INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Report to Plenary on item 5.3

REFERENCES:
Cg-XVI/Docs. 5.3(1), 5.3(2) and A/WP 5.3, REV. 1

APPENDICES:
A. Draft text for inclusion in the general summary on item 5.3
B. Draft Resolution 5.3 (Cg-XVI) – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ACTION PROPOSED
It is recommended that the draft text in Appendix A be included in the general summary of the work of the session and that the draft resolution in Appendix B be adopted.
5.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (agenda item 5.3)

5.3.1 Congress expressed its appreciation to the Chair of the IPCC, Dr R.K. Pachauri, for his leadership of the work of the Panel, and for his report on the current status of the work of the Panel.

5.3.2 Congress expressed its continued appreciation of the key role of the IPCC in preparing and disseminating high quality assessments in support of national and international policy formulation on the climate change issue, and reiterated WMO’s commitment to assist IPCC in delivering its work programme, including through financial, administrative and operational support.

5.3.3 Congress stressed the continued need for Members to efficiently contribute to the content and quality of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and Special Reports and the benefits which can be expected in return in enhancing the value of those activities. It urged Members to find ways to strengthen the involvement of scientists and experts from NMHSs in the activities of IPCC.

5.3.4 Congress welcomed the progress made in the scoping and preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), with active participation of governments and relevant organizations including WMO.

5.3.5 Congress expressed appreciation at the distribution of AR5 authors in terms of gender and geographic origin, congratulated newly appointed Lead Authors and Coordinating Lead Authors from a large range of Member States, and encouraged them to carry out their task to the highest standard possible.

5.3.6 Congress expressed its appreciation to the WMO Members who are actively participating in IPCC, through direct financial contribution or by supporting Technical Support Units (TSUs), the support of AR5 authors and/or the organization of meetings and other activities, and encouraged them to continue their support to IPCC throughout the fifth assessment cycle.

5.3.7 Congress stressed the continued need for WMO Members to efficiently contribute, through a large range of climate activities, to the work of the IPCC and more specifically to the content and quality of the AR5, and the benefits which can be expected in return in enhancing the value of those activities.

5.3.8 Congress noted with appreciation the involvement of the WCP, WCRP and GCOS in the work of the IPCC and encouraged strengthened participation of CCI and other WMO technical commissions to contribute to the IPCC assessments and to work closely with the IPCC in developing their programmes and enhancing information dissemination, while encouraging the IPCC to consider scientific information resulting from WCP, WCRP and GCOS in its assessments.

5.3.9 Congress noted the relevance of the work of the IPCC for the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and invited IPCC to explore ways to contribute to its implementation.

5.3.10 Congress supported the IPCC’s plans to develop and implement a holistic communication strategy for outreach and media communications. Congress invited IPCC to give more recognition of the WMO and UNEP role in its outreach materials and events and to use the WMO media centre to target a wider audience for providing up-to-date assessments of the latest authoritative science related to climate change.
5.3.11 Congress endorsed the IPCC decisions for strengthening coordination and oversight of the IPCC administration and communications and decided to maintain WMO’s role as founding and co-sponsoring organization in governance and management of the IPCC, including selection of key Secretariat positions.

5.3.12 Congress welcomed the release of the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN) and the on-going work on the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX), which are both providing important conclusions for the benefit of Members.

5.3.13 Congress expressed satisfaction at the progress made on setting up the IPCC Scholarship Programme with the funds received as part of the Nobel Peace Prize, gathering support from donors, and launching the first round of scholarships in 2011 for scientists from LDCs and SIDs, with the aim to develop knowledge and expertise in those countries in the domain of climate change.

5.3.14 Congress welcomed the action by the IPCC in response to the review of IPCC processes and procedures conducted by InterAcademy Council which was requested jointly by the UN Secretary-General and the IPCC Chair, and supported by the IPCC co-sponsors WMO and UNEP.

