

Our ref.: 5109-21/IPCC/P53bis

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs
(if no focal point has been designated)

COPY

Geneva, 19 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) I am addressing you on the subject of the Fifty-third (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53bis) which is the second part of the Fifty-third Session of the IPCC (IPCC-53).

I refer to the Chair's [letter](#) dated 14 December 2020 on closing the first part of the 53rd Session of the IPCC through which he informed you that the Secretariat will consult you on the dates as well as the modalities for the Sessions to be held in 2021.

In continuation of our engagement with governments, I am now consulting you on the format, date and agenda of IPCC-53bis.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation worldwide it will not be possible to hold IPCC-53bis in a face-to-face format, therefore the Secretariat is suggesting holding the IPCC-53bis by electronic means. Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Following the survey conducted with IPCC Focal Points on the preferred date for holding of the IPCC-53bis and internal consultations within the IPCC Secretariat with the view to accommodate our plan for holding the 60th Session of the IPCC Bureau ahead of IPCC-53bis, I would like to seek your understanding on holding the IPCC-53bis in the fourth week of March 2021 (22 – 28 March 2021).

With regards to the agenda items to be discussed at IPCC-53bis, taking into account the operational limitations of holding a virtual plenary session, lesson learnt from IPCC-53 held in December 2020 and other virtual IPCC events, the Secretariat is suggesting to limit the number of agenda items to a maximum of three, including the approval of the Draft Report of the 52nd Session of the IPCC. This will bring the total number of the agenda items of the 53rd Session, including the sole agenda item¹ of the first part of 53rd Session of the IPCC to four.

You are kindly invited to propose a maximum of two essential agenda items and submit your response in an official letterhead to the IPCC Secretariat by **Monday 25 January 2021**. A ranking of agenda items submitted to the Secretariat will be established. The agenda items with most interest will be included in the Provisional Agenda for the session. The Secretariat will upload all the submissions from the Governments in the IPCC Focal Point Portal: <https://apps.ipcc.ch/fp/>.

¹ IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget

Finally, while it is technically feasible although not cost effective to provide interpretation through the zoom platform, we foresee this aspect challenging further the virtual participation of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Considering the above, I would like to seek your exceptional agreement on the temporary suspension of Principle 14 of the [Principles Governing IPCC Work](#).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and your support in these challenging times.

A copy of this letter is being sent for information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Permanent Representatives from your country to the World Meteorological Organization and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC