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MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

(Prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)



United Nations



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

PROGRESS REPORTS

Matters relating to UNFCCC and other international organizations

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Parties at COP 26 recognized the importance of the best available science for effective climate action and policymaking. The Parties explicitly invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to present its Sixth Assessment Report and the recent global and regional reports on the state of the climate from the World Meteorological Organization to the 56th session of Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in 2022.

This note describes the activities undertaken by the UNFCCC in collaboration with IPCC, as well as other activities relevant for the work of the IPCC, since the last update presented during the 53rd (bis) Session of the IPCC in March 2021. The report is organized chronologically in order of the mandated events that took place since the 53rd (bis) session. Additional engagement with the IPCC also involved their participation in side events and the IPCC Pavilion at COP26 (Oct-Nov 2021) and several side events at SB56 (June 2022). The UNFCCC activities are now focused on the preparations for COP 27 that is planned to be held 6-18th November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh.

1. May–June 2021 Climate Change Conference

The UN Climate Change fifty-sixth subsidiary bodies session took place from 31 May to 17 June 2021, as a fully virtual conference. This session allowed Parties to make progress on the high volume of work accumulated in the absence of sessions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session was convened informally and no decisions were taken.

Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) of the second Periodic Review (PR2) of the long-term global goal and the progress toward it

As outlined in the previous report to IPCC 53(bis), the first meeting of the structured dialogue of the second periodic review (PR2-SED1) took place virtually in two sessions and the first session,¹ convened on 26-27 November 2020, focused on the IPCC Special Reports on Global warming of 1.5 °C, Climate Change and Land and Ocean and the Cryosphere in Changing Climate, and information from constituted bodies. The second session took place on 3-5 June 2021 and focused on relevant reports from UN agencies and other international organizations. Nevertheless, 2 of the 9 posters for the event were presented by IPCC representatives and welcomed at the session.

The thirteenth meeting of the SBSTA Research Dialogue

The thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue,² held on 1-2 June 2021, explored some of the latest knowledge on climate system dynamics, the role of nature, and building understand of climate change impacts and risks and implications for decision making. The meeting explored two themes:

¹ <https://unfccc.int/event/first-meeting-of-the-structured-expert-dialogue>.

² <https://unfccc.int/event/thirteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

Theme 1 Climate system dynamics and modelling: New knowledge and its implications for decision making.

Theme 2 Resilience for and by nature: Building knowledge and understanding to weave the protection and restoration of nature into decision making on mitigation and adaptation

Mr Hans Otto Pörtner, WGII co-chair, provided an overview of current and projected relationships between climate change and biodiversity and system risks, drawing on the three previous IPCC special reports, and particularly on the SROCC.

2. The SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group (October 2021 and June 2022)

Continuous collaboration between the presiding officers and secretariats of the UNFCCC and the IPCC continues to enable structured input of the IPCC into the work of SBSTA and the UNFCCC process, which provides a solid scientific basis for policy making, as well as serving as an avenue for providing feedback to the scientific community on the ongoing and future needs of the UNFCCC process. To this end, the Joint Working Group (JWG) of the SBSTA and the IPCC continued to provide an informal space for strengthening this technical collaboration.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, JWG meetings traditionally took place during the sessions of the COPs. However, with the opportunities provided in the virtual setting, online meetings in advance of the sessions proved most useful to enable substantive planning and coordination for the upcoming events and related activities.

The SBSTA and IPCC Chairs convened online meetings of the Joint Working Group on 12 October 2021 and 25 May 2022. The agendas of the meetings were designed to provide an opportunity to continue to strengthen collaboration and discuss how the work of the IPCC could support the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including for relevant mandated events and activities at the sessions under the research and systematic observation agenda item, the periodic review of the long-term global goal (LTGG) under the Convention, the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, as well as special events and relevant mandated work by constituted bodies, including the Adaptation Committee, and other UNFCCC workstreams, including the Global Goal on Adaptation.

