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PROGRESS REPORTS

Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Group III)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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1. Introduction

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Working Group III (WG III) since the last update presented during the 54th (bis) Session of the IPCC (IPCC-54 bis) in December 2021. The report covers:

- Preparation of the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), including:
 - Final Government Review (November 2021 – January 2022)
 - Government Webinars (January 2022)
 - Final SPM Writeshop (February – March 2022)
 - Fourteenth Session of Working Group III (March – April 2022)
 - Preparing the WG III contribution to AR6 for publication
- Working Group III contribution to the Synthesis Report
- Stakeholder engagement
- Working Group III contribution to TG-Data
- Technical Support Unit
- Communications and outreach
- IPCC Workshop on Scenarios
- Informal Group on Publications

2. Preparation of the WGIII Contribution to the AR6

2.1 Final Government Review

The Final Draft of the WG III contribution to the AR6 comprised final drafts of 17 Chapters, 10 Supplementary Material files, three Annexes, the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). The Final Government Review opened on 29 November 2021 and closed 30 January 2022. Over 4,950 comments on the SPM were received from 42 Governments.

2.2 Governments Webinars

Governments were invited to attend a series of informal webinars, with the aim of presenting the narrative of the SPM, addressing scientific conventions adopted and discussing key topics of demand-side mitigation, investment and finance, scenarios, and an overview of the synthetic figures. The webinars were scheduled for 11 and 13 January 2022, with each webinar repeated each day to allow participants to join the session at a time more suitable to them. Due to a technical difficulty, one session had to be held on 18 January.

2.3 Final SPM Writeshop

After receiving comments from governments from the Final Government Review and informal feedback through the webinars with governments, the SPM Drafting Author team met in a series of meetings from February to March 2022 to review and finalise the floor draft of the SPM.

2.4 Fourteenth Session of Working Group III

Noting the close proximity of the WG II and WG III Approval Sessions, a Task Team (see below) decided that plans for the two sessions should be harmonised as closely as possible. IPCC member governments were consulted on the format of the sessions from 14-25 October 2021. The Task Team, Co-Chaired by the IPCC Vice Chairs and including WG II and WG III Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs and the IPCC Secretary and Deputy Secretary, was convened to support preparations for the two sessions, including developing the Guidance Note

and session schedule. These initially built upon the approach for the WG I Approval Session (July 2021); however, processes and sequencing of activities within the WG III Approval Session were adjusted based on lessons learnt from the WG II Approval Session (February 2022).

The Fourteenth Session of Working Group III was held virtually, with thanks to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for hosting the core team in Surrey, England. Reflecting the virtual format, the session's duration was extended to two weeks, scheduled from 21 March to 1 April 2022 (the session lasted longer than planned and ended on 4 April). The Panel approved the SPM and accepted the underlying report. The meeting was supported by members of WG I and WG II in addition to WG III Technical Support Unit (TSU). The meeting would not have been possible without the exemplary co-operation across the three Working Groups.

2.5 Engagement with Working Groups I and II

WG III Bureau members, authors, and TSU worked closely together during the development and finalisation of respective reports. Particular attention was paid to cross-Working Group boxes, and WG III and WG II have collaborated closely to this end, with four cross-Working Group boxes included in the accepted report covering the topics of (i) Economic Benefits from Avoided Climate Impacts along Long-Term Mitigation Pathways; (ii) Climate Change and Urban Areas; (iii) Mitigation and Adaptation via the Bioeconomy; and (iv) Solar Radiation Modification. There was also close collaboration with WG I on issues such as climate emulators and carbon budgets.

The shared AR6 glossary was also achieved as a result of close collaboration across all Working Groups.

A major operational focus over this period has been preparation for the Approval Sessions of WG II (February 2022) and WG III (March 2022). A variety of planning meetings were held to share lessons learned and coordinate how TSUs could provide back-of-house support for the successful delivery of each Approval Session. WG III TSU members provided scientific and operational support to the approval session for WG II, including supporting Contact Groups, huddles, author meetings, and document management processes. WG III Bureau members also participated in the WG II session, providing advice on scientific matters falling under the WG III scope. As noted above, both WG I and WG II (Bureau, authors and TSU) made a vital contribution to the success of the WG III Approval Session.

2.6 Preparing the WG III contribution to AR6 for publication

With the approval of the SPM and acceptance of the underlying report, focus has turned to preparing for publication. Corrigenda and tricklebacks from the approved SPM have been incorporated into chapters. The entire report has undergone a technical proofread and copyedit, and chapters and annexes and summary products are now being typeset. Once complete, the report will be indexed and submitted for publication. A typeset SPM was made available for the 56th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA). Errata are being managed in line with the IPCC errata protocol.

3. Synthesis Report

Members of the WG III Bureau and TSU are engaged in the Writing Team and the Scientific Steering Committee of the Synthesis Report (SYR). Along with authors from the WG III report, they participated in the SYR Core Writing Team Meeting 3 on 25-28 April 2022. Following resumption of work on the Synthesis Report in July 2022, members of the Bureau and TSU continue to provide support to the development of the SYR Final Draft through the "eagle's eye group" which ensures that the SYR reflects the underlying Working Group reports, the "helicopter group" with oversight of figures, the Scientific Steering Committee and the Writing Team.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

From 6-16 June, experts from WG III's latest report contributed to the Climate Change Conference in Bonn (SB56), delivering the findings of the report and responding to questions about findings from Parties and Non-party observers. The IPCC was also represented by experts from WG II, similarly presenting findings from their report on climate impacts and adaptation. Activities included:

- *IPCC-SBSTA special event on IPCC WG III:* On 08 June, the IPCC-SBSTA Special Event sought to unpack the new scientific knowledge and key findings of the latest WG III report. In the three-hour session, experts from WG III delivered the report findings by way of the structure of the Summary for Policymakers.

