

Submission from AOSIS, 9 November 2016

SBSTA 45 Agenda item 8(b) – Advice on how the IPCC can inform the Global Stocktake

This submission is in response to the invitation from the SBSTA for Parties to provide “*advice on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the global stocktake, bearing in mind the time frame of the sixth IPCC assessment cycle*”, referred to in FCCC/SBSTA/2016/L.16.

1. Importance of the IPCC to the Global Stocktake

The global stocktake is a core element of the Paris Agreement, and an essential tool aimed at assessing progress towards achievement of the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals. Information from the IPCC will be a key source of input into the Global Stocktake, consistent with the requirement for it to be informed by “the best available science”¹. To ensure that the IPCC can best inform the global stocktake, alignment of the work of the IPCC with the global stocktake will be imperative.

2. Aligning the IPCC cycles with the Global Stocktake

The IPCC’s 6th Assessment Cycle is well-aligned with the first global stocktake in 2023. In order to maintain this alignment, future assessment cycles should follow the timing of global stocktakes, i.e. **a 5-year assessment cycle in line with the five-yearly global stocktake starting in 2023**, with the final product of each Assessment Report cycle coming out in advance of the next global stocktake, at a date that allows sufficient time for the Assessment Report to be considered in the information gathering phase of the global stocktake.

We note that the IPCC is also considering how its work could be aligned with the global stocktake, and has requested the IPCC Secretariat to “*prepare proposals for aligning the work of the IPCC during its Seventh Assessment Report with the needs of the global stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement and to submit these proposals for consideration at a Plenary session of the IPCC no later than 2018.*”².

3. Providing the best available science for all elements of the global stocktake mandate

In its Article 14, the Paris Agreement specifies that the global stocktake shall consider mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation.³ To best inform the global

¹ The Paris Agreement, Article 14.1

² IPCC Decision 43/7

³ Paris Agreement, Article 14, Paragraph 1

stocktake process, the IPCC should therefore provide an assessment of the best available science on all elements of the global stocktake mandate⁴.

Specifically, information from the IPCC in its Assessment Reports relevant to the following items will provide valuable sources of inputs for the global stocktake:

- The aggregate effect of the nationally determined contributions in light of the 1.5°C long-term temperature limit and other goals under the Paris Agreement.
- The impacts on human and natural systems implied by the aggregate effect of the nationally determined contributions, including implications for and limits to adaptation, and on the avoided impacts from reaching the long-term goals under the Paris Agreement.
- Scientific approaches towards assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation, support provided for adaptation and the overall progress made towards enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change⁵.
- Scientific approaches towards assessing efforts related to climate finance⁶ and support⁷.

The SBSTA should encourage the IPCC to consider the mandate of the global stocktake in its considerations of the outlines of its products, in line with its procedures and principles.

⁴ SBSTA/IPCC Special Event.2016.2. Summary Report

⁵ Paris Agreement, Article 7, Paragraph 14 c, d

⁶ Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 6

⁷ Paris Agreement, Article 10, paragraph 6