WCRP Carbon Footprint

41st Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

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Online

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

International Science Council

WCRP World Climate Research Programme

Context and overall ambition for WCRP

- IPCC AR6 Special Report on Global warming of 1.5ºC

  In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5ºC, global net anthropogenic CO_2 emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050.

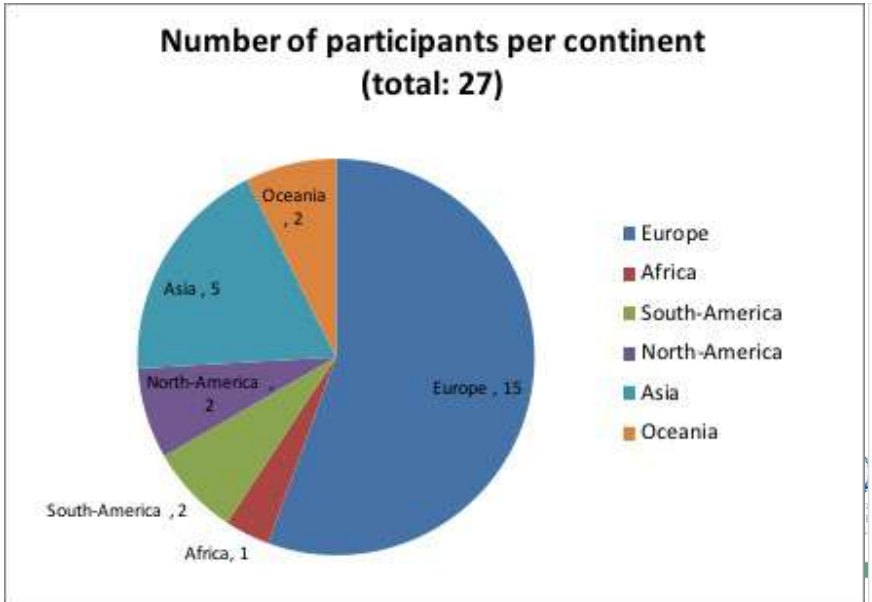
- WCRP should setting clear and measurable objectives in terms of emission reduction over a given time period.

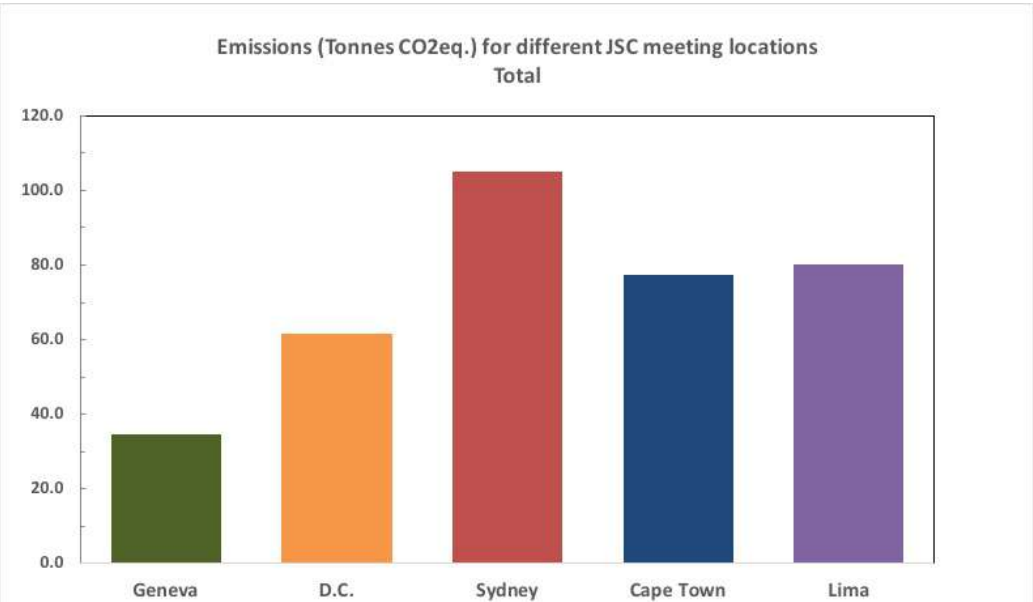
- **Our Proposal**: Reduce WCRP CO_2 emissions by **75% by 2030** (relative to current). This should apply for all WCRP activities, such as travel, building heating & electricity, procurements, etc.

