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The 2013–2015 review

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

The 2013–2015 review

Report on the structured expert dialogue on the 2013– 2015 review for 2014

Summary

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the structured expert dialogue on the 2013–2015 review from December 2013 to August 2014, as requested by the Conference of the Parties (COP) for consideration at COP 20, including information on meetings held. The report highlights progress made in the consideration of the input to the review, including the consideration of the contributions of Working Groups II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as the consideration of its Synthesis Report.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. By decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 87(c), the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the co-facilitators of the structured expert dialogue (SED) on the 2013–2015 review should report to it on work done under the SED at COP 20, through the subsidiary bodies.

B. Scope of the note

2. This report provides information on the progress made in conducting the SED from December 2013 to August 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the reporting period) for consideration at COP 20. It contains organizational and procedural information, including information on meetings held. The report highlights progress made during the reporting period in the consideration of the input to the 2013–2015 review, including the consideration of the contributions of Working Group II (WGII)¹ and Working Group III (WGIII)² to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and the preparation for the consideration of the AR5 Synthesis Report.

C. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies

3. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) may wish to consider this report, together with the outcomes of the 4th meeting of the SED (SED 4), which will be held during SBSTA 41 and SBI 41, in their general consideration of the progress of the work under the 2013–2015 review.

II. Organizational and procedural matters

4. The SED was convened three times during the reporting period. As indicated in the previous report of the SED to the COP,³ the 2nd meeting of the SED (SED 2) was held on 12 and 13 November 2013 in conjunction with SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 in Warsaw, Poland. The 3rd meeting of the SED (SED 3) was held during SBSTA 40 and SBI 40 on 6–8 June 2014 in Bonn, Germany. SED 4 will be held on 2 and 3 December 2014 in conjunction with SBSTA 41 and SBI 41 in Lima, Peru.

5. All meetings of the SED were open to all Parties and observers. The proceedings of SED 3 were recorded and posted on the UNFCCC website.⁴ The same approach was followed for SED 4.

¹ *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>>.

² *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3>>.

³ FCCC/SB/2013/INF.12.

⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.

III. Work undertaken in the reporting period

A. The second meeting of the structured expert dialogue

6. Information on SED 2, including a summary report, the agenda, copies of all presentations and an audio recording of the meeting, is available on the SED web page.⁵ The discussions held at SED 2 were very productive and informative and supported Parties in internalizing the key findings contained in the contribution of Working Group I to the AR5⁶ relevant to both themes of the 2013–2015 review.⁷ SED 2 saw Parties engage in a constructive discussion with IPCC and other experts.

B. The third meeting of the structured expert dialogue

7. SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 requested the co-facilitators of the SED to organize meetings of the SED in 2014 in conjunction with the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the subsidiary bodies. They also requested the co-facilitators to assess the need for additional meetings.⁸

8. In addition, SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 agreed to continue to consider the volumes of the AR5 as they become available, other inputs listed in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161, questions put forward by Parties to ensure a balanced consideration of those inputs, and the views of Parties on both themes of the 2013–2015 review, in accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 88.⁹

9. Furthermore, SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on: the future work of the SED, including the further use of different sources of information; and how the outcomes of the 2013–2015 review will inform the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).¹⁰ Four submissions received from Parties were compiled into two miscellaneous documents.¹¹ Two further submissions from Parties were received after the deadline, which were compiled into addenda to those miscellaneous documents.¹² In addition, during SBSTA 40 and SBI 40, the secretariat received one further submission. All of the submissions have been posted on the UNFCCC website.¹³

10. On the basis of the mandate for the 2013–2015 review and the submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 9 above, the co-facilitators of the SED provided an informal note that outlined the organization and goals of SED 3.¹⁴ The meeting aimed to make a contribution to the assessment of the adequacy of the long-term global goal and the overall progress made towards achieving it, to the extent possible, on the basis of AR5 WGII and WGIII.

⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/7803.php>>.

⁶ *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1>>.

⁷ Theme 1: the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention; and theme 2: overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention.

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 133, and FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 167.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 134, and FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 168.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraphs 135 and 136, and FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraphs 169 and 170.

¹¹ FCCC/SB/2014/MISC.1 and FCCC/SB/2014/MISC.2.

¹² FCCC/SB/2014/MISC.1/Add.1 and FCCC/SB/2014/MISC.2/Add.1.

