

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 28 November 2019

Start time: 11:00am

Venue: Herbert Park Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Present: Professor John FitzGerald, Professor Anna Davies, Professor Frank Convery, Laura Burke, William Walsh, Professor Alan Matthews, Professor Gerry Boyle, Dr Joseph Curtin (video link)

Apologies: Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Professor Peter Clinch, Professor Alan Barrett.

Secretariat: Dr Margaret Desmond, Phillip O'Brien, Dr Tadhg O'Mahony, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Claire Camilleri, Harriet Walsh.

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 19.09.2019

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19 September 2019 were amended and signed by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

Prof. John FitzGerald reminded the Council that he is a member of the governance board of UCD ICRA.

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

In October the Chair presented at the Environment Ireland 2019 Conference and met with the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition with experts from the Carbon Tracker Initiative. He also attended GMIT to discuss climate change. The Chair attended a meeting of An Taisce - South County Dublin and on the 16th October he appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action and on the 21st of October, the Chair participated at the Council's Carbon Budget Workshop and also met with a representative of DG CLIMA from the European Commission.

On the 22nd October, the Chair met with the Department of the Taoiseach to discuss the Climate Action Plan, its implementation and the role of the future Climate Action Council. Later in the month, the Chair met with the Irish Agricultural Science Association.

In November, the Chair attended a meeting in Áras an Uachtaráin to discuss rethinking the Role of the State in fostering a Sustainable and Inclusive Economy. The Chair met with Mercator Research institute on Global Commons and Climate Change & PIK to discuss coordinating the next wave of EU climate policies. He also met with Ervia to discuss Vision 2050.

In December, the Chair met with the Northern Ireland, Limerick and Shannon Chambers of Commerce. He also attended a seminar by Thomas Stoerk: Carbon taxes - a powerful tool in the fight against climate change.

The Chair noted that it was the last meeting for Dr Tadgh O'Mahony and Harriet Walsh and thanked them for their contributions.

2. Access to Modelling Update

The Council discussed their need for access to modelling and agreed to try and formalise an arrangement of access and will seek to do so with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment through a Memorandum of Understanding.

3. Transport Transition Workshop Outcomes

The Council discussed the workshop on transition of Irish transport: issues, approaches and options that was held on the 19th September. The Council discussed the implications for the upcoming Annual Review 2020 special focus chapter along with areas of further investigation to help inform the chapter.

4. Adaptation Committee Update

The Council were updated on the outcomes from the Adaptation Committee meeting on 23 October 2019. The Council discussed and approved the Adaptation Committee Work Programme for 2020 and agreed that the Review of Statutory Sectoral Adaptation Plan Making 2018-2019 should be sent into the Department of the Taoiseach for the Climate Action Delivery Board and to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and

Environment. The Council agreed that a representative from the office of the Taoiseach should be invited to speak to the Adaptation Committee.

The Council noted the work by the Adaptation Committee throughout the year and thanked them for their hard work.

5. IPCC Land Report Advice

The Council discussed their letter of advice regarding the IPCC Land Report. The Council recommended some revisions, and once agreed it would then be sent out to the Minister Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and then copied to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Taoiseach.

6. Review of Budget 2020

The Council discussed the key announcements from Budget 2020 their implications for climate action. Further work was requested on their tracking and inclusion into the Annual Review 2020.

7. Carbon Budget Advice

Following on from the Minister of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment's request to the Council to "develop recommendations on a suitable approach for preparation of multi-annual carbon budgets to inform preparation of drafting of legislation" under Action Item 5 of the Climate Action Plan 2019, the Council discussed a draft response. The Council discussed the merits and demerits of having separate targets for methane and other greenhouse gases. It also discussed the link required between governance and budgets and the role of legislation to ensure compliance. The Council reviewed the newly adopted Zero Carbon bill in New Zealand, and the measures proposed within it. The Council discussed the required resourcing to develop carbon budgets and it was agreed that the Council cannot facilitate the development of carbon budgets until appropriate resources and staff are put in place.

The Council recommended further development of the advice to reflect the discussion before being issued to the Minister.

8. Restructuring of Annual Review 2020

The Council were presented with a proposed change to how the Annual Review is structured. The Annual Review would be split into two documents, with a 'Council Review' Section that would provide a 'summary for policymakers' style document. The second part of

the Annual Review would be the 'Technical Report' which would house the background information and data that support the recommendations in the Council Review. It is hoped this will allow the production of a more accessible document while still fulfilling the Council's obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. The Council agreed with the proposal, however to monitor the evolution of the development of the Annual Review 2020.

9. Council Work Programme 2020

A proposed Work Programme for 2020 and a budget were presented to Council for consideration. It was noted that the Council did not receive any additional budget allocation to facilitate the increased work programme of the Council. Further work is required on developing the just transition work package and refining other packages before being circulated for final agreement. It was also agreed that a trial membership with the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) network would be explored.

10. Council Administration

It was agreed that a records retention schedule would be developed specifically for the Council. It was also noted that proposed legislation amending the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 is expected before the end of the year.

11. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council and Secretariat agreed to follow up on the actions arising out of the meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be the 27th February.

The Council noted the publication of the 'Ag-Climatise – A Draft National Climate & Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector to 2030 and Beyond' public consultation and noted that it had not been approached to comment.

