

REPORT OF THE 49th SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
Nairobi, Kenya, 24 February 2015

The IPCC Bureau convened its meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 24 February 2015 with one single point in its agenda: Arrangements to handle consequences of Mr Pachauri's resignation as Chair of the IPCC.

The meeting was opened by Mr Ismail El Gizouli, IPCC Vice-Chair. He informed the Bureau that Mr Pachauri asked him, before his resignation, to Chair the 41st Session of the Panel. However, in the light of his subsequent resignation, Mr El Gizouli decided to call for this meeting of the Bureau in order to consider arrangements to handle consequences of Mr Pachauri's resignation.

The Secretary of the IPCC read the letter of resignation of Mr Pachauri. Mr Pachauri sent that letter to the UN Secretary-General on 24 February 2015, informing him of his decision to step down as IPCC Chair. Upon receipt of the letter by the IPCC Secretariat, before the opening of the 41st Session of the IPCC, it was transmitted to the IPCC Bureau. She informed the Bureau that under such circumstances Rule 11 of the Procedures for the Election of the IPCC Bureau and Any Task Force Bureau, as contained in Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, was to be applied.

Mr El Gizouli stated that under such circumstances he should recuse himself from chairing this meeting of the Bureau, and suggested that Mr Achim Steiner, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP should act as facilitator of the meeting. This suggestion was accepted by the Bureau.

Discussions on the subject ensued with the facilitation of Mr Steiner.

Subsequently, in accordance with Rule 11¹ of the above-mentioned procedure, the IPCC Bureau agreed on 24 February 2015, before the formal opening of the 41st Session of the Panel, to designate Mr Ismail El Gizouli, IPCC Vice-Chair as the Acting Chair of the Panel.

The Bureau also addressed options regarding the application of Rule 11 in order to provide advice to the Panel, as, pursuant to Rule 11, the Panel was required to elect, during its 41st Session, a new IPCC Chair to serve the remainder of the term of office of the departing IPCC Chair.

¹ "If the IPCC Chair resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a new IPCC Chair shall be elected at the next Session to serve the remainder of the term of office of the departing IPCC Chair. Until a new IPCC Chair is elected, an IPCC Vice-Chair as agreed by the IPCC Bureau shall serve as the Acting IPCC Chair."

The view of the Bureau was that because it would be impossible to establish a quorum for election by the Panel members with valid credentials by Friday, 27 February 2015, holding election of a new IPCC Chair to serve the remainder of the departing IPCC Chair would not be feasible.

Given the special circumstances, and recalling paragraph 4 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work which stipulates that “[m]ajor decisions of the IPCC will be taken by the Panel in plenary meetings”, the Bureau recommended that the Panel consider actions to make the Acting Chair to continue his function in that capacity until a new IPCC Chair for the term of the Sixth Assessment Report would be elected at 42nd Session of the Panel and commence the term at the end of that session.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 49TH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
Nairobi, Kenya, 24 February 2015

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