The meetings allowed UNFCCC participants, including SB Chairs, secretariat members, constituted body members and the co-facilitators of the SED and the GST technical dialogue, to understand the key outcomes and messages from the AR6 report, and align substantive content to the requirements of the events. They also allowed IPCC participants to better understand the mandates and logistics of the upcoming sessions and aid experts in their preparations.

3. The Glasgow Climate Change Conference (Oct-Nov 2021)

The Glasgow Climate Change Conference including COP27, CMA 3, CMIP 16, SB52-55 took place from 31 October to 12 November 2021.

Special event of the SBSTA and the IPCC: Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: The Physical Science Basis

The SBSTA and IPCC Chairs co-chaired a joint three-hour event on November 4 from 10:30-13:30 on Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: The Physical Science Basis.³

The IPCC WGI co-chairs and a number of WGI authors presented at this event which provided a forum for Parties to directly engage with IPCC experts to enhance their understanding of the new knowledge and key findings contained in the IPCC Working Group I report.

Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) of the second Periodic Review (PR2) of the long-term global goal and the progress toward it

The second meeting (PR2-SED2) took place in conjunction with SBSTA 52-55 during the Glasgow Climate Change Conference.⁴ As is the case with previous SED meetings, PR2-SED2 aimed to ensure scientific integrity in the UNFCCC process by providing space for focused scientific and technical exchange of views, information and ideas in an open and transparent manner.

In line with the periodic review modalities to consider information as it becomes available, PR2-SED2 included a strong focus on the content of the WGI contribution to the IPCC's AR6. At this event, Valerie Masson -Delmotte WGI co-chair and other WGI experts contributed presentations and participated in Q&A on the two themes of the periodic review.

The Earth Information Day 2021

The Earth Information Day,⁵ held on 3 November 2021, provided a dialogue for exchanging information on the state of the global climate system and developments in systematic observation to support implementation of the Paris Agreement. Valerie Masson -Delmotte WGI co-chair presented on Insights from the IPCC AR6 WGI report: Earth observations, the current state of the climate system, constraints on possible climate futures.

³ <https://unfccc.int/event/ar6wgi-special-event>.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/event/second-meeting-of-the-structured-expert-dialogue-of-the-second-periodic-review>.

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2021>.

4. The Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2022)

The Bonn Climate Change Conference / 56th meeting of the Subsidiary Body Session (SB56) took place from 6 – 16 June 2022.

SB56 had an unprecedented number of mandated events needing IPCC involvement (over 60 hours of events). The secretariat worked closely with IPCC colleagues in advance and during the session to assist in coordination. Coordinated preparation included a presentation by the secretariat at the IPCC meeting of the Executive Committee in May 2022 as well as discussions at the Joint Working Group meeting mentioned above.

SBSTA - IPCC Special event: Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

The SBSTA and IPCC Chairs co-chaired a joint three-hour event on 6 June 2022 on Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.⁶ The event provided a forum for Parties to directly engage with IPCC experts and enhance their understanding of the new knowledge and key findings contained in the WGII report. Hans Otto Pörtner WGII co-chair, Joy Pereira WGII vice-chair and 15 WGII authors participated either in person or virtually.

SBSTA - IPCC Special event: Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Mitigation of Climate Change

The SBSTA and IPCC Chairs co-chaired a joint three-hour event on 8 June 2022 on Unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment report: Impacts, Mitigation of Climate Change.⁷ The event provided a forum for Parties to directly engage with IPCC experts and enhance their understanding of the new knowledge and key findings contained in the WGIII report. Jim Skea WGIII co-chair, and 10 WGIII authors participated either in person or virtually.

Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) of the second Periodic Review (PR2) of the long-term global goal and the progress toward it

The third meeting of the structured expert dialogue (SED3-PR2) took place on 7-8 June 2022 in conjunction with SB56.⁸ Similar to PR2-SED1 and PR2-SED2, PR2-SED3 aimed to ensure scientific integrity in the UNFCCC process by providing space for focused scientific and technical exchange of views, information and ideas in an open and transparent manner.

