

Information on the second meeting of the structured expert dialogue on the 2013–2015 review

Note by the Co-facilitators

29 October 2013

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, agreed that the 2013–2015 review should be based on information from various sources, including the following:¹

(a) The assessment and special reports and technical papers of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

(b) Submissions from Parties, national communications, first biennial update reports from developing country Parties and biennial reports from developed country Parties, national inventories, reports on international consultation and analysis, international analysis and review, and other relevant reports from Parties and processes under the Convention;

(c) Other relevant reports from United Nations agencies and other international organizations, including reports on emission projections, technology development, access, transfer and deployment, and reports on gross domestic product, including projections;

(d) Scientific information on the observed impacts of climate change, including that from reports coordinated by relevant regional and subregional agencies.

2. The COP, at its eighteenth session, decided that the structured expert dialogue (SED) should consider on an ongoing basis throughout the review the material from the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC as it becomes available, through regular scientific workshops and expert meetings and with the participation of Parties and experts, particularly from the IPCC.²

3. The contribution of Working Group I to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5 WG I), *Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis*, was approved and accepted at the 36th session of the IPCC, which was held from 23 to 26 September 2013, in Stockholm, Sweden. The summary for policymakers, technical summary and full report are available on the IPCC website.³

4. As announced at the closing plenary of the thirty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the second meeting of the SED will be held in conjunction with the thirty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, to be held in November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland.

5. Given that only the AR5 WGI will be available for SED 2, not all aspects of relevance to the SED, notably the aspects of impacts, adaptation and mitigation, will be able to be fully and comprehensively addressed at SED 2. That is planned for future meetings of the SED.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161.

² Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 86(a).

³ <<http://www.ipcc.ch>>.

6. During the preparations for SED 2, we sent a message to Parties, on 26 September 2013, indicating our broad proposed approach to the meeting and our intention to provide them with an information note outlining that approach.⁴ In addition, we invited views on the further work of the SED. The secretariat received four submissions of views from Parties,⁵ which we took into account when preparing this note.

II. Goals of the second meeting of the structured expert dialogue

7. The goals of SED 2 are: to assess the adequacy of the long-term global goal to the extent possible, on the basis of the AR5 WGI; to assess the overall progress made so far towards achieving the long-term global goal, as well as the projected progress, including the likelihood of meeting and maintaining the goal; and to share lessons learned on the effectiveness of the support provided.

8. To achieve those goals, we intend to organize SED 2 as a fact-finding exchange of views between experts and Parties. The experts will present findings from the AR5 WGI and their relevance to the 2013–2015 review. After presentations have been made, a moderated discussion will address guiding questions and questions from all participants. To that end, we invite Parties to keep their interventions succinct and to ask the experts questions that pertain to the guiding questions.

III. Organization of the second meeting of the structured expert dialogue

9. On the basis of the mandate for the 2013–2015 review,⁶ we suggest that SED 2 continue to consider the two themes of the review⁷ in a balanced manner, with a special focus on the AR5 WGI, including observed and projected changes in the climate system, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lessons learned from the support provided. The consideration of both themes will consist of three parts: outreach presentations made by experts; a group discussion among Parties and experts; and a general discussion with all participants.

10. SED 2 will commence with a **scene-setting presentation** made by an IPCC expert on the landscape of the AR5 and the expected roles and contributions of the three working groups thereto, as well as on the overarching findings and new approaches of AR5 WGI that are relevant to both themes of the 2013–2015 review. That presentation will be followed by a **general discussion**, which will be guided by the following questions:

- (a) What are the key messages from the AR5 WGI that are relevant to the review?
- (b) What does the AR5 WGI tell us about the relationship between GHG emissions, atmospheric concentrations and changes in the climate system?
- (c) How reliable are the projections made using climate models?

11. **Presentations on theme 1** of the review will focus on looking at past, current and future changes in the climate system and at regional changes and their deviation from

⁴ Available at http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/sed_co_facilitators__message.pdf.

⁵ Available at <http://unfccc.int/7590.php>.

⁶ Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 79.

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

global means, with a view to assessing the adequacy of the long-term global goal, to the extent possible, using input from the AR5 WGI.

