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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by Working Group II

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by Working Group II

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Working Group II (WGII) since the last update presented during the Sixtieth Session of the IPCC in January 2024.

1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit

The Working Group II Technical Support Unit for the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle is co-located in the Netherlands and Singapore. The Technical Support Unit is 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.

As of mid-June, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit has hired a Head of TSU, Head of Science (Singapore), Head of Science (Delft), Head of Operations (Delft), Deputy Head of Operations (Singapore), Science Officer (Singapore), Science Officer (Delft), Science Network Officer (Delft), Graphics and Storyline Design Officer (Delft), Communications Officer (Singapore), Internet Technology and Data Officer (Singapore), and an Internet Technology and AI Officer (Delft). All persons should be in their respective posts by the end of July.

Additional posts supporting communications and administration will be advertised later this year.

2. Scoping of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report

In preparation for the opening of the call for nomination of experts, the Working Group II Bureau prepared the Working Group II areas of expertise for the nomination form. A parallel process across the Working Group Bureau was established to identify the areas of cross-cutting expertise.

The call to Focal Points of IPCC member Governments and Observer Organizations and the IPCC Bureau Members inviting the nomination of experts for the Scoping Meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report opened on 3 May 2024 and closed on 12 June 2024. 2393 nominations were received during the nomination period.

The selection of experts for the invitation and reserve lists for the scoping of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report, including the update to the 1994 IPCC Technical Guidelines on Adaptation, is currently being undertaken by the members of the Working Group II Bureau. When selecting scoping meeting participants, consideration is given to the criteria defined by the IPCC policies and procedures: 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 governments. Invitations to selected experts to attend the Scoping Meeting will be extended in mid-September.

The Scoping Meeting will be held 9–13 December 2024 in Kuala Lumpur at the kind invitation of the Government of Malaysia.

3. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

The Scientific Steering Committee for the Scoping of the Special Report met 22 times between November 2023 and July 2024 to

- i) support the members of the Working Group I, II and III Bureau in the selection of experts to be invited to the Scoping Meeting;
- ii) develop the programme for the Scoping Meeting;

- iii) prepare the documentation to inform the Scoping Meeting; and
- iv) prepare the outcomes of the Scoping Meeting for consideration by the IPCC at its 61st Session (see IPCC-LXI/Doc. 2 and IPCC-LXI/INF. 1).

A call to the Focal Points of IPCC member Governments and Observer Organizations and Bureau Members inviting the nomination of experts for the Scoping Meeting opened on 20 October 2023 and closed on 17 November 2023. 1293 nominations were received.

The selection of experts for the invitation and reserve lists was developed and agreed upon following an iterative process between the Scientific Steering Committee and the members of the Working Group I, II and III Bureau. When selecting scoping meeting participants, consideration was given to the criteria defined by the IPCC policies and procedures: 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. Including those invitations extended in response to regrets, a total of 133 invitations were extended (99 nominated experts and 34 IPCC Bureau members).

A series of pre-scoping activities were organized prior to the scoping meeting. Pre-scoping webinars were held to engage all experts nominated but not attending the Scoping Meeting. The nominated experts were invited to register for the webinar and respond to a pre-scoping questionnaire to share their views on the scoping of the report. 660 written responses were received. The webinars were held 18–19 March 2024 at three different times to ensure the broadest possible participation. IPCC member government Focal Points were also invited to attend. 432 individuals participated in the webinars. The feedback received during the registration process, and the outcomes of the webinars were synthesized and included as an annex to the Background Document prepared for the Scoping Meeting participants.

The Scoping Meeting was held from 16 to 19 April 2024 in Riga, Latvia. The kind invitation of the Government of Latvia is gratefully acknowledged. The Scoping Meeting was attended by 93 experts and 30 Bureau members, with an additional 3 experts and 4 Bureau members joining one or more sessions online. Table 1 provides an overview of the experts across a range of criteria, comparing the list of nominations, the invitation list, and the participant list.

Table 1: Comparison of nominations, the invitation list, and the participant list.

