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PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group II

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group II

This report describes the activities undertaken by Working Group II since the election of the Bureau in July 2023.

1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit

The Working Group II Technical Support Unit for the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle will be co-located in the Netherlands and Singapore. The Technical Support Unit will be hosted by Deltares in Delft, through funding from the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Infrastructure and Water Management, and by the Singapore Management University in Singapore through funding from the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment.

On 1 October the Head of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit was hired. As of the writing of this report, contracts are currently being finalized for the following four posts in Delft:

Deputy Head of Science
Deputy Head of Operations
Science Network Officer
Graphics and Storyline Development Officer

Additional posts supporting science, communications, IT, and administration will be advertised soon.

Six posts in Singapore are currently being advertised:

Head of Science
Head of Operations
Science Officer
Communications Officer
IT Officer
Administrative/Programme Officer

2. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

At its 43rd Session in April 2016, the IPCC agreed that the Seventh Assessment cycle would include a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

The Special Report will be developed under the joint scientific leadership of Working Groups I, II and III, with support from the Working Group II Technical Support Unit.

The Working Group I, II and III Bureau developed a list of over 80 example areas of expertise for the nomination of experts and selection of participants for the Scoping Meeting. These examples have been grouped into six overarching categories:

- Biophysical
- Impacts and Risks, including (i) Economic and Non-economic Losses and Damages and (ii) Compounding and Cascading Aspects
- Sectoral Development, Adaptation, Mitigation and Responses to Losses and Damages
- Energy and Emissions
- Governance, Policy, Institutions, Planning and Finance
- Civil Society

In selecting scoping meeting participants, consideration will be given to the scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, including the range of views; geographical representation; a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC; gender balance; and the participation of experts with a background from relevant stakeholder and user groups, including urban practitioners and planners, representatives of civil society organizations and local/regional governments.

A Scientific Steering Committee, comprised of the six Working Group Co-Chairs, two Vice-Chairs from each Working Group, and Chaired by IPCC Vice-Chair, Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, has been established to support the scoping of the Special Report. The Scientific Steering Committee will

- prepare, in consultation with the Working Group I, II, and III Bureau, a list of nominated experts to be invited to participate in the scoping meeting.
- prepare the draft agenda and documentation for the scoping meeting, and
- prepare the outcomes of the scoping meeting for consideration by the Panel.

A call to the Focal Points of IPCC member Governments and Observer Organizations inviting the nomination of experts for the Scoping Meeting was opened on 20 October 2023 and closed on Friday, 17 November 2023.

The Scoping Meeting will be held in April 2024 in Riga, Latvia. The kind invitation of the Government of Latvia is gratefully acknowledged. The exact dates are being confirmed now and will be announced soon. Invitations to invited experts will be extended at the end of January.

The outcomes of the Scoping Meeting will be considered by the Panel at its 61st Session later in 2024.

3. UNFCCC COP-28

Working Group II contributed to a range of events and activities at the COP-28 in December 2023. The Working Group II Co-Chairs participated in the IPCC Side Event on *Key Findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report in the Context of Recent Developments and Outlook for the Seventh Cycle* and Working Group II Bureau Members contributed to a number of IPCC events at the IPCC/WMO/MERI Climate Science for Action Pavilion and organized three of these:

Supporting Climate Science and Strengthening IPCC Engagement in Under-represented Countries addressed the challenges that many IPCC member governments face in supporting climate science and engaging with the IPCC. It focused on common challenges faced by Least Developing Countries as well as small or emerging economies.

The Road Ahead for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities introduced the pathway for Special Report that will be developed during the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle. It introduced the context underlying the Special Report and reviewed urban assessment undertaken during the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. The discussion included speakers from all three Working Groups as well as representatives from relevant observer organizations and focussed on engaging with the audience on soliciting knowledge gaps and priorities for users.

Adaptation-Mitigation Synergies and Tradeoffs explored the synergies and tradeoffs between adaptation and mitigation and highlighted the system transitions identified in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report that can help exploit synergies and avoid tradeoffs.

Working Group II Bureau Members were engaged in several mandated events and other activities, including on the Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Loss and Damage, and the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities Indigenous Peoples Platform.

4. Cross-Working Group Coordination

Efforts to ensure strong and consistent cross-Working Group collaboration have been established, including monthly meetings of the Working Group Co-Chairs, with additional weekly and monthly meetings organized to support targeted activities, such as the development of the Cross-Working Group Co-Chair White Paper on Options for the Products and Timeline of the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle that was presented to the 66th Session of the IPCC Bureau that helped inform the work of the Informal Group on the IPCC Programme of Work. Bi-weekly meetings of the Working Group Heads of Technical Support Unit have also been established to support cross-Working Group coordination.