

Our ref.: 5283-13/IPCC/GEN

Annex: 1

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

Geneva, 9 December 2013

Sir/Madam,

Allow me to recall the decision taken by the Panel at its 37th Session (14-18 October 2013, Batumi, Georgia) regarding future work of the IPCC. The Panel agreed to set up a Task Group to help the IPCC to continue to improve its operation and products and agreed on the terms of reference of the Task Group. The Panel further agreed that the Task Group will draw on multiple sources, including submissions from members of the IPCC.

On behalf of the Co-chairs of the Task Group it is my pleasure to invite your government to submit its views on the future work of the IPCC, using the attached questionnaire form. The questionnaire is structured around the three objectives agreed by the Panel at its 37th Session. In order to provide further guidance, the points raised in submissions by governments in advance of the 37th Session as well the points raised during the debate in Batumi are recalled.

I also wish to inform you that a dedicated webpage has been created on the IPCC website at <http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/future/> where relevant documentation is posted and regular updates on the work of the Task Group will be provided.

As agreed by the Panel, the Task Group will meet in conjunction of upcoming sessions of the IPCC. Current plans by the Co-chairs, subject to confirmation, foresee a brief meeting during the 10th Session of Working Group II, scheduled from 25-29 March 2014 in Yokohama and a full day meeting on 6 April 2014 in Berlin, back to back with the 12th Session of Working Group III. A first progress report will then be submitted to the 39th Session of the IPCC, scheduled in Berlin on 12 April 2014.

I therefore would like to invite your Government to provide its views **by 21 February 2014**. We kindly ask you to use the attached form for your submissions and send it to ipccfuture@wmo.int. This will allow us to compile and synthesize the submissions for consideration by the Task Group during the above mentioned meetings.

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

Yours sincerely,



(Renate Christ)
Secretary of the IPCC

COUNTRY:

Introduction

At its 37th Session (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013) the IPCC set up a Task Group on the future work of the IPCC. The objective of the Task Group is to help the IPCC to continue to improve its operations and products. The Task Group will develop options and recommendations for consideration by the Panel during the period leading to the 41st Session in 2015. The full text of the mandate and other relevant documentation can be found on a dedicated webpage on <http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/future/>.

As decided by the Panel, the Task Group will draw on multiple sources, including submissions from members of the IPCC. With her letter of 13 March 2013 the Secretary of the IPCC invited governments to provide their initial views on which topics and questions should be addressed with respect to the future of the IPCC. Governments in Batumi expressed the view that a second round of submissions by members of the IPCC will be desirable in providing inputs for consideration by the Task Group.

The following questions have been structured around the mandate of the Task Group agreed by the Panel. Explanatory notes and points for consideration are drawn from earlier submissions and the discussion at the 37th Session.

A. What should be the future products of the IPCC?

In responding to this question you may consider a range of aspects related to timing and type of reports, including the following:

- What would be the optimal overall length of an assessment period
- Whether emphasis should remain on comprehensive Assessment Reports (AR), supplemented with occasional Special Reports (SR) agreed according to the “Decision Framework for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers” (as agreed by the IPCC 20th Session and amended at the 29th Session)
- Whether a mix of assessment reports and/or focused thematic assessments/SRs may be planned at the beginning of an assessment period
- Which would be optimal timing of preparation of reports within an assessment period
- What would be the role, scope and timing of Synthesis Reports
- Whether additional fast track products are needed to respond to emerging science or policymakers needs or can these be accommodated through focused SRs prepared according to current procedures
- Whether the IPCC should continue to prepare Methodology Reports (MR) on national greenhouse gas inventories
- Whether the IPCC should prepare MRs on other topics

B. What would be the appropriate structure and modus operandi for the production of these IPCC products?

In responding to this question you may consider a range of aspects, including the following:

- Changes in the IPCC Working Group (WG) structure and/or adjustments to the mandates of the current Working Groups
- Means to enhance cooperation, consistency and integration among WGs
- Effective ways to cover cross-cutting matters
- Adjustments to the IPCC Bureau structure and terms of reference, including definition of more specific tasks for Bureau positions
- Adjustments to the IPCC Executive Committee composition, terms of reference and modus operandi
- Ways to address the challenge of dramatic increase in literature
- Further clarification of the respective roles and interrelations of the IPCC Secretariat and the Technical Support Units (TSU)
- Adjustments to the structure and support of TSUs
- Specific needs for revisions, and streamlining of the Principles Governing IPCC Work and its Appendices
- Other governance and administrative matters

C. Ways to ensure enhancement of the participation and contribution of developing countries in the future work of the IPCC

In responding to this question you may consider a range of aspects, including:

- Strengthened support for developing country Co-chairs (e.g. through Panel guidance on the establishment and governance of TSUs, co-hosting or hosting of TSUs in developing countries)
- Support for developing country Bureau members and authors (CLA,LA,RE)
- Ways and means to utilize and enhance involvement of Bureau Members and Co-Chairs from developing countries in their respective regions
- Which additional role can the IPCC Secretariat play
- Access to literature and facilitation of assessment of literature in languages other than English
- Other ways and means to facilitate engagement of developing country scientists and experts
- Other ways and means to enhance coverage of knowledge from developing countries, including both published and government reports, and in languages other than English
- Ways to support and expand access to knowledge to fill existing gaps in data
- Ways to enhance research in developing countries without jeopardizing IPCC objectivity
- Ways to contribute to capacity building and knowledge sharing in developing countries, including expansion of the IPCC Scholarship Programme

D. Other matters

You may also express your view on any other matters regarding future work of the IPCC such as:

- Cooperation with UN bodies and other relevant international organizations
- Matters related to communication
- Process to discuss future IPCC work, including input from wider user groups and feedback on value and use of IPCC reports
- Any other matters