	Nominations	Invitation List	Participant List
Region I: Africa	19%	17%	19%
Region II: Asia	15%	20%	19%
Region III: South America	6%	12%	12%
Region IV: North America, Central America and the Caribbean	11%	13%	13%
Region V: South-West Pacific	5%	12%	12%
Region VI: Europe	44%	25%	25%
Development Status*	Developed 54% DC/EIT 46%	Developed 40% DC/EIT 60%	Developed 40% DC/EIT 60%
Gender	Male 60% Female 40%	Male 51% Female 49%	Male 52% Female 48%
Previous IPCC Experience**	Yes 14%; Some 22%; No 64%	Yes 39%; Some 22%; No 40%	Yes 46%; Some 20%; No 34%

* DC/EIT = Developing Country or Country with Economy in Transition;

** Yes = had participated in an elected (Bureau Member) or selected (Coordinating Lead Author, Lead Author, Review Editor) role, Some = Contributing Author, Expert Reviewer, Chapter Scientist, Focal Point, Government Delegate, No = no previous experience in the IPCC.

Five pre-recorded scene-setting and introductory presentations were pre-recorded and provided to participants to view ahead of the Scoping Meeting through the Papersmart platform. This allowed for an accelerated start to the Scoping Meeting programme of work in Riga.

The Scoping Meeting programme was developed to facilitate the preparation of a proposed outline and included a mix of plenary sessions, breakout group sessions, and stocktaking sessions. The first plenary session began with a keynote conversation followed by an interactive session that was facilitated by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. The first of the five breakout groups sessions provided participants with an opportunity to brainstorm in small groups to identify a range of relevant topics for the report. Subsequent breakout group sessions clustered these into broad themes from which a structure for the report began to emerge. This was then further distilled into potential chapters where bullets of indicative content were developed. The emerging structure was further refined in response to identified gaps, with other areas merged to address overlaps across potential chapters. The outline agreed by participants during the final plenary session includes five chapters (see IPCC-LXI/Doc. 2).

A number of media and outreach activities were held in conjunction with the Scoping Meeting, including a media briefing, a briefing to the Latvian Parliament, and an outreach event co-organized with the Riga City Council. The European CLIMAAX research project also organized an event during the week that was open to all participants. The local organizing committee also organized a series of excursions for participants that combined relevant urban topics with walking tours highlighting these topics within Riga.

The Scoping Document for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (IPCC-LXI/INF. 1) provides detailed information on the nominations and selection processes, the pre-scoping activities, a detailed report of the scoping meeting and an annotated version of the proposed outline contained in IPCC-LXI/Doc. 2.

4. UNFCCC SBSTA-60

Working Group II provided a number of contributions to the SBSTA Session in June 2024. The Working Group II Co-Chairs participated in the IPCC Side Event *Scientific foundations of the products that will be produced in the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle*. Working Group II Bureau Members and previous Authors of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report were engaged in several events and activities, including an invited presentation for the Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change.

5. Cross-Working Group and TFI Coordination

Efforts to ensure strong and consistent collaboration across Working Groups and with the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) are well established. This includes bi-weekly meetings of the Co-Chairs as well as bi-weekly meetings of the Heads of the Technical Support Units. Additional weekly and monthly meetings were held to support targeted discussions, such as the development of the Strategic Planning for the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle, potential Expert Meetings, and the Scoping Meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report.

In the preparation of the Strategic Planning for the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle (see IPCC-LXI/Doc. 10), Working Group II, in collaboration with Working Groups I and III, TFI and the Chair, have i) met on a regular basis to prepare the timeline and supporting documentation; ii) organized sub-group meetings of the IPCC Bureau members to inform draft development, and supported the finalization of the document by the IPCC Bureau.

To increase cross-Working Group integration and enhance the selection of cross-cutting experts a series of cross-Working Group Co-Chair and Working Group/TFI Co-Chair–Chair calls are planned from July to September to support the selection of participants for the Scoping Meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report.