Part one (7 June 2022) of PR2-SED3 was dedicated to issues covered by the WG II contribution to IPCC AR6, while Part two (8 June 2022) focused on issues covered by the WG III contribution to IPCC AR6. Cross-cutting issues, such as equity, were addressed in both parts. Twelve IPCC experts gave participated in person or virtually in the event by providing presentations and/or participating in Q&A.

Fourteenth meeting of the Research dialogue

The fourteenth meeting of the research dialogue,⁹ held on 9 June 2022, explored gaps and needs highlighted in four key themes identified by Parties submissions, drawing strongly on the AR6 assessment report. The four themes were "Near term climate projections and regional modelling", "Ocean and Cryosphere", "Carbon Dioxide Removal" and "Integrated solutions for adaptation and resilience." Eight IPCC experts representing all three working groups participated in the research dialogue.

The first meeting of the technical dialogue of the first Global Stocktake

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/event/ar6wgii-special-event>.

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/event/ar6wgiii-special-event>.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/event/third-meeting-of-the-structured-expert-dialogue-of-the-second-periodic-review-0>.

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/event/fourteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

The first meeting of the first global stocktake technical dialogue (TD1.1), held 10-13 June 2022, was conducted in multiple formats: opening and closing plenaries, three roundtables structured around the three thematic areas of the GST (mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support), and a world café session of rapid, focused presentations, as well as an evening reception.¹⁰ Twelve IPCC experts participated in all parts of TD1.1, participating as experts in the roundtables and world café, moderating the roundtables, and reporting back to plenary the main points raised during the dialogue. The expertise from the IPCC was crucial to set a sound scientific foundation for the technical dialogue, which will continue until June 2023. IPCC experts provided key information on the findings from WGI, II and III contributions to AR6, informing the discussions meant to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their climate action, support and international cooperation.

IPCC Event Under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation on the contributions of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report

Decision 7/CMA.3, which established the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, invited the IPCC to inform the work programme the findings of the AR6 WGII contribution relevant to reviewing overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation, and engage in the work programme by clarifying methodologies and other elements related to the global goal on adaptation. This IPCC event took place on 7 June.¹¹ A joint presentation was delivered by 5 WGII experts with these experts and 8 other WGII experts available in-person or virtually to respond to questions.

5. Forthcoming events in 2022 relevant for IPCC

The Governing and Subsidiary Body activities for the remainder of 2022 include several strategic activities of relevance for the scientific work and inputs of the IPCC, including:

- Joint working group meeting in advance of COP27
- Earth information day 2022
- Second technical dialogue of the first Global Stocktake
- Adaptation event responding to Decision 1/CMA.3: “Invites the IPCC WGII to present to CMA.4 findings relevant to assessing adaptation needs, and calls upon the research community to further the understanding of global, regional and local impacts of climate change, response options and adaptation needs”
- Activity 4 of the Gender Action Plan: Activity A.4 includes an invitation to Parties, relevant organizations, the research community and the IPCC to participate in a joint SBI–SBSTA special event to present relevant information upon publication of the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC by COP 28 (2022).

UNFCCC will work closely with the IPCC Secretariat and presiding officers to ensure an efficient and equitable participation of IPCC in these events.

UNFCCC wishes to express gratitude to the Chair of IPCC, the Co-Chairs of the IPCC Working Groups, the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and other presiding officers, colleagues in the secretariat of the IPCC, and IPCC experts for the valuable contributions to the climate change events organized under the UNFCCC process in 2021-2022 and looks forward to IPCC’s contribution to events and meetings that will be convened in 2022-2023.

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake/global-stocktake>.

¹¹ <https://unfccc.int/event/ipcc-event-GGA-WGII>.