

**SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPCC**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria, 27 July – 2 August 2024**

IPCC-LXI/Doc. 7  
(4.VII.2024)  
Agenda Item: 6  
ENGLISH ONLY

**OPTIONS FOR EXPERT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE SEVENTH  
ASSESSMENT CYCLE**

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of the IPCC Working Groups and Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

## OPTIONS FOR EXPERT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

### Considerations for AR7 Expert Meetings and Workshops

This document is submitted by the Co-Chairs of the IPCC Working Groups and Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), building on discussions held at the 67<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting. IPCC Expert Meetings (EMs) and Workshops will form an important pillar of the Seventh Assessment Cycle's ambition to enhance cross-Working Group and TFI coordination and to raise collective awareness and prepare consensus on emerging topics.

Depending on topic and purpose, EMs and Workshops may be held:

- Before the Scoping Meeting of the Assessment Reports, thus informing the scoping process;
- After the Scoping Meeting but before Author selection, helping to prepare consensus, develop guidance for Authors, and to foster collaboration within the scientific community on emerging topics;
- After Author selection to specifically address key issues within the framework of the scoped and approved outlines of the AR7.

EMs and Workshops may also be held towards the conclusion of AR7 to help inform and set the agenda for subsequent assessment cycles, i.e. AR8.

### Meetings scheduled before the AR7 Scoping Meeting (in 2024)

Three Expert Meetings and one Workshop have already been scheduled:

- **EM Land:** IPCC Expert Meeting on Reconciling Land Use Emissions (Ispra, Varese, Italy, 9-11 July 2024), led by the TFI;
- **EM CDR/CCUS:** IPCC Expert Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilisation and Storage (Vienna, Austria, 1-3 July 2024), led by the TFI;
- **WS GHGI:** IPCC Workshop on the IPCC Inventory Software (28-30 August 2024) led by the TFI;
- **EM3 GDI:** IPCC Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity and Inclusivity, led by the Gender Action Team (GAT), tentatively scheduled for Q4 2024.

### Proposed Meetings in 2025 and early 2026

Suggested topics for this period are suggested by the co-chairs and their WG Bureaus. These include (by alphabetic order):

#### **EM Adaptation Guidelines, Metrics and Indicators** (lead: WGII, contributions from WGI and WGIII):

This meeting could help in structuring the main elements and potential workflow of the update to the 1994 IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, including metrics and indicators, that will be delivered in conjunction with the WGII AR7. Timing of this EM in Q1/2026, shortly after LAM1, will support the Authors with insights from an additional expert pool, and may draw from ongoing and complementary work on adaptation metrics and indicators under the SBSTA, e.g. in the context of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

**EM High-Impact Events and Tipping Points** (lead: WGI, with participation of all WGs, and supported by the World Climate Research Program (WCRP):

The goal of this Expert Meeting is to prepare consensus for the WG-specific assessment for this important topic subject to intense research and debates in the community. The goal of the meeting, ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting (LAM1), will be to discuss definitions and latest research, ways of assessing research that acknowledges the range of views on this topic and identify engaged communities and experts, and therefore also potential authors, with a regional diversity. The meeting will also serve to prepare effective communication across working groups on the topic of high impact events and tipping points. This is important, since even for climate-only tipping points, impacts reach into society and economy.

This meeting is described in a separate document (IPCC-LXI/Doc. 7, Add. 1).

**EM Novel Approaches to Assessing Knowledge on Climate Change and Society's Responses** (lead: IPCC Chair):

The challenges of assessing ever-increasing volumes of literature and incorporating a wider range of knowledge, including Indigenous Knowledge and practitioners' knowledge, are clearly recognized. The purpose of the meeting is (a) to identify means to assess the increasing body of climate change literature, including the potential and limitations of using, for example, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques to identify, select and analyse documents for the assessment; (b) to identify means of drawing on wider forms of knowledge; and (c) to identify potential trade-offs between approaches and ambitions. Aspects of participation/representation of holders of Indigenous Knowledge and practitioners' knowledge assessment may be addressed in the "Gender and Diversity" expert meeting (EM GDI). Here the focus would be on the knowledge element rather than/in addition to issues related to participation/representation of underrepresented communities.

#### **Other topics identified as priorities along the 7<sup>th</sup> assessment cycle**

Bureau Members identified a number of other topics of particular relevance for the 7<sup>th</sup> Cycle that could be taken up through Expert Meetings and Workshops, sometimes in close cooperation with relevant international and scientific organizations. The list of topics below is neither exhaustive nor exclusive, intended to reflect and guide ongoing discussions in the Bureau which will further evolve as the cycle progresses.

**Health and Climate Change:** The impact of climate change on health is a vast research topic, and mitigation and adaptation measures can provide substantial health co-benefits and avoid health risks. This topic could benefit from enhanced cross-WG coordination between the Authors of the relevant chapters, but also with the wider health community. At the 67<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting, strong support emerged for IPCC engagement on the topic, including the option of a dedicated Expert Meeting.

**Regional Climate Information and Interactive Atlas** (co-lead WGI and WGII): The objective is to set up the interface between WGI and WGII regarding regional climate information. That includes in particular establishing a list of Climatic Impact-Drivers for impacts at regional scale, but also for high-impact global events. Building on the WGI AR6 Interactive Atlas, the potential for Atlas extensions towards mapping impacts and/or adaptation policy status can be explored, as well as the further development of digital products. This meeting would be particularly useful with strong participation by selected authors and may be scheduled close to LAM1.

**Earth Observation Data Accessibility for Climate Studies:** The TG-Data Co-Chairs have suggested a meeting dedicated to Earth Observation Data for regions with sparse data coverage, responding to a recommendation from an IPCC 2016 EM to investigate additional utilization of Earth Observations in IPCC Assessments.

**Science Communication:** An EM on Science communication has been previously agreed by the Panel but not yet implemented. This would be led by the Chair who has proposed to use this space to address “communication with policymakers” and explore, for example, ways to find the proper balance between conciseness, clarity and comprehensiveness of reports and SPMs. Preferably, this EM would be held early in the cycle, close to LAM1.

**Scenarios, Equity and Sustainable Development:** Scenarios have played an important role in all Working Groups during previous IPCC Assessment cycles. The IPCC Workshop on Scenarios in Bangkok (April 2023) provided the opportunity to take stock of progress and challenges experienced during the 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Cycle. Its recommendations to the IPCC underscore the importance of early coordination of scenario assessment procedures across and within working groups and their respective research communities.

**Overshoot: Exceeding and Returning from a Warming Level:** addresses the feasibility and implications of peak and return pathways, especially regarding feedbacks in the terrestrial and marine carbon cycle, land requirements and limitations to support CDR, and climate change impacts associated with temporarily exceeding a warming level and returning. This may be addressed in conjunction with the wider discussion on scenarios, or as a standalone format.