



## **SUBMISSION BY SLOVAKIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.**

Bratislava, 8 September 2016

**Subject: Advice on how the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) can inform the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement:**

**Views from Parties and observer organizations on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the global stocktake (FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 42)**

### **I. Introduction and general comments**

1. The European Union and its Member States (EU) welcome the conclusions of SBSTA at its forty-fourth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2) and note the invitation to submit views, taking relevant experience into account, on advice on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the Global Stocktake (GST), bearing in mind the time frame of the sixth IPCC assessment cycle.
2. The IPCC is the authoritative source for scientific information on climate change and the work of the UNFCCC and in particular the GST should continue to be based on the best available science, as required by the Paris Agreement (PA) and associated Decisions.
3. Work under the SBSTA agenda item 8b on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the GST should not duplicate work under Agenda Item 5 in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), which will consider matters related to the GST including inputs and modalities. The views of the EU on these matters are presented in its submission under Agenda Item 5.
4. The EU is looking forward to a fruitful exchange with other Parties on this topic at SBSTA 45 and to providing clear advice on this topic to the APA in Marrakech.

## **II. Existing processes for interaction between IPCC and UNFCCC**

5. The IPCC plays a critical role in providing the scientific foundation to the work of the UNFCCC. There is a long history of the IPCC providing information to the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies. This includes the SBSTA-IPCC special events and the SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group that has provided a forum for dialogue on practical issues between the IPCC and UNFCCC since its establishment at COP1. The Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) under the 2013-2015 review was a particularly productive experience on bringing the IPCC information into the heart of the UNFCCC negotiations and on improving the science/policy interface.

## **III. Source of scientific information**

6. The products of the IPCC, and in particular its regular Assessment Reports (ARs) and Special Reports (SRs), will be essential sources of scientific information to the GST as foreseen in 1/CP.21 paragraph 99.
7. The IPCC has a number of products scheduled for its current sixth assessment cycle up to 2022 that will be relevant for the GST:
  - a Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, scheduled for 2018;
  - a Special Report on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere, scheduled for 2019;
  - a Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, scheduled for 2019;
  - a Methodology Report on national greenhouse gas inventories, scheduled for 2019; and
  - the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (Synthesis Report and Working Group reports), scheduled for 2021-2022.
8. The information provided in these reports and particularly the AR6 will form an essential input to the first GST. The IPCC administrative and scoping processes for providing these reports are on-going, and the outcomes from these processes will assist in planning on how the IPCC will inform the GST. The EU welcomes the IPCC's decision to take into account the work of the UNFCCC in determining its future reports and their timings, and encourages the IPCC to pay special attention to the first GST when scoping its reports for the current assessment cycle.

## **IV. Timing issues**

9. Article 14 of the PA determines a cycle of five years for the GST. The IPCC has until now provided Assessment Reports in cycles of about seven years. The full AR6 report is due to be published in 2021-22 and so is well timed to input into the first GST in 2023. Beyond that time, however, the two cycles are no longer synchronised.
10. The EU welcomes and wishes to highlight the importance of the IPCC's decision to request its Secretariat to prepare proposals for aligning the work of the IPCC with the needs of the future GST (2028, 2033, ...) foreseen under the PA and to submit these proposals for consideration at a Plenary session of the IPCC no later than 2018 (Decision IPCC43/7).

## **V. How the assessments of the IPCC can inform the GST**

11. As the authoritative source for scientific information on climate change, the IPCC is well placed to provide Parties with the best available science as the main basis for the GST. We note the positive outcome of practices for the transfer of scientific knowledge from the IPCC to the UNFCCC mentioned in Section II.
12. There are many benefits to maintaining this ongoing exchange of information between the IPCC and UNFCCC (in particular in relation to informing UNFCCC of IPCC reports as they become available). Lessons learnt from these established practices can assist in the provision of effective means of transmitting information from the IPCC to the GST. Any process should be open and transparent and provide a forum for focused scientific and technical exchange of views and information between experts and Parties.
13. The GST will need the best available information to help it address all aspects of its mandate, including an assessment of Parties' collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long term goals, and for the enhancement of Parties' individual actions and international cooperation. Furthermore, the outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their collective actions and support.