review (SED 4) Part 1 on 2 December 2014 and experts participation at SED4 Part 2 on 3 December;
- IPCC side event on "The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: A User's Perspective" on 3 December;
- Presentation by the Chair of the IPCC at the Lima Climate Action High-Level Meeting, organized by the UN Secretary-General, on 11 December 2014.

The Senior Communications Officer focused on other relevant activities since the 40th Session of the Panel, including:

- The Release of the Synthesis Report and the outreach events that followed immediately after (presentations by the Chair of the IPCC at an event in Bern, Switzerland on 3 November, to the European Parliament in Brussels on 4 November, and to French stakeholders, including H.E. Laurent Fabius, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Ségolène Royal, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, on 5 November);

- Regional launch of the Fifth Assessment Report in South Africa on 10-11 November;
- Presentation of the AR5 in Indonesia on 10 November;
- Authors' presentation of the AR5 in Serbia;
- Outreach event at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru on 8 December.

The Senior Communications Officer explained that this list was not exhaustive and more information about outreach events is available on the IPCC website. He also provided information about three planned events in 2015 to take place in Kenya, Morocco and Tanzania.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC ERROR PROTOCOL

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 11

The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC, Mr Carlos Martin-Novella reported on the current status of the implementation of the Error Protocol. Particular mention was made of errors detected in the Summary for Policymakers (SPMs) and in the Synthesis Report. They were all handled in line with the Error Protocol, and agreement was sought from the Panel before implementing the Rapid Response procedure for correcting them.

Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of Working Group II, introduced the proposal in line with Step 5A of the Error Protocol for errata regarding two errors in Figure 2.5 in the Synthesis Report (SYR) of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report approved at the 40th Session of the Panel. The Panel approved the errata as proposed.

Mr Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-Chair of the IPCC stated that the Panel should strive for shorter Summaries for Policymakers in the future as this would also reduce the risk of typographical errors.

6. ADMISSION OF NEW OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 3

The Secretary of the IPCC presented the applications from organizations seeking observer status with the IPCC. New applications were received from the following three organizations: Action Jeunesse pour le Développement (AJED-Congo), Global Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Institute (Australia) and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University (USA). Two of the three organizations, AJED-Congo and CCS (Australia), are already accredited as observer organizations with UNFCCC. All three organizations comply with the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations, and the Bureau therefore endorsed them for acceptance at the next Session of the IPCC. The application for observer status of the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) is still pending. The list of observer organizations as reviewed by the IPCC Bureau will be presented to the next session of the Panel for acceptance.

7. PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXPERT MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 14

Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of WGII, introduced the progress report. No questions were raised by the Bureau.

8. PREPARATIONS FOR OTHER EXPERT MEETINGS MANDATED BY THE PANEL

Mr Ramon Pichs-Madruga, Co-Chair of WGIII, reported on the preparations for the Expert Meeting on Scenarios, to be held in Laxenburg, Austria on 18-20 May 2015. No questions were raised by the Bureau.

The Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that the preparations for the Expert Meeting on Lessons Learnt, to be organized in collaboration with the Programme Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA), will be initiated as soon as the new Scientific Officer will be appointed. No questions were raised by the Bureau.

9. LESSONS LEARNT ON HOW TO HANDLE APPROVAL SESSIONS

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 4

The Secretary of the IPCC introduced the document.

Mr Jim Skea, Mr Sergey Semenov, Mr Eduardo Calvo, Mr Francis Zwiers, and Ms Nirivolona Raholijao, as well as Mr Chris Field, Co-Chair of WGII, Mr Ismail El Gizouli, Vice-Chair of the IPCC, Mr Ramon Pichs-Madruga, Co-Chair of WGIII, Mr Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of WGI, Ms Thelma Krug, Co-Chair of TFI and the delegates from Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United States of America, Germany and the United Kingdom, congratulated the Secretariat for the excellent paper and supported its submission to the Panel. Specific issues highlighted from the floor were the importance of keeping deadlines for the submission of documents, the importance of training for presiding officers, the importance of avoiding night negotiating sessions, the need for securing interpretation, the need for sticking to the foreseen hour for closing meetings, the desirability of securing the participation of at least 2 delegates per country, and the need to look at best practices around the UN system.

The Chair of the IPCC concluded that the paper should be submitted as issues paper prepared by the IPCC Secretariat for consideration at the next Plenary of the IPCC

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Chair of the IPCC invited Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC Conflict of Interest (COI) Committee, to give an oral report on the activities of the COI Committee.

