

## Information on future meetings, notably the third meeting, of the structured expert dialogue on the 2013–2015 review

### Note by the co-facilitators

27 May 2014

#### I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) agreed at their thirty-ninth sessions to continue to consider the volumes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) as they become available, other inputs as listed in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161, questions put forward by Parties to ensure a balanced consideration of these inputs, and the views of Parties<sup>1</sup> on both themes of the 2013–2015 review,<sup>2</sup> in accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 88.<sup>3</sup>

2. The contribution of the AR5 Working Group II<sup>4</sup> (AR5 WGII) and the contribution of the AR5 Working Group III<sup>5</sup> (AR5 WGIII) were approved and accepted by the IPCC in March and April of this year, respectively. In addition to the full reports of both working groups, the summaries for policymakers and the technical summaries thereof are also available on the IPCC website.

3. SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 requested us, the co-facilitators, to organize meetings of the structured expert dialogue (SED) in 2014 in conjunction with the fortieth (June 2014) and forty-first sessions (December 2014) of the subsidiary bodies. They also requested us to assess the need for additional meetings.<sup>6</sup>

#### II. Third meeting of the structured expert dialogue

4. As requested by the SBSTA and SBI, we will organize the third meeting of the SED (SED 3) in conjunction with the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, in Bonn, Germany.<sup>7</sup>

##### A. Goal of the meeting

5. The goal of SED 3 is 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 the AR5 WGII and the AR5 WGIII.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SB/2014/MISC.1.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 9 below for information on the two themes of the review.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 134 and FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 168.

<sup>4</sup> *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>>.

<sup>5</sup> *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3>>.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 133, and FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 167.

<sup>7</sup> For details please see the overview schedule for the June session at <[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn\\_jun\\_2014/application/pdf/sb\\_40\\_overview\\_schedule\\_2304.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_jun_2014/application/pdf/sb_40_overview_schedule_2304.pdf)>.

6. To achieve this goal, we intend to organize SED 3 as a fact-finding exchange of views between experts and Parties. The experts will present findings from the AR5 WGII and the AR5 WGIII and highlight their relevance to the 2013–2015 review. These presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion guided by the questions included in this note, those included in the submissions of views from Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above and questions from participants. We invite Parties to keep your interventions succinct.

## B. Organization of the meeting

7. On the basis of the mandate for the 2013–2015 review<sup>8</sup> and the views from Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above, we suggest that SED 3 advance the work of the SED by considering the two themes of the review<sup>9</sup> in a balanced manner, with a special focus on the AR5 WGII and the AR5 WGIII. The consideration of both themes will involve outreach presentations made by experts and a discussion between Parties and experts.

8. On the AR5 WGII, topics to be addressed include: observed impacts and projected risks associated with various levels of warming, including warming to 2 °C/1.5 °C; human interference with the climate system; the link between socioeconomic pathways and climate change risks; adaptation options, needs, opportunities and associated costs; climate-resilient pathways, and the link between adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development.

9. On the AR5 WGIII, topics to be addressed include transformation pathways and limiting warming to 2 °C/1.5 °C; sectoral and cross-sectoral mitigation pathways; trends in the stocks and flows of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and their drivers; international cooperation on mitigation; policy, socioeconomic, equity, and ethical aspects of climate change; and cross-cutting mitigation investment and finance issues.

10. In preparing the guiding question below, we took into consideration the questions submitted by Parties, our experience with the first and second meeting of the SED, as well as overarching issues such as requirements to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C or 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels,<sup>10</sup> costs and benefits of limiting warming to a given level, the level of unacceptable global warming, and consequences of delaying action. The mandate of the 2013–2015 review asks us to address such issues and we expect to profit from SED 3 by obtaining scientific information relevant to the search for reliable answers to such questions.

11. SED 3 will consist of four parts. **Part 1** will open with a **scene-setting presentation** made by an IPCC expert on the overarching findings and new approaches of the AR5 WGII that are relevant to both themes of the 2013–2015 review. This presentation will be followed by a **discussion** guided by questions such as:<sup>11</sup>

- (a) What does the AR5 WGII tell us about the key risks, shifts in key risk patterns, and potential benefits related to climate change?
- (b) How can risks be reduced through adaptation and mitigation?
- (c) How reliable are the projections of risks and how can they be used for decision-making at the global level?
- (d) What are the options for managing risks through adaptation and sustainable development?

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<sup>8</sup> Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 79.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 4.

<sup>11</sup> For a full list of questions please see the agenda of SED 3 at <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.