¹³ <<http://unfccc.int/7590.php>>.

¹⁴ StructuredExpertDialogue.2014.2.InformalNote.

11. SED 3 was organized as a fact-finding exchange of views between experts and Parties. IPCC experts presented findings from AR5 WGII and WGIII and explained their relevance to the 2013–2015 review. Following presentations, a moderated discussion addressed guiding questions and questions from all participants.

12. SED 3 addressed the two themes of the 2013–2015 review in a balanced manner, including the time allocated to them, the format and content of the discussions and the geographical, cultural and gender balance among invited IPCC experts.

13. The meeting was well attended, bringing together many government delegates and experts from all regions, as well as civil-society representatives. During each of the four parts of the meeting, the time dedicated to discussion was substantial. Parties engaged in a rich exchange of views with experts, which enabled an in-depth discussion of the findings contained in AR5 WGII and WGIII as they pertain to the 2013–2015 review.

14. Moreover, during the first and second parts of SED 3, IPCC experts from WGIII were present, and during the third and fourth parts, IPCC experts from WGII were present, allowing for linkages to be made between the two reports and for the interrelation between adaptation and mitigation to be well addressed.

15. SED 3 saw Parties engage in a constructive and productive manner in all discussions with the IPCC experts. The dialogue was deepened, with many follow-up questions and comments and the active engagement of Parties. The discussions at SED 3 were very productive and informative and supported Parties in internalizing the key findings contained in AR5 WGII and WGIII relevant to both themes of the 2013–2015 review, thus completing the consideration of the contributions of all three working groups to the AR5.

16. At SED 3, IPCC experts stated repeatedly that assessing the adequacy of the upper limit of global warming in the light of Article 2 of the Convention involves both risk assessments and value judgments. In the AR5 the IPCC assessed risks across contexts and through time, providing an analytical framework that can be a foundation for a collective agreement on how much global warming is acceptable. While recognizing that the work of the SED is still ongoing, it is already a successful vehicle to inform and support policy formulation, taking into account the various values and recognizing that what constitutes an intolerable risk may differ across sectors, regions and countries.

17. One of the clear messages that emerged from SED 2 and SED 3 is that limiting global warming to below 2 °C calls for adopting a long-term approach to climate change, which in turn calls for science-based management of the global pathway towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. To that end, the SED has been able to considerably contribute towards an increased understanding of the relationship between near- and long-term actions on mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, the periodic review of the long-term global goal can play a positive and essential role in any process established for assessing the progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, thereby strengthening the science–policy interface.

18. Information on SED 3, including a summary report, the agenda, copies of all presentations and a webcast of the meeting, is available on the SED web page.¹⁵

C. The fourth meeting of the structured expert dialogue

19. SBSTA 40 and SBI 40 noted that the IPCC will have released the AR5 Synthesis Report before SBSTA 41 and SBI 41 and agreed to consider that report, as well as

¹⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.

information from the sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161(b–d), at SED 4.¹⁶

20. SED 4 is intended to be organized in a similar way to SED 3, namely as a fact-finding exchange of views between experts and Parties. In the first part of the meeting, IPCC experts will be invited to present the key elements of the AR5 Synthesis Report and their relevance to the two themes of the 2013–2015 review. In the second part, other experts will give presentations and engage in a structured dialogue with Parties on information and data from the sources referred to in paragraph 19 above. In each part, these presentations will be followed by guiding questions, which will be collated and provided by the co-facilitators prior to SED 4, and questions from Parties, enabling a focused exchange and dialogue among experts and Parties.

D. Additional meetings

21. SBSTA 40¹⁷ and SBI 40¹⁸ requested the co-facilitators of the SED, with the support of the secretariat, to convene an additional meeting of the SED after SBSTA 41 and SBI 41, in conjunction with a meeting of the ADP¹⁹ and prior to SBSTA 42 and SBI 42, to consider the inputs referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161, in particular its subparagraphs (b–d), with a view to closing the SED prior to SBSTA 42 and SBI 42 in accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 91. This meeting would allow for the major part of the work of the SED to be completed with a view to enabling timely progress of the 2013–2015 review, including its further consideration of issues such as risk assessments and policy formulation and how to treat and integrate them in a balanced manner conducive to the success of the 2013–2015 review.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 74, and FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 193.

¹⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 75.

¹⁸ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 194.

¹⁹ Pending the decision of the ADP to hold such a meeting.