Mr Lee informed the Bureau that after the eighth meeting of the COI Committee, which was conducted as an in-person meeting along the margins of the 47th Bureau Session (Geneva, 28 September 2014), no meeting of the COI Committee has been held. At the eighth meeting the Committee reviewed the annual updates of the COI disclosure forms which were submitted by the Bureau and Task Force Bureau members. 100% compliance was reached and all 44 forms were found to be in order and no conflict of interest was found.

The Chair of the COI reminded the Bureau that the Panel at its 40th Session in Copenhagen, Denmark (27-31 October 2014), approved the proposal made by the COI Committee to slightly amend the COI form (Annex B to the IPCC COI Policy) in order to make the process more effective and to increase the information provided in the COI disclosure forms. The amended form will be used by the candidates for positions on the new Bureau and Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, at the elections scheduled for the 42nd Session of the IPCC (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 5-8 October 2015).

11. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the IPCC reported on the work of the Executive Committee and referred to the meetings held since the last Bureau meeting. The Chair of the IPCC expressed satisfaction with the work of the Executive Committee since its establishment at the 33rd Session of the Panel (10-13 May 2011, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates). The Bureau expressed appreciation of the work of the Executive Committee.

12. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 41ST SESSION OF THE IPCC

Document: BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 6

The Secretary of the IPCC introduced the document.

The delegate from the United Kingdom asked whether it was foreseen that Contact Groups will be established under Agenda Item 5 at the 41st Session of the Panel. The Chair of the IPCC indicated that the documents under this agenda item will first be introduced to the Plenary and following a first round of interventions from the floor it will be considered whether it would be appropriate to establish any Contact Group.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC reported on preparations for the workshop on “Enhancing observations to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate – Learning from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report” organized by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) in collaboration with the IPCC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held on 10-12 February 2015 in Bonn (Germany).

Mr Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of Working Group I, noted that there was developing interest within the scientific community regarding the organization of a workshop on regional climate projections. The Chair of the IPCC suggested that Mr Stocker produce a written proposal that would also indicate financial implications for submission to the Panel.

14. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

There was no decision on this item.

15. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Chair of the IPCC paid tribute to Mr Leo Meyer, Head of the SYR Technical Support Unit, who will be retiring at the end of February 2015. Mr Meyer responded referring to his 20 years of service to the IPCC and thanked all those involved in the preparation of the AR5 Synthesis Report for their support.

At the end of the session, the Secretary of the IPCC, Renate Christ, shared a few thoughts with Bureau members before her retirement.

She recalled the vision of the early leaders of the IPCC - to provide policy relevant, comprehensive and balanced assessments, through a process characterized by scientific rigor, inclusiveness, regional representation, and transparency - which is the basis on which the IPCC had developed

over the past more than 25 years into an entity that is applauded and recognized as the prime example for science policy interface and as a model on how to provide decision-makers with the information they need.

She briefly outlined major developments during her term in office including in the field of communication, IPCC finances, interaction with user groups, in particular the UNFCCC, and she emphasized the award of the Nobel Peace Prize as one of the highlights of her time with the IPCC.

She explained the demanding steps, including various interim arrangements, which were required to develop the IPCC Secretariat into an operational unit which can serve the IPCC, the governments, the authors and the users as well and expressed her satisfaction that now all staff members in the IPCC Secretariat are on regular posts and have been selected through an open and competitive process. She also reminded the Bureau of difficult times and the crisis following attacks after errors were discovered in the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) and the burden she had to shoulder during this time without much support.

Finally she thanked the team of the IPCC Secretariat and each of the staff members for their dedication and excellent work. She also extended her specific thanks to a few colleagues who have worked for the IPCC Secretariat in the past.

She concluded by reassuring the Bureau that the IPCC Secretariat is well prepared for future challenges and expressed the hope that the new IPCC Chair, the new Executive Committee and Bureau will appreciate the role of the IPCC Secretariat and what the team accomplishes and that they will establish good working relations.

The Chair of the IPCC closed the session at 17:05 CET on Tuesday, 27 January 2015.

ANNEX 1

IPCC BUREAU – FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION
Geneva, Switzerland, 27 January 2015

BUR-XLVIII/Doc. 1
(16.XII.2014)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

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Geneva, Switzerland, 18 September 2014**

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