12. **Presentations on theme 1** of the review will focus on past and current impacts of and projected risks posed by climate change from global and regional perspectives with a view to assessing the adequacy of the long-term global goal using input from the AR5 WGII. Presentations will also outline the climate risk management framework and the mapping of the so-called ‘solution space’.<sup>12</sup>

13. The presentations by IPCC experts will be followed by a **discussion** among Parties and experts on the possible policy implications of the findings presented. Issues to be addressed in this conversation include changes the world has observed in impacts of climate change; how key sectoral and regional risks posed by climate change are projected to change with increased warming in the near and long term; human interference with the climate system and the upper limit of global warming and reasons for concern; and uncertainties, their importance and their possible effect on the global response.

14. The **discussion** will be guided by questions such as:

(a) What impacts has the world observed, and what are the key risks and opportunities, projected to be observed, on the natural, human and managed systems for various levels of temperature increase?

(b) What is the regional variability of observed impacts and projected key risks and opportunities under various warming scenarios?

(c) Is there a difference in impacts, on both oceans and land, of global warming of 1.5 °C and 2 °C relative to pre-industrial levels?

(d) What level of warming could be interpreted as dangerous and for what reasons, considering associated scientific uncertainties?

(e) What uncertainties remain? What is their role in a risk management context? Are they calling for a global policy response?

(f) How do the above-mentioned findings relate to the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the context of policymaking in the UNFCCC process?

15. **Part 2** will start with **presentations on theme 2** of the review and will explore the link between socioeconomic pathways and risks posed by climate change; adaptation options, needs, opportunities and associated costs; climate-resilient pathways and the relationship between adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development in the context of assessing progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal.

16. The presentations will be followed by a **discussion** guided by questions such as:

(a) What does the AR5 WGII tell us about the overall progress on adaptation in view of the long-term global goal?

(b) What is the relationship between key climate risks and various levels of global temperature rise in the long term, including possible impacts beyond 2100? How can this be factored into policymaking under the UNFCCC?

(c) What are the adaptation options, needs, opportunities and costs associated with the risks projected for the mitigation pathways for various levels of global mean warming? What are the differences in adaptation options, needs, opportunities and costs between groups of people at various income and development levels?

(d) Are there differences in adaptation needs, opportunities and costs for long-term global warming of 1.5 °C and 2 °C relative to pre-industrial levels?

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<sup>12</sup> See Figure SPM.8 of AR5 WGII Summary for Policymakers.

(e) What types of adaptation are the most promising for coping with various climate change risks and for what reasons? Are the existing adaptation-related activities, particularly the support provided to developing countries, adequate and effective?

17. **Part 3** will open with a **scene-setting presentation** by an IPCC expert on the overarching findings and new approaches of the AR5 WGIII that are relevant to both themes of the 2013–2015 review. This presentation will be followed by a **discussion** guided by questions such as:

(a) What does the AR5 WGIII tell us about mitigation action required to limit global warming to 2 °C/1.5 °C, the relationship between mitigation and other climate change responses such as adaptation, and about valuations, including expert value judgement?

(b) How reliable are the projections of emission pathways and how can they be used for decision-making at the global level?

(c) What are the options to reduce emissions through mitigation and low-carbon development?

18. **Presentations on theme 1** of the review will focus on transformation pathways and limiting warming below 2 °C/1.5 °C, including the likelihood of limiting global warming at those levels and the urgency of action required to move towards such pathways; sectoral and cross-sectoral mitigation pathways; mitigation potentials, costs and technologies; investment patterns and international cooperation; regional development and cooperation; and national and subnational policies and institutions.

19. The presentations made by IPCC experts will be followed by a **discussion** among Parties and experts on the possible policy implications of the findings presented. Issues to be addressed in this discussion include assumptions behind pathways for limiting global warming under 2 °C/1.5 °C, the timing and urgency of actions required and the implications of delaying action; the role of technology; cross-sectoral implications of emission reduction; maximizing climate change mitigation policy co-benefits and reducing adverse side effects; the role of international cooperation and subnational actors; and uncertainties, their importance and their implications for the global response.

20. The conversation will be guided by questions such as:

(a) What will be the increase in temperature by the end of twenty-first century without additional mitigation compared to the business-as-usual scenario, and how do the AR5 WGIII findings on this matter compare with the findings of Working Group I?

(b) What mitigation pathways will limit global warming under 2 °C or 1.5 °C? What changes in emissions are required to stay under a 2 °C or 1.5 °C increase in global mean temperature relative to pre-industrial levels?

(c) What is the cost associated with the mitigation pathways for various levels of global mean warming and what will be the consequences of limited access to technologies or of delaying mitigation?

