

REPORT OF THE 50th SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 9 October 2015

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), opened the session at 10:00 on Friday 9 October in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He welcomed the newly elected Bureau members and their respective government representatives and invited Mr Carlos Martin-Novella, Deputy Secretary of the IPCC, to introduce the new Bureau to the “structure and roles in the IPCC”. The presentation was welcomed and several delegations made statements on the importance of each subsidiary body operating within its agreed mandate. The need for the Bureau to meet in the run up towards Panel sessions was also stressed.

Mr Bruce Stewart, Acting Secretary of the IPCC, proposed the addition of three items for discussion under Agenda Item 3 on “Any Other Business”: Strategic Plan, Special Reports, membership of Bureau related Committees, namely the Conflict of Interest Committee and the Financial Task Team (FiTT). Mr Taha Zatari, member of the Bureau, indicated that the involvement of developing countries should be addressed when discussing strategic planning and added that UNEP and WMO could help in delivering capacity building. Ms Ko Barrett, IPCC Vice-Chair, proposed the inclusion of an additional item on the functions of IPCC Vice-Chairs under Agenda Item 3. With these amendments the agenda for the session was adopted and is attached as **Annex 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 2**.

2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

In accordance with Rules II. 5 and 6 of the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations, the request for IPCC observer status from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was submitted to the IPCC Bureau for its review. The Bureau gave positive consideration to the proposal and agreed that it should be presented to the next Panel session for acceptance.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1. Strategic Plan

The Bureau had a preliminary exchange of views on the topic of a strategic plan for the sixth assessment cycle and a wide variety of views were expressed.

The discussions covered issues such as, *inter alia*: enhancing the participation of developing countries in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6); the early design of the contents of the Synthesis Report; the launching of the AR6 scoping process (for both the Special Reports and the Working Group Reports); communications during the sixth assessment cycle; the establishment of and configuration of the Technical Support Units (TSUs); methods for addressing emerging issues, for example the outcomes of 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and, the value of creating a Task Group to prepare a business plan for the sixth assessment cycle.

No formal decisions were made by the Bureau in this regard and it was agreed to consider this matter further at the next Bureau session.

3.2. Special Reports

The Bureau discussed the topic of Special Reports (SRs) and agreed that this topic will be discussed and decided upon at the 43rd Session of the Panel. However, to assist the Panel in reaching an informed decision, it was agreed that:

- The Secretariat would prepare a document containing a synthesis of the proposals received for SRs clustering them by themes for submission to the 43rd Session of the Panel.
- The Co-Chairs of each Working Group (WG), having consulted with their Vice-Chairs and with the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the other WGs, will draft a commentary on the proposals for SRs taking into account the relevant guidance on scientific matters specified under the Decision Framework for Special Reports agreed at the 29th Session of the Panel (Geneva, Switzerland, 31 Aug. - 4 Sept. 2008) and later related decisions. These commentaries will be submitted for consideration by the Bureau at its next session in 2016. The commentaries will not prioritize any individual proposal.

3.3. Membership of the Conflict of Interest Committee

The Acting Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that the IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy, approved at the 34th Session of the Panel (Kampala, Uganda, 18-19 Nov. 2011) states that the Conflict of Interest Committee be composed of the elected members of the Executive Committee and two additional members with appropriate legal expertise from UNEP and WMO, appointed by those organizations.

3.4. Membership of the Financial Task Team (FiTT)

The Acting Secretary of the IPCC informed the Bureau that the Financial Task Team (FiTT) is composed of six government representatives from countries represented on the Bureau and co-chaired by two of them, one from a developed country and one from either a developing country or a country with economy in transition, to be selected by the Bureau. The meetings of the FiTT are open-ended. The Bureau selected Germany, Maldives, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America as core members of the FiTT. Maldives and New Zealand were selected as Co-Chairs of the FiTT.

3.5. Roles of the IPCC Vice-Chairs and the Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups

The United States of America asked the Secretariat to prepare an information paper on Panel decisions assigning roles to the IPCC Vice-Chairs and the Vice-Chairs of the WGs to be submitted at the next Bureau session, when the Bureau would consider this matter further.

4. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

It was agreed that the 51st Session of the IPCC Bureau will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 2016. The Secretariat was requested to communicate the time and venue as soon as the necessary arrangements were confirmed.

5. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Chair of the IPCC closed the session at 18:00 on Friday 9 October 2015.

ANNEX 1

IPCC BUREAU – FIFTIETH SESSION Dubrovnik, Croatia, 9 October 2015

BUR-L/Doc. 1
(8.X.2015)
Agenda Item: 1
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**
- 3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 4. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 5. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

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Dubrovnik, Croatia, 9 October 2015

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