

Our ref.: 6942-10/IPCC/GEN

Annexes: 3

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs
(if no focal point has been designated)

Geneva, 12 March 2010

Sir/Madam,

Further to my letter of 16 February 2010 I am pleased to inform you that the matter of a review of the IPCC processes and Procedures was discussed with Environment Ministers in Bali on 24-26 February 2010 at the 11th special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and with representatives from the United Nations system. While the planned review was generally supported, the recommendation resulting from these consultations was that such a review be carried out independently.

This is why on 10 March 2010 the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon and the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr R.K. Pachauri, have announced that they asked the InterAcademy Council (IAC) to conduct an independent review of the IPCC's processes and the Procedures for preparing IPCC reports to further strengthen the quality of the Panel's reports. The IAC is the umbrella organization for various national academies of science from countries around the world. The decision to engage the IAC was supported by the executive heads of the IPCC parent organizations, the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary General of WMO.

The review will examine every aspect of how the IPCC's reports are prepared, including the use of non-peer reviewed literature and the reflection of diverse viewpoints. The review will also examine institutional aspects, including management functions, as well as the Panel's procedures for communicating its findings with the public.

The review will be led by the IAC Co-Chairs Robbert Dijkgraaf, Ph.D., President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science, and Professor Lu Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The IAC will conduct its work independently according to its procedures for carrying out expert studies. The international experts who serve on IAC studies are not paid for their participation and are *pro bono* volunteers.

The outcome of the review should be available by the end of August 2010 and will be submitted for consideration by the Panel at its 32nd Session, which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea on 11-14 October 2010. It is hoped that at the 32nd Session decisions about revisions of the IPCC Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports (Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work) can be taken, since they are essential for the commencement of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) work. Further, we are considering to extend the duration of the 33rd Session of the Panel, which is planned back to back with the 11th Session of IPCC Working Group III in Abu Dhabi in February 2011, to allow for further consideration of any other recommendations arising from the review.

Please find attached the letters by the Chair of the IPCC and the UN Secretary General to the Co-Chairs of the InterAcademy Council (IAC) requesting the review as well as the terms of reference outlining the scope of review.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, IPCC Contact Point(s), the Permanent Representative with WMO and Focal Point(s) of UNEP of your country for information.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renate Christ".

(Renate Christ)
Secretary of the IPCC