(d) What are the sector-specific emissions trends, mitigation potentials, technologies and investment patterns? How do mitigation efforts in one sector influence mitigation efforts in others?

(e) Based on technology development trends, what are the low-cost abatement opportunities that can be pursued in the near term? What are the higher-cost opportunities that are not commercially viable yet but could hold significant abatement potential over the longer term?

(f) What policies have attracted the greatest attention? How can we maximize climate policy co-benefits and reduce adverse side effects?

(g) What is the role of international climate change cooperation? What role can subnational actors play (e.g. private sector, cities and states, etc.) in reaching the long-term global goal and creating enabling environments?

21. **Part 4** will start with **presentations on theme 2** of the review, which will explore trends in stocks and flows of GHGs and their drivers; climate mitigation policy, value judgment and ethical and equity concepts and considerations in the context of sustainable development; and cross-cutting investment and finance issues, with an assessment of the progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal.

22. The presentations will be followed by a **discussion** guided by questions such as:

(a) What are the global trends in historical, current and future GHG emissions and ambient GHG concentrations? How do these trends compare to mitigation pathways that are compatible with meeting the long-term global goal, with some degree of probability?

(b) What are the key drivers of trends and projections of global GHG emissions and subsequent radiative forcing – by sector, region and gas?

(c) What policies and measures that appear to be reducing emissions, or show promise towards emissions reductions, could be strengthened, could be emulated?

(d) How can long-term policy effects, such as investments in technological innovation, be evaluated? How could this possibly be factored into policymaking under the UNFCCC?

(e) What are the assumptions for policies in the business-as-usual scenario and what is their aggregate mitigation potential and its uncertainty? Is there any gap between the actual mitigation and that needed to reach the long-term global goal, and if so, how could it be bridged? How could the implementation of these efforts be further assessed?

(f) How can current and future efforts to implement commitments under the Convention increase mitigation ambition and keep us on track for limiting global warming under 2 °C/1.5 °C?

(g) What are the social and economic impacts of the implementation of mitigation measures on developing countries within mitigation pathways for various levels of global mean warming? What is the relationship between mitigation and impacts in terms of key risks, notably for the most vulnerable people and systems as assessed by the AR5 WGII?

23. Experts from the IPCC and other experts will be invited to: (a) present the findings of the AR5 WGII and the AR5 WGIII in order to increase the understanding of scientific progress on the mapping of the solution space since the release of the AR4 and of new approaches related to the 2013–2015 review; and (b) provide, in the discussions, scientific advice on: how IPCC findings could be used to carry out the review; dealing with sectoral and regional aspects, uncertainty, risks and decision-making in this context; and identifying needs for future research.

24. An agenda for SED 3 will be made available on the UNFCCC website<sup>13</sup> prior to the meeting. The working language of the meeting will be English.

## C. Virtual participation

25. Participants outside of the conference venue will be able to watch the event via webcast and provide reactions, views or questions, as input to the discussions, via Twitter. Further details will be provided on the UNFCCC website.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.

## **D. Date and venue**

26. SED 3 will take place on Friday, 6 June 2014, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday, 7 June 2014, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Sunday, 8 June 2014, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Maritim Hotel in Bonn.

## **E. Other information**

27. The SBSTA and the IPCC will hold two special events on the two recent IPCC reports. The event on the AR5 WGII will take place on Wednesday, 4 June 2014, from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m., and the event on the AR5 WGIII on Friday, 6 June 2014, from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. As the AR5 WGII and the AR5 WGIII are key sources of input for both themes of the 2013–2015 review, SED 3 participants are encouraged to attend these events. SED 3 will build on the presentations made. To the extent possible, the findings already presented will not be repeated.

## **III. Need for additional meetings**

28. In response to the request by the SBSTA and the SBI mentioned in paragraph 4 above, we considered the benefits and potential problems related to holding an additional SED meeting, taking into account the work already achieved and work that still needs to be done by the SED, the decision by the COP that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be informed by, inter alia, the outcomes of the 2013–2015 review,<sup>14</sup> and the views submitted by Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above.

29. We concluded that there is a need to hold a SED meeting to consider the information sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 161(b–d). We are still considering the best timing for such a meeting. We intend to hold bilateral meetings with regional groups of Parties to find out their views on this matter, followed by an informal consultation with Parties during the second week of the session, focusing on the expected work and schedule for the second half of 2014 and the first half of 2015. Further information on the schedule for such additional meetings will be provided by the secretariat in due course.

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<sup>14</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.

<sup>15</sup> Decision 1/CP.17, paragraph 6.