JSC annual meeting location

For the current JSC/IPO/JPS composition (55% from Europe):

Meeting is Geneva is 40% less CO_2 than D.C, 55% less than Cape Town or Lima and 65% less than Sydney.



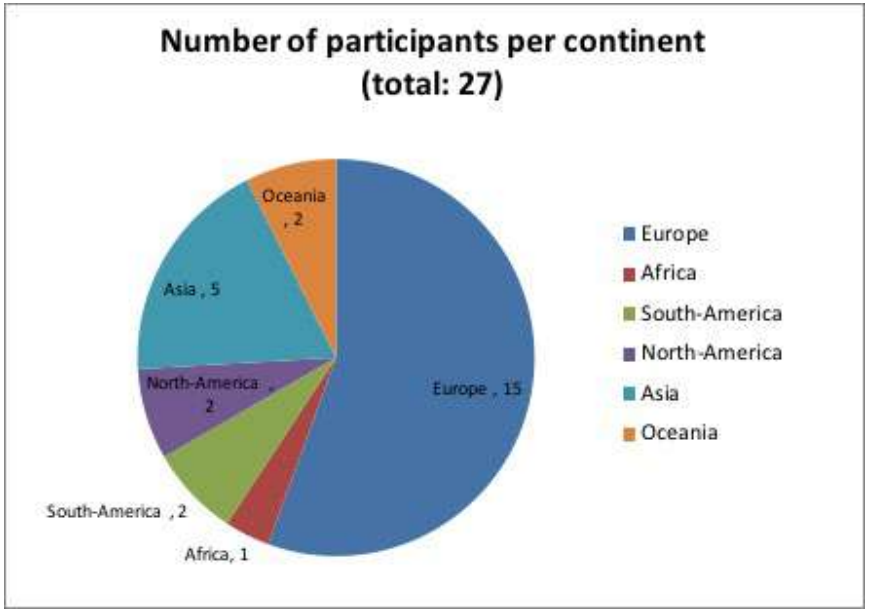


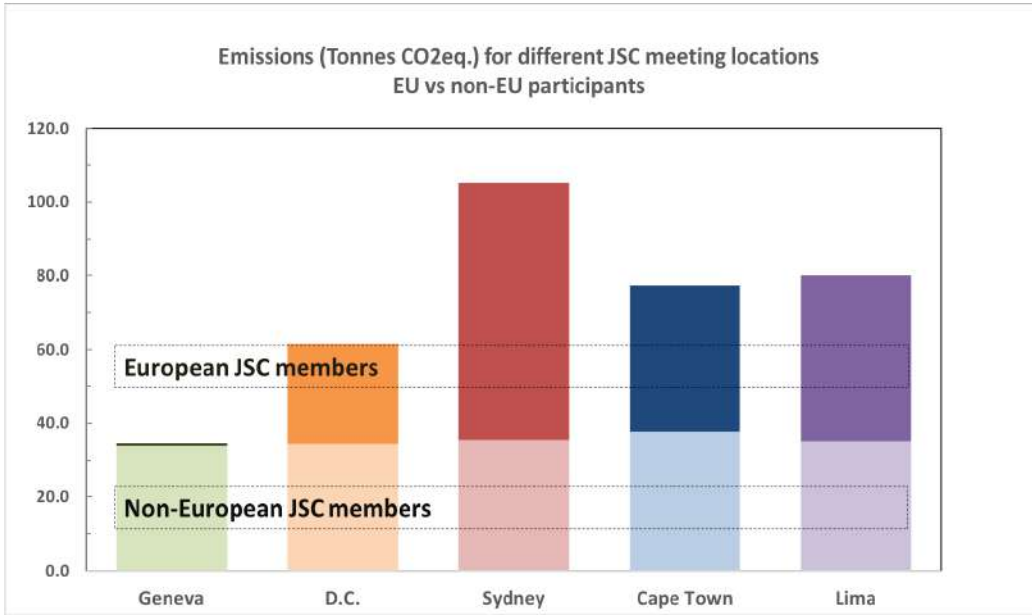
JSC annual meeting location

For the current JSC/IPO/JPS composition (55% from Europe):

Meeting is Geneva is 40% less CO_2 than D.C, 55% less than Cape Town or Lima, and 65% less than Sydney.

Most of the difference comes from European participants. Non-European contribution is essentially the same regardless of the meeting location.





