

Decision IPCC/XLI-4. FUTURE WORK OF THE IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has reviewed its future work and taken a series of decisions to guide the work under the next assessment cycle. In implementing these decisions budgetary implications as well as minimizing the carbon footprint of IPCC activities shall be taken into account.

With regards to IPCC product types and their timing, the Panel decided:

1. It will continue to prepare every 5-7 years comprehensive Assessment Reports (AR), including regional aspects, together with the three-stage review process, supplemented by Special Reports. In determining its future reports and their timing the IPCC will take into account the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The identification of Special Reports, including those with a focus on regional information and priorities, should be made as early as possible and in the context of all deliverables of the cycle. Should new requests be received, in particular from the UNFCCC, they will be dealt with consistent with the "Decision Framework for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers".
3. The scoping of Synthesis Report (SYR) as well as attention to cross cutting issues should start at an early stage.
4. To emphasize the increasing importance of enhanced cross-working group cooperation and to request the new Bureau to pay particular attention to that matter, taking into consideration lessons learnt in previous assessments.
5. All parts of an AR should be released within about one year but no more than eighteen months, with a staggering between the WG reports allowing for information presented by one Working Group (WG) to be adequately reflected by the other WGs and the SYR.
6. It will continue to prepare Methodology Reports on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
7. It will consider to develop other methodology reports or good practice guidance reports, for example, to facilitate preparation of regional and/ or national scientific assessments.
8. It will further explore ways to enhance collaboration with other relevant international and scientific organizations.