12. After relevant presentations made by IPCC experts, a **group discussion** among Parties and experts will be organized to have a focused conversation on possible implications of the findings presented in the context of policy making. Issues to be addressed in this conversation include: changes that the world has observed and are projected that are related to anthropogenic climate change; possible limitations in working only towards temperature target; and uncertainties, their importance and their possible effect on the global response.

13. The conversation will be followed by a **general discussion**, which will be guided by the following questions:

(a) What insights exist on the observed and projected changes in the climate systems?

(b) What insights exist on the long-term aspects of climate change?

(c) What are the key findings contained in the AR5 WGI on any stabilization level of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and what are the associated uncertainties?

(d) How does the above findings relate to the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the context of policymaking under the UNFCCC?

14. **Presentations on theme 2** of the review will explore the trends in and projections of global GHG emissions and concentrations, as well as the effectiveness of the support provided, in the context of assessing the progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal.

15. After **presentations** made by IPCC experts on global GHG emissions and concentrations and on the relationship between global emissions and global temperature rise, a **group discussion** will focus on: uncertainties and the risks associated with specific pathways and how to address them in the context of decision-making; the urgency of action required to move towards and follow emission pathways compatible with the long-term global goal; the probabilities of global temperatures and other changes in the climate system remaining within certain ranges, overshooting, negative emissions and irreversible changes; and information needs to give an accurate picture of global emissions and progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal.

16. The group discussion will be followed by a **general discussion**, which will be guided by the following questions:

(a) What does the AR5 WGI tell us about the overall progress made so far and the projected progress towards achieving the long-term global goal?

(b) What is the relationship between global emissions and global temperature rise and how can this be factored into policymaking under the UNFCCC?

17. The consideration of theme 2 of the review will continue with **presentations** made by representatives of relevant bodies (e.g. the Technology Executive Committee and the Standing Committee on Finance) and/or other experts on the effectiveness of, and needs for the implementation of, support under the UNFCCC. After those presentations, a **group discussion** will focus on: the effectiveness of and needs for climate finance and technology transfer in supporting the delivery of mitigation outcomes; supporting schemes that have been successful; examples of best practice in streamlining support that can lead to effective mitigation; and sectors, gases and policies that are ‘low-hanging fruit’ globally.

18. The group discussion will be followed by a **general discussion**, which will be guided by the following questions:

- (a) Which scheme of support worked and for what reasons?
- (b) How can best practices and lessons learned be factored into policymaking under the UNFCCC?

19. IPCC and other experts will be invited: (a) to present the findings of the AR5 WGI, in order to increase the understanding of new approaches related to the 2013–2015 review; and (b) to participate in the group discussions in order to provide scientific advice on: how IPCC findings could be used to carry out the review; dealing with regional information, uncertainty, risks and long-term issues; and identifying needs for future research.

20. Parties that are interested in contributing to the group discussions under theme 1 or theme 2 are kindly invited to notify the secretariat by sending an e-mail to <2013-2015review@unfccc.int> by 4 November 2013, indicating the theme that they are interested in contributing to.

21. An agenda for SED 2 will be made available on the UNFCCC website prior to the meeting. The working language of the meeting will be English.

IV. Virtual participation

22. Participants outside of the conference venue will be able to both watch the event online via webcast and provide reactions, views or questions as input to the discussions via Twitter. Further details will be provided on the UNFCCC website.⁸

V. Date and venue

23. SED 2 will take place on Tuesday, 12 November 2013, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and on Wednesday, 13 November 2013, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the venue of the 2013 United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Warsaw.

VI. Other information

24. A special event of the IPCC and the SBSTA on the AR5 WGI will be held on 12 November from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. As the AR5 WGI is a key source of input in relation to both themes of the 2013–2015 review, the participants in SED 2 are encouraged to attend the event. SED 2 will build on the presentations made there and, to the extent possible, the findings already presented will not be repeated.

25. The Co-facilitators of the SED may hold, at the beginning of the second week of COP 19, informal consultations with Parties on the expected work during 2014. Further relevant information will be provided by the secretariat in due course.

⁸ <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.