- *Part II of the Structured Expert Dialogue:* On 08 June, WG III experts presented at the third meeting of the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) for the Second Periodic Review on the adequacy of the Convention's long-term global goal. Experts were invited to respond to questions submitted by Parties in advance of the session in relation to the findings of the WG III report and its relevancy for the Second Periodic Review.
- *Global Stocktake Technical Dialogue:* The Technical Dialogue involved a number of experts from WG III. Roundtables were set up with expert panels to include discussion on the science, and a World Café permitted a more informal setting for participants to explore topics across the scope of the GST. One of the WG III Co-Chairs co-facilitated a World Café table on energy transitions.

WG III is now preparing to participate in COP27 and is developing a list of events focused on the WG III report, which will include cross-collaboration with the other Working Groups and Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and will involve both authors and external participants.

5. WGIII Contribution to the Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data)

The WG III TSU has worked closely with authors to implement the new guidelines from TG-Data on FAIR Data Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) in advance of the approval and launch of the WG III contribution to AR6.

For the launch of the WG III Report, the data for all SPM figures was made available through the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) on the same day the report was accepted (4 April); since then, figure data for the WG III Technical Summary has also been published on the DDC. WG III TSU staff participated in the 8th TG-Data Teleconference (5 April) and the first two AR7-Recommendation Group meetings (26 May and 1 June).

Planning continues for WG III data outreach activities, with the aim of facilitating online outreach events, with sponsors from all continents, and where the AR6 Scenario Database would be introduced and participants would be provided with short, hands-on activities to learn how to use the database and extract data from it using the Scenarios Explorer.

6. Technical Support Unit

In light of the impacts of COVID-19, arrangements have been put in place with the co-sponsors of the Working Group III Technical Support Unit, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), for extension of financial support; however, given the later approval of the SYR, discussions are in progress regarding any final extensions to funding.

Since the Fourteenth Session of WG III, a number of science staff have left the TSU (equating to 3.6 full time equivalents of staff) and so the TSU is operating at a reduced staffing capacity (now comprising 8.5 full time equivalents).

7. Communications and Outreach

A number of key communications activities took place around the preparation, approval, and launch of the WG III report. These included:

- *Media training for authors* – to provide authors with the skills and techniques required to deliver high quality interviews with press (including broadcast, online, radio and print).
- *Development of key messages* – to assist in the dissemination of report findings to a variety of lay and general audiences.
- *Development of hot topics* – to assist in the explanation of report topics or themes that may be of interest to the public/scientific community, including those that may be outside some authors' direct areas of expertise.
- *Internal communications with authors* – to prepare authors in a cohesive manner for the many communications activities taking place and run by both IPCC and external parties in the lead-up to and following a report approval.
- *Engagement initiative with authors' host institutions (led by WG II)* - to advise and guide authors' institutions, organisations, or universities on how best to engage with the IPCC and support authors as IPCC spokespeople during a report launch (e.g., for outreach activities, events, or media/press work).
- *Engagement with the UN Foundation* – to support products being prepared by other UN agencies and third parties at the launch of the report.

- *Development of graphics-based products* – including an image library and new set of slide templates for authors to use at launch of the report.
- *Press/media products to launch the report* – including a press release and press conference.

The WG III Approval session, as part of the 56th session of the IPCC (IPCC-56), overrun by three days and as a result the press conference was delayed from the morning to the afternoon of Monday 4 April 2022. This was necessary to provide the IPCC Secretariat and WG III Communications teams time to prepare updated, external-facing communications. Preceding the press conference was a formal address by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. The official press conference was launched by a video trailer introducing audiences to the report and what it covers. During the press conference, IPCC representatives including the WG III Co-Chair and Vice-Chairs presented the overall findings of the report. Media and press interviews were then run into the evening of 4 April and during the day on 5 April. Over the period of the launch (including the two weeks before and following 4 April), the report was covered by 48,400 media articles around the world. This was approximately twice as many articles as published for the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. Further statistics about the reception of the report are available below under 'Communications and Outreach'. The delay to the press conference meant that less time was available for journalists to access the embargoed material in advance of the official launch. This is a pressing topic that should be considered for future report approvals and associated communications plans.

8. IPCC Workshop on the Use of Scenarios in AR6 and Subsequent Assessments

WG III is taking an active role in preparing for the *IPCC Workshop on the Use of Scenarios in AR6 and Subsequent Assessments* agreed by the Panel at IPCC-54 bis. The Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups have been agreeing on the membership of a Scientific Steering Committee. Discussions with the Secretariat regarding a location and precise timing of the Workshop in the first half of 2023 are under way.

9. Informal Group on Publications

WG III continues to support the work of the Informal Group on Publications which has been charged by the Bureau with developing processes for the translation of IPCC products. The Informal Group is co-chaired by Jim Skea WG III Co-Chair and WG II Vice-Chair Taha Zatari. The WG III TSU is providing Secretarial support. There is a separate report to the Panel on the work of the Informal Group on Publications.