

IPCC 37th SESSION, 14-18 October 2013, BATUMI, GEORGIA

DECISION TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE TASK GROUP ON THE FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

At the conclusion of each assessment cycle, the IPCC generally reflects on the report preparation process and draws lessons to inform consideration of the IPCC's future work programmes and processes.

At its 28th Session (April 2008) the IPCC set up a Task Group to inform preparation of a 5th Assessment Report and in October 2009 decided to address the longer term development of the IPCC in the 2 year period before the end of the current IPCC Bureau (2015), drawing lessons from the 5th Assessment cycle.

Accordingly the IPCC sought the views of Governments during 2013 on which topics and questions should be addressed with respect to the future work of the IPCC. Their responses are collated in document IPCC-XXXVII/INF.1

The IPCC agreed at its 37th Session (October 2013) to set up a Task Group on the future work of the IPCC.

Objectives

To help the IPCC to continue to improve its operation and products, the Task Group will develop options and recommendations for consideration by the Panel on:

- The future products of the IPCC;
- The appropriate structure and modus operandi for the production of these IPCC products;
- Ways to ensure enhancement of the participation and contribution of developing countries in the future work of the IPCC.

In undertaking its work, the Task Group will seek to ensure the inclusion of the perspectives of developing countries.

The Task Group will work with the Secretariat on the communications aspects of its work to ensure full transparency.

Composition and operation of the Task Group

The Task Group will be chaired by New Zealand and Saudi Arabia.

The Task Group is composed of representatives of members of the Panel¹ with a core membership as listed in Annex 1 and it is open-ended. In conducting its work, the Task Group strives to achieve regional balance and balanced representation of developed and developing countries.

To minimize travel, the Task Group will meet in conjunction with plenary sessions; and inter-sessional work will be primarily conducted by electronic means, when feasible, and facilitated by the Secretariat. Travel expenses related to the work of the Task Group will be covered in accordance with IPCC practice.

Administrative support will be provided by the Secretariat.

Inputs

The Task Group will draw on multiple sources, including, but not limited to:

- The experience from those involved in the preparation of reports during the AR5 cycle;
- Submissions from members of the IPCC, including those provided in document IPCC- XXXVII/INF.1;
- Views expressed at the 37th Session (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013);
- Input from IPCC Observer Organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and;
- Input from scientists involved in the IPCC process.

Outputs

The Task Group is to:

- a) Meet in conjunction with IPCC Sessions taking into account IPCC procedures which require that documents should be made available at least four weeks in advance of the session at which they are considered. Additional meetings may be convened as necessary. Electronic means of communication and teleconferencing will be given priority where possible.
- b) Prepare a first progress report for submission to the 39th Session of the IPCC (Berlin, Germany, 13 April 2014).
- c) Prepare a second progress report providing different options for discussion at the 40th Session of the IPCC (Copenhagen, Denmark).
- d) Prepare a report to be made available four weeks in advance of the 41st Session of the IPCC presenting its options and/or recommendations.

¹ In accordance with the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations (paragraph 8):

The European Union (EU) may exercise the following procedural rights at IPCC Sessions: the right to speak in turn, rather than after all participant States have acknowledged; the right to reply, the right to introduce proposals. These rights are exclusive. They do not grant the ability to vote, or to be elected (...).

Annex 1

List of members

AFRICA (Region I)

Comoros

Congo, Republic of

Egypt

Guinea

Madagascar

Mali

Senegal

South Africa

Sudan

Swaziland

United Republic of Tanzania

ASIA (Region II)

China

Japan

Maldives

Republic of Korea

Saudi Arabia

Vietnam

SOUTH AMERICA (Region III)

Brazil

Ecuador

Peru

Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (Region IV)

Canada

Cuba

Mexico

Nicaragua

United States of America

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC (Region V)

Australia

Indonesia

New Zealand

EUROPE (Region VI)

Austria

Belgium

Denmark

Finland

France

Georgia

Germany

Netherlands

Norway

Russian Federation

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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European Union