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PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group III

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group III

1. TSU Set-up

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) structure has been agreed by the Working Group III (WGIII) Co-Chairs. The WGIII TSU will be distributed – with nodes at the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in Washington DC; at partner entities in Asheville, NC, and elsewhere in the United States; and around the globe, e.g., co-located with the developing country co-chair at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The TSU-Washington node will consist of the TSU Head, Head of Science, and several scientific and operational staff. The TSU-Asheville node will consist of technical services professionals (editorial, web, production) with vast experience supporting the U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA) process. The TSU-Malaysia node will be funded primarily via a Memorandum of Understanding with multiple donor countries, with staff to be based at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Contractual arrangements for all entities are far advanced.

The TSU Head has been selected and contributing. Three additional positions have been advertised for the TSU-Washington node: Head of Science, Technical Specialist, and an Operations Specialist. A search for a staff scientist will commence once the Head of Science has been hired.

An Administrator is in place to help ramp up TSU-Malaysia. Once donor funds are in place, in the first quarter of 2024, three additional hires will be made: a Senior Scientist, a Science Officer, and a Program Officer.

Openings have been and will continue to be promoted via <https://www.ipcc.ch/about/vacancies/>.

2. Special Report on Cities

WGIII is a fully engaged partner in the joint Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SR-Cities) – contributing to the planning and execution of the scoping meetings nominations process led by WGII. The WGIII Co-Chairs and two WGIII Vice-Chairs serve on the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) responsible for (i) paring the 1,208 Government nominations to ~100 invitees (taking gender, diversity, IPCC experience, career stage, disciplinary expertise, and regional balance into consideration), and (ii) developing the scoping meeting program. All WGIII Bureau members plan on attending the scoping meeting.

3. AR7 White Paper

WGIII is helping prepare a paper that will serve as basis for discussions on the seventh assessment (AR7) cycle work plan at the 60th Session of the Panel (IPCC-60 • 16-19 January 2024 • Istanbul, Turkey). The Working Group (WG) Co-Chairs presented the first version at the 66th Session of the Bureau (BUR-66 • 15-16 November 2023 • Geneva, Switzerland), where it was decided that an Informal Group on the Programme of Work of the seventh assessment (AR7) cycle (IG-PoW) be convened to prepare an IPCC-60 version, to be submitted on behalf of the full IPCC Bureau. IG-PoW consists of the WG Co-Chairs (rapporteurs), IPCC Vice Chairs, and IPCC Chair with the TSU Heads as observers. The WGIII Bureau had the opportunity to comment on version 2 of the draft from 6-11 December 2023.

4. COP-28

In collaboration with the IPCC Secretariat, sister Working Groups, and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, WGIII organized four events that took place at the Science for Climate Action Pavilion:

- **1 December** – *Exceeding and returning to 1.5°C: what are the knowledge gaps?*
This session addressed the concept of “overshoot” in the context of the long-term global temperature goal. Presentations discussed how overshoot has been assessed from a conceptual perspective (in climate and socio-economic scenarios) and the implications for climate, including extremes, for natural and human systems, and for policy development.
- **5 December** – *Energy and industry: Insights from AR6 and knowledge gaps for AR7*
Presentations highlighted the role of energy and industry in greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation, climate change impacts and adaptation in these sectors, and how these were assessed in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report. Discussion focused on knowledge gaps that could be addressed in future IPCC assessments.
- **6 December** – *Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) to reach net-zero and return from overshoot: knowledge gaps and research priorities*
This session addressed CDR, an essential element of returning from an overshoot of 1.5°C via net-negative CO₂ emissions. After an initial presentation on the AR6 approach, speakers provided insights on emerging research areas and persisting knowledge gaps.
- **10 December** – *Food, agriculture, land, and water: Insights from AR6 and knowledge gaps for AR7*
Presentations highlighted findings from AR6 related to mitigation in food and agriculture; impacts and adaptation options for food, agriculture, and water; and linkages between climate, food, agriculture, water, and sustainability. The discussion focused on knowledge gaps that could be addressed in future IPCC assessments.

WGIII also participated in the 4 December United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) side event, *Key findings of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report in the context of recent developments and outlook for the seventh cycle*, where speakers reflected on key findings of the IPCC’s Synthesis Report and other AR6 products, in the context of recent extreme events and developments in emissions, adaptation, and finance.

5. Cross-Working Group Coordination

WGIII endorses cross-working group collaboration and intends to build on the progress made during the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle. Integrative efforts to date include monthly informal cross-Working Group Co-Chair meetings; ad hoc meetings to ramp up the SR-Cities effort, which have evolved into formal SSC meetings; a pilot team to generate the joint AR7 White Paper considered at BUR-66, and which now serves the rapporteur function for IG-PoW; and bi-weekly TSU Head meetings. WGIII is also fully engaged in the AR7 Executive Committee and regular secretariat interactions such as the TSU Liaison Group, both of which also meet monthly.