

53rd (bis) SESSION OF THE IPCC
22 – 26 March 2021 (Electronic Session)

Decisions adopted by the Panel

Decision IPCC-LIII(bis)-1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

Documents: IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.1 and IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.1, Add.1

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd (bis) Session adopts the Provisional Agenda as contained in document IPCC-LIII/Doc.1 with the withdrawal of agenda item 5 on Review of the Principles Governing IPCC Work, and adding the agenda item on the Admission of Observer Organizations. A revised version of the Provisional Agenda (IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.1,Rev.1) has been issued to reflect the change of agenda items as agreed by the Panel.

Decision IPCC-LIII(bis)-2.1 AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule

*Documents: IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.4, Rev.1; IPCC-LIII(Bis)/INF.10, Rev.1;
IPCC-LIII(Bis)/INF.16, Rev.1*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd (bis) Session:

- Decides to establish an Ad-hoc Group with open-ended membership with Terms of Reference as set out in Annex 1 to this decision, with the view to initiate the process as governed by Rule 21 of Appendix C to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, with the Secretary's letter inviting nominations to be sent two weeks after the 57th (bis) Session of the IPCC, following the Synthesis Report (SYR) approval and to have an elections Plenary to take place after six months following issuance of the Secretary's letter requesting written nominations, but not to exceed seven months thereafter. The mandate of this Ad-hoc Group is to provide recommendations to the Panel on the size, structure, and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any other Task Force Bureau for the Seventh Assessment cycle as governed by Rule 7 of Appendix C of the Principles Governing IPCC Work.

Annex 1

Ad-hoc Group on the Size, Structure and Composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau for the Seventh Assessment cycle

Terms of Reference

Background

The Principles Governing IPCC Work, Appendix C, Rule 7 provides for Panel review and amendment of the size, structure and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau at least one Session prior to the Session at which the IPCC Bureau and/or any Task Force Bureau are elected.

The IPCC agreed at its 53rd (bis) Session (March 2021) to set up an Ad-hoc Group on the size, structure and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau for the Seventh Assessment cycle.

Objectives

The Ad-hoc Group will identify proposals to present to the Panel regarding the size, structure, and composition of the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau for the Seventh Assessment cycle.

In undertaking its work, the Ad-hoc Group will seek to ensure transparency, inclusiveness and equal opportunity for participation of all its members, noting the importance of the inclusion of the perspectives of developing countries.

Term

The Ad-hoc Group will undertake its work following closure of IPCC-53 (bis), preparing progress reports and presenting these to the Panel at its future sessions, with the final outcome to be presented to the Panel at 57th (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-57 bis) for its decision, during the week following Synthesis Report (SYR) approval at the 57th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-57), avoiding any overlap between the work of the Ad-hoc group and SYR approval Plenary.

Composition and operation of the Ad-hoc Group

The Ad-hoc Group should consist of:

- Two Co-Chairs, with balanced representation from developed and developing countries and taking into account gender balance;
- Two Rapporteurs, with balanced representation from developed and developing countries and taking into account gender balance;
- A minimum of two representatives from each WMO Region; and
- Open-ended membership as to participation of all Members of the IPCC.

The Ad-hoc Group will conduct its work both in conjunction with plenary sessions and intersessionally, including by electronic, remote communication and virtual means.

Administrative support will be provided by the Secretariat.

Decision IPCC-LIII(bis)-2.2 AR6 Strategic Planning Schedule

*Documents: IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.4, Rev.1; IPCC-LIII(Bis)/INF. 10, Rev.1;
IPCC-LIII(Bis)/INF. 16, Rev.1*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd (bis) Session:

1. Takes note of the urgent decisions made by the IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) regarding the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) work programme as described in Document [IPCC-LIII\(bis\)/Doc.4, Rev.1](#) since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that any changes remain tentative, depending on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity of consideration by the Panel;
2. Recognizes the current exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic under which preparation of the AR6 is taking place;
3. Recognizes with appreciation the tremendous efforts that are currently being taken by the IPCC authors, ExCom, Bureau Members, Technical Support Units and the IPCC Secretariat for the completion of IPCC AR6 under exceptionally challenging circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Highlights the need to ensure scientific quality and integrity of the IPCC AR6;
5. Takes note of the concerns raised by Member countries regarding participation in meetings in view of the pandemic situation in respect for adherence to IPCC values and principles, including observation of IPCC rules and procedures while approving IPCC reports, as set out in Appendix A, section 2 and section 4.6;
6. Notes the information presented in [IPCC-LIII\(bis\)/INF.10, Rev.1](#) and the views expressed by IPCC Members and Bureau Members during the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC;
7. Invites the Secretariat to solicit views from IPCC Focal Points, and Bureau for consideration at the 60th(bis) session of the Bureau regarding challenges and opportunities for participation in IPCC and Working Group Sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic and how these challenges may be resolved to promote transparency, inclusiveness and equal opportunity in the session;
8. Requests the Working Group I Co-Chairs/Working Group I Bureau within approved rules and procedures to make appropriate arrangements, with the assistance of the IPCC Secretariat, for holding Working Group I approval session from 26 July 2021 as stipulated in IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc. 4, Rev.1, considering all options contained in IPCC-LIII(bis)/INF. 10, Rev.1 and the guidance and direction from the solicitation mentioned in paragraph 7 above, with the view to report back to the Panel intersessionally by correspondence, prior to the 54th Session of the IPCC;
9. Recognizes that any arrangements taken for the 54th Session of the IPCC in response to the current exceptional circumstances highlighted in paragraph 2 will not set a precedent for future sessions of the IPCC.

Decision IPCC-LIII(bis)- 3. Approval of the draft report of the 52nd Session of the IPCC

Document: IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc.2, Corr. 1

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd (bis) Session approves the report of the 52nd Session of the IPCC, with amendments under Agenda Items 5, 6, 11, and a correction in the list of participants (Annex 2).

Decision IPCC-LIII(bis)-4. Admission of Observer Organizations

Document: IPCC-LIII(bis)/Doc. 3

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its 53rd (bis) Session decides to grant the following organizations IPCC observer status, in accordance with the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations:

- (1) the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE);
- (2) the Integrated Carbon Observation System European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ICOS ERIC);
- (3) the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC);
- (4) the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA);
- (5) the African Academy of Sciences (AAS);
- (6) International Actuarial Association (IAA);
- (7) Office for Climate Education (OCE); and
- (8) King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC).