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Agenda Item: ATCM 16

Presented by: United Kingdom,  
Australia,  
Belgium, Finland,  
France, Germany,  
Netherlands,  
Norway, Sweden,  
United States,  
SCAR, ASOC

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## **Antarctica in a Changing Climate – Implementing ATCM Resolution 8 (2021)**



## Antarctica in a Changing Climate – Implementing ATCM Resolution 8 (2021)

***Working Paper submitted by the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United States, SCAR and in conjunction with ASOC***

### **Summary**

This paper provides an update to the ATCM on the implementation of Resolution 8 (2021) *Antarctica in Changing Climate*, one year after its adoption.

The United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States, SCAR and ASOC recommend that, consistent with Resolution 8 (2021), the ATCM encourages Parties to:

- Support research on the actual and potential implications of climate change (including the global threats arising from potential thresholds and tipping points on the Antarctic ice shelf);
- Continue to support SCAR in the communication of the latest research and information on climate change and its impacts, through its regular and valued updates to the ATCM, including the Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report; and
- Support the work of the CEP to consider the environmental implications of climate change through the Climate Change Response Work Programme, and continue to report on efforts to understand and address other implications for the management of Antarctica.

### **Implementing Resolution 8 (2021) *Antarctica in Changing Climate***

Resolution 8 (2021) *Antarctica in a Changing Climate* was adopted at ATCM XLIII in response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). The SROCC provided clear evidence that climate change is having a profound impact on Antarctica, and that these impacts have consequential global effects.

Resolution 8 (2021) recommended that Parties consider, research and communicate the implications of climate change for Antarctica, including at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 26 (UNFCCC COP26), and seek to avoid or mitigate further stresses to Antarctic terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

This working paper provides an update to the ATCM on progress in implementing Resolution 8 (2021) one year after its adoption with a specific focus on how the implications of climate change in Antarctica were widely communicated and shared with delegates, attendees and the wider public at the Glasgow Climate Summit, COP26 (31 October to 12 November 2021).

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), the UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) and Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) member WWF have compiled a list of events held and briefings shared (Appendix 1) about Antarctica in a changing climate in the run up to, during and immediately after COP26. The list is not intended to be exhaustive. Nevertheless, it highlights more than 20 events/briefings that were

held to share current science and to inform decision-makers about the implications of climate change in Antarctica, and the consequences for the rest of the planet.

The events and briefings focused overwhelmingly on two broad themes: 1) the contribution of Antarctic ice sheets to irreversible global sea level rise with implications for coastal communities, including small island developing states (SIDS); and 2) Southern Ocean ecosystems (including krill) under pressure from climate change, acidification and freshening, and their role in helping to maintain a stable climate. Together, they highlighted the need for urgent action to mitigate global climate change, alongside effective local conservation and management in order to minimise or avoid further dangerous and irreversible sea level rise and degradation of Southern Ocean ecosystems and the associated loss of their wide-ranging societal benefits. Other themes included Antarctica's scientific past and strategic priorities for UK Antarctic science.

### ***Recommendation***

The United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States, SCAR and ASOC recommend that, consistent with Resolution 8 (2021), the ATCM encourages Parties to:

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