JSC annual meeting location

To put these numbers into context:

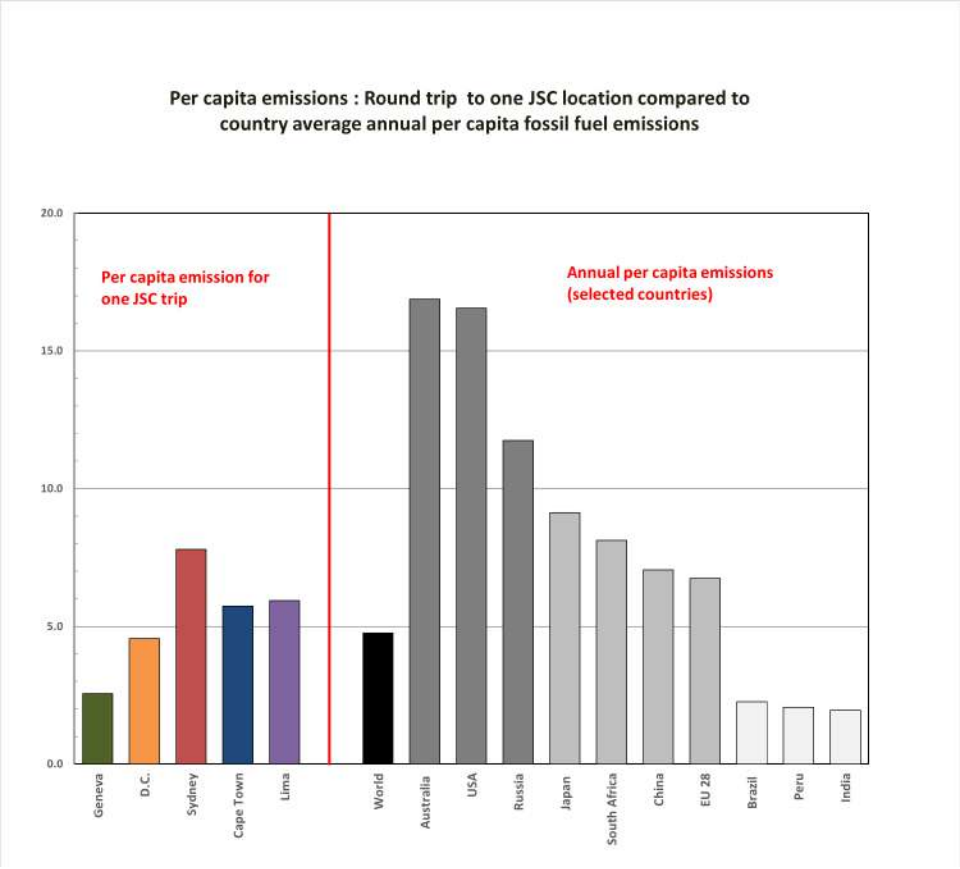
Averaged per participant,

A meeting in Geneva uses more than the annual (per capita) CO_2 emissions of Brazil, Peru, or India.

A meeting in Sydney uses more than the annual (per capita) CO_2 emissions of China, EU, Brazil, etc.

That's just for one trip !

Each of us who travels in this way emits much, much, more CO_2 per year than an average citizen of the world.



Work in Progress

- Assess carbon footprint associated with travel for all CPs and WGs
- Provide a first estimate of the WCRP carbon footprint from travel for 2019/2020
- Develop a fair strategy for reducing this carbon footprint by **75%** over the coming years.

Initial Recommendations

We recommend to the JSC that:

- all WCRP activities should always consider virtual meeting as the first option. Face-to-face meetings should only be envisaged if a virtual meeting would dramatically impact on the outcome of the meeting;
- all WCRP activities should start using carbon emissions as a key deciding factor in determining the location and format of their meetings;
- In particular, the JSC should use carbon emissions as a key deciding factor in determining the location and format of the 42nd Session of the JSC in 2021;
- the JSC appoint a task team to develop a WCRP Carbon Strategy by December 2020;
- all WCRP activities report their annual carbon emissions, to an agreed standard, to the WCRP Secretariat by March each year, beginning in 2022 (for 2021 emissions); and
- the JSC commit to reporting WCRP's carbon footprint (for the previous year) each year at the annual JSC Session, beginning in 2022, and also discuss progress and additional measures needed to meet its 2030 target.

WCRP Carbon Strategy Task Team

The WCRP Carbon Strategy Task Team would look at the following aspects:

- A strategy for travel to WCRP meetings
- A strategy for working with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), who hosts the WCRP Secretariat, on the carbon footprint of the Secretariat
- A strategy of working with each of the WCRP IPO host organizations on the carbon footprint of each office
- Additional strategies as required

Thank you