



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 15.09.2022

Start time: 13:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Professor John Fitzgerald, Laura Burke (EPA) to 17:00, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon; Jillian Mahon, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc); Sineád O'Brien, Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian.

Item 10: Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly – Aiken Communications joined virtually for this item.

Apologies. Prof Peter Thorne, Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer, William Walsh (Observer)

Secretariat: George Hussey; Phillip O'Brien; Gemma O'Reilly; Meabh Gallagher; Claire Camilleri; Gina Kelly; Ciara Hilliard; Jodie Colgan; Stephen Flood; Syed Faiz ul Islam; Eleanor Matthews.

1. Opening of Meeting (13:30)

The Chair welcomed new Secretariat members Stephen Flood, Jodie Colgan, Syed Faiz-ul Islam and Eleanor Matthews.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 13 & 14.07.2022

The minutes were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

2. Items for formal agreement (13:40)

Revised Budget 2 and Work programme

Council considered the proposed revision 2 of the 2022 budget. The Secretariat outlined the main points of the work programme including the progress on research projects. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to identify additional tasks that may utilise the remaining budget. The Secretariat noted this request and advised that there was capacity within the proposed revised figures for such tasks to be identified and delivered with the remaining time and budget for 2022.

It was noted that some Council members had not yet received their letters of appointment. Council members asked that the Secretariat again follow up with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to have this matter resolved. It was agreed that this would be tracked at upcoming meetings.

3. Carbon Budgets (13:50)

The Secretariat presented an update on the upcoming Carbon Budgets Modelling Workshop to support the second programme of Carbon Budgets. The Secretariat also highlighted the summary and recommendations arising from the feedback interviews that were conducted with Council and Carbon Budget Committee members further to the first carbon budgets programme. It was noted that the recommendations will inform the development of a draft Terms of Reference for a Carbon Budgets Working Group while further recommendations in relation to areas of work and modelling will be progressed in upcoming meetings. The Council will routinely consider progress of the Working Group once established. All documents, presentations and papers from the working group would be made available to Council members.

The importance of the finance sector's involvement in the carbon budget process and in the workshop were noted. Council requested that Budget 2023 Tax Strategy Group papers be circulated to all members.

Council discussed the potential approach to modelling for the upcoming rounds of carbon budgets and encouraged communication within the modelling community to ensure consistency of modelling scenarios and assumptions as well as the importance of testing the assumptions of the various models being used. Council also recommended engagement

with other similar organisations, including the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change.

4. Note on proposed Electricity Workshop (14:24)

The Secretariat presented a proposal for an initial roundtable discussion with the UK Climate Change Committee (UKCCC) and colleagues in NI followed by a potential workshop in 2023.

Council welcomed the proposal, in particular the outreach to colleagues in NI and the UK CCC and suggested that an initial introduction and engagement on a number of common issues such as decarbonisation may be more useful in the first instance.

Council noted the importance of engagement with the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Utility Regulator (UR) in Northern Ireland in the context of any discussions on the reform of the electricity market and suggested initial engagement with the CRU on this should a focused workshop in this area progress in future.

5. Adaptation Committee Meeting update (14:38)

The Secretariat gave an update on the Committee meeting held on 7th September 2022.

It was noted that the Terms of Reference would be presented to the October Council meeting for adoption.

Council suggested that a summary paper on each Committee meeting would be a useful addition to the Council papers.

6. OECD – The Well-being lens applied to Irish Transport (14:43)

The Secretariat presented the highlights of the final version of the OECD report *Redesigning Ireland's Transport for Net Zero: Towards systems that work for people and the planet*.

Council welcomed the report.

The draft agenda for the launch event was also presented.

7. Future meetings and inputs (15:15)

The Secretariat presented a plan for the prioritisation of work across themes for Annual Review input over the term of this Council. This included a proposed format for inputs for and outputs of the meetings on potential topics. It also included a proposal that the Annual Review indicators table would be updated for each meeting in conjunction with this process.

Council noted that further engagement on matters of finance should be considered across all sectoral discussions. There was also a recommendation to include Agriculture and Forestry, bioenergy, land use, climate neutrality and hydrogen to the list of themes for further

exploration. The Council made other suggestions to include areas such as emergent research and the assessment of the instruments being used to deploy action to be included in the examination of themes.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate the extended proposed list to Council for prioritisation.

8. Communications (16:05)

The Secretariat outlined the changes to the Official Languages Act 2003 which was revised in June. The Council approved the Secretariat to further investigate this issue to inform the development of the Communications Strategy.

Aiken Communications presented a review of the media coverage surrounding the publication of the Annual Review 2022 and further plans for upcoming targeted pieces with various media.

The Chair of the Communications subgroup updated the Council on the work of the subgroup and outlined the timeline for the preparation of the Council's Communication Strategy. A draft of the Strategy will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Aiken Communications also presented topline findings on recent public opinion research on the Council which will also assist in the development of the Communications Strategy.

9. Chair's Report of Council Activities (16:45)

The Council noted the report of Council activities.

10. AOB (16:50)

- **International activities**

It was noted that the Chair, Dr. Cara Augustenborg and two Secretariat members will attend COP 27.

George Hussey briefed Council on the outcomes of the annual EEAC conference advising that the EEAC work programme and remit is being developed.

- **Next meeting**

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be on 27th October and will be held virtually.

A Secretariat assessment of Budget 2022 will be presented.

Marie L. Donnelly

Signed electronically on 27.10.2022