



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 16.02.2023

Start time: 13:00

Venue: MS Teams

In attendance: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Professor John Fitzgerald, Laura Burke (EPA), Patricia King, Jillian Mahon, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc), Andrew Murphy (to 15:30), Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon, Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian (to 15:30), Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Prof Peter Thorne (from 13:40).

Agenda Item 4: Brian Carroll, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications joined for this item.

Agenda Item 6: Dr. Tara Shine – Change by Degrees and Sinead Walsh – Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs joined for this item.

Apologies: Sineád O'Brien, Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer.

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

1. Opening of Meeting (13:15)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 15.12.2022

The minutes were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.



Disclosure of Interests

Chair Marie Donnelly noted that Hume Brophy was sold to Washington-based communications group Penta at the end of 2022. The Chair's activities with Hume Brophy (Brussels) would continue unchanged other than the name change.

Prof. John Fitzgerald, noted that he is a member of the board of the UCD Energy Institute and is a member of the steering committee of ENACT - which operates under the Green Building Council. There is no remuneration for either position.

2. Items for formal agreement (13:20)

It was noted that there are no items for formal agreement under this standing item for the February meeting.

3. Adaptation Committee update (13:20)

The Secretariat briefed Council members on the Resilience Team activities and events since the last Council meeting including the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held on 26th January and other notable events including recent meetings with the New Zealand Climate Change Commission. The Council also noted the update on the Adaptation Committee's potential role in the European Conference on Climate Change Adaptation scheduled for 19-21 of June 2023 in Dublin.

An amendment to the 'Membership' section of the Adaptation Committee Terms of Reference was proposed in order to increase the minimum number of Committee members from four to eight. It was noted that the Committee was satisfied with the change as recommended. Council adopted the amendment.

It was also noted that Emer O'Gorman (incoming Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council from 1st March) will be the next CCMA representative on the Adaptation Committee. Council endorsed the nomination of Ms. O'Gorman to the Adaptation Committee.

4. National Climate Action Plan (13:30)

Brian Carroll from Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications joined the meeting to discuss the National Climate Action Plan 2023.



It was noted that the release of the Annex of Actions had still yet to be published and Council expressed a sense of frustration with the speed of the progress in general and a lack of evidence that emissions are on a downwards trajectory in line with the legislative targets.

5. Communications (14:28)

The Terms of Reference for the Communications Subgroup was presented and adopted by the Council.

The Secretariat provided an update of the recent activities of the subgroup and outlined plans for the redevelopment of the Council website which was agreed by the subgroup at the January meeting. Council members would be invited to the next meeting of the Communications subgroup (expected to be in March 2023) if they wished to be involved in further discussions of the website redevelopment project. It was agreed that the redevelopment of the website would be guided by the subgroup.

Carbon Budgets (14:35)

The Secretariat updated Council on the confirmed membership of the new Carbon Budgets Working Group and noted that the first meeting of the group was scheduled for 9th of March. Council also noted that they would be made aware of each meeting date and would be welcome to join virtually or in person.

An international member for the group had not yet been identified and some suggestions were put forward to the Secretariat to follow up on.

6. International Developments (14:40)

Dr. Tara Shine (Change by Degrees) and Ms. Sinead Walsh (Irish Aid, Dept of Foreign Affairs) joined for this agenda item and presented to Council on their observations on the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP27. It was suggested that further work on the tracking of international investments in fossil fuels from Ireland would be helpful. Council also asked for the Department to consider how the involvement of attendees from Ireland could be better utilised and coordinated for future COPs.

Council thanked Dr. Shine and Ms. Walsh for their attendance.



7. Office of the Planning Regulator (15:50)

Niall Cussen & Anne-Marie O'Connor from the Office of the Planning Regulator joined for this item. They presented an overview of the challenges currently faced within the planning system particularly in relation to the system's role in achieving long term climate targets.

8. Thematic Session – Planning (17:00)

The Secretariat briefly referred to the key issues in the documentation that had been circulated as part of the meeting papers.

Council discussed this issue in detail and agreed that a letter would be sent to Government to highlight the measures required to remove the barriers to climate related progress in the planning system.

The Secretariat gave an introduction to the thematic session for the April meeting, where a 'Vision for 2050' paper will be presented.

9. Annual Review 2023 (17:10)

The Secretariat discussed the current progress on the Annual Review 2023.

Council discussed the structure of the document and made recommendations on the direction of the text to date. A further draft of the report will be presented to the April and June meetings and a final draft of the text will be circulated prior to the July meeting for final agreement at that meeting.

The Secretariat provided an update on the upcoming sectoral engagement sessions.

10. Chair's Report of Council Activities (17:20)

The Council noted the report of Council activities.

11. AOB (17:20)

The following items were addressed:

- It was noted that expressions of interest from Council members wishing to attend COP28 should be returned to the Secretariat.



- Council noted that the upcoming virtual Council meetings would be extended to start at 11am to facilitate more extensive discussion. Decision items would be scheduled for the start of the afternoon session of the meetings.
- Council noted the updates on the progress of the work programme.
- Council noted that an invitation had been received from the Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight for the evening of March 1st to examine Chapter 13 of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare Report.
- It was noted that Gemma O'Reilly would be leaving the Secretariat after six years of service to the Climate Change Advisory Council. Council thanked Gemma for her very significant contribution to the work of the Council since it was first established.
signed electronically on 27.04.2022

Next meeting

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be on 27th of April 2023 and will be held virtually on MS Teams.

Marie E. Donnelly

Signed electronically 27.04.2023