5.3.15 Congress urged the Secretary-General to mobilize support for capacity-building activities for NMHSs to interpret future climate scenarios at regional and national scales in order to better support communities and national decision makers. Congress urged all Members to contribute to the wide dissemination and interpretation of the IPCC Assessment Reports and their key findings.

5.3.16 Congress noted that in 2010 the InterAcademy Council (IAC), upon request of the UN Secretary General and of the Chair of IPCC and with the support of WMO and UNEP, conducted the review of the processes and procedures for the preparation of IPCC assessment reports. The IPCC considered the report of IAC at its 32nd and 33rd Plenary sessions. Congress expressed support for IPCC actions for implementation of the IAC Review recommendations on Procedures, Governance and Management, Conflict of Interest Policy and Communication Strategy.

5.3.17 Congress reaffirmed that the IPCC should continue its fundamental mission for providing objective scientific-technical assessments of available factual information on issues related to climate change and adopted Resolution 5.3 (Cg-XVI).
DRAFT RESOLUTION

Res. 5.3 (Cg-XVI) —INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CONGRESS,

Recalling:

(1) The Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO-No. 960), general summary, paragraphs 3.2.2.1 to 3.2.2.6, on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

(2) Resolution 10 (Cg-XV) – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Recognizing the key role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in preparing and disseminating scientific, technical and socio-economic assessments to underpin national and international policy formulation on the climate change issue,

Congratulates the Panel for:

(1) The highly successful completion of the contributions of the Synthesis Report to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report;

(2) The award of the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2007 jointly with Mr Al Gore “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change”;

(3) The completion of the Special Report on “Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation” (SRREN);

(4) The ongoing work of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories which continues to assess and develop greenhouse gas inventory methods and practices which are scientifically sound and relevant to all countries;

Expresses:

(1) Its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr R.K. Pachauri for the leadership of the activities of the Panel, and to the Co-chairs of the IPCC Working Groups and of the Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories for successfully guiding the activities of their respective Working Groups and Task Force; and to the Secretary of the IPCC, for the support provided to the above;

(2) Its thanks to all experts who have actively contributed to the writing and review of IPCC reports, in particular the coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors;

(3) Its gratitude to governments, institutions and organizations who have generously contributed to the work of the Panel and the WMO/UNEP IPCC Trust Fund;

(4) Its gratitude to the Governments of the Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America for hosting Technical Support Units for IPCC Working Groups and the Task Force;
(5) Its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for its continued co-sponsorship of the Panel;

(6) Its support for IPCC actions for implementation of the IAC Review recommendations on Procedures, Governance and Managements, Conflict of Interest Policy and Communication Strategy;

Noting:

(1) That the preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report is well advanced and progressing according to schedule,

(2) The Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) is to be finalized in November 2011,

(3) That substantial benefits flow to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change through the active involvement of the Services in the work of the Panel,

Recognizing that the IPCC terms of reference are comprised of decisions by WMO Congress, the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change itself, and have served the Panel well in performing its activities,

Encourages:

(1) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue its activities under its existing terms of reference subject to any further requests from WMO and UNEP;

(2) The Panel to continue to work closely with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and respond to the needs of the Convention for scientific, technical and socio-economic assessments, including through assessment reports, special reports, methodology reports and technical papers;

Requests the Chair of IPCC to continue to report regularly on the progress of the work of the Panel to the Executive Council and Congress;

Requests the Secretary-General, jointly with the Executive Director of UNEP, to maintain financial and organizational support to the IPCC Secretariat, and to assist with publication and dissemination of IPCC Reports;

Further requests the Secretary-General to explore ways to strengthen the scientific capacity of the IPCC Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the IPCC;

Requests the IPCC to proactively encourage more active participation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the activities of the Panel;

Urges Members:

(1) To actively participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular with the contribution of scientists and experts from the NMHSs;

(2) To promote the outcomes of the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
(3) To maintain, and where possible to increase, their financial support for IPCC activities through contributions to the WMO/UNEP IPCC Trust Fund.