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STRATEGIC PLANNING SCHEDULE FOR THE SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

Improving inclusivity in AR7

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Groups and TFI with inputs from WG Bureaus)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

STRATEGIC PLANNING SCHEDULE FOR THE SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

Improving inclusivity in AR7

Ways to improve inclusivity during the preparation of AR7 Reports

In Decision IPCC-LX- 9 Para 12, the IPCC panel highlighted that AR7 products be developed with “the need to be inclusive in representation and literature assessment.” The WG and TFI Co-Chairs, in consultation with and with inputs from the WG Bureaus, plan to enhance the inclusion of a wider pool of authors, experts and reviewers, particularly from developing countries, in the preparation of IPCC reports in AR7.

To this end, we propose (i.) measures that support authors and experts in the writing and scoping of reports; (ii.) measures to support experts and Governments in the review of IPCC reports and support of Governments during approval of reports, and (iii.) measures to include diverse knowledge sources assessed in IPCC reports.

1. Inclusivity of authors & experts

In AR7, the Bureau will work towards improving the diversity of climate change experts involved in the preparation of IPCC reports by ensuring a balanced representation of developed/developing countries, gender and scientific disciplines, early career researchers, practitioners and experts from Indigenous communities. Inclusivity of authors and experts not only relates to ensuring diversity in participation in meetings, but also to ensuring the voices and written inputs of all participants are heard, read and considered. A number of options are proposed for this cycle:

1. Define the agenda and contribute to the outcomes of the Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity and Inclusivity (planned in late 2024/early 2025), aimed at reaching a more inclusive process and resulting IPCC reports. A Scientific Steering Committee for this Expert Meeting is currently being formed.
2. Use the proposed period of 12 months between the AR7 Scoping Meeting and LAM1 to:
 - a. Organize outreach activities to raise awareness about the different ways to participate in IPCC (e.g. as authors, experts, reviewers, or contributing authors), tailored to the different target audiences;
 - b. Facilitate Bureau member participation in outreach activities by developing a common set of presentations on ways to participate in the IPCC;
 - c. Actively network with scientific, governmental and IPCC observer organizations (that can nominate authors), to facilitate awareness and the importance of nominating experts for IPCC activities;
 - d. Enable Co-chairs and Vice-chairs to actively engage with CLAs and LAs in promoting inclusivity in report preparation, e.g. by referring to the IPCC Code of Conduct, etc.
2. During the cycle, promote participation in meetings by providing feasible and tailored options for online participation, information on or support for childcare, avoiding overlap with UN holidays, and providing assistance to participants.
3. Training on inclusive practices for CLAs and LAs during LAM1 and subsequent meetings aimed at better meeting practices and signaling necessary interventions.
4. Present a guidance note on selecting and incorporating inputs from contributing authors, including attention to the contribution to ensure a desirable balance in the team of experts, and instructions for handling unsolicited inputs.
5. Continue efforts to enable the recruitment of chapter scientists and engage early career scientists, particularly from developing and least developed countries.
6. Adopt standard agenda item on the IPCC Code of Conduct at monthly WG Bureau meetings and CLA coordination meetings, including discussion of ways to address reported inclusivity issues.
7. Monitor and evaluate inclusivity practices by periodically surveying participants on their experiences and adjusting practices if needed.

In addition, the Bureau will explore efforts aimed at sponsoring or co-sponsoring the following activities in conjunction with Secretariat and the Panel (as these are not solely in control of Bureau):

- Chapter scientists (particularly from developing countries) – via support from the Scholarship Fund;
- Internet access for IPCC authors;
- Access to scientific literature – via the Publication Committee; and
- Consideration of geographic balance when selecting hosts of IPCC meetings.

2. Inclusivity of participants in the reviews and approvals of IPCC reports

Overlapping reviews: The strategic planning schedule was developed to minimize overlapping reviews of IPCC reports and constrained to no more than two consecutive weeks when governments are involved. This has ensured that all government and expert reviews are at least 8 weeks. There are only 3 weeks of overlapping reviews that impact governments. This is a substantial reduction from the 14 weeks of overlap impacting governments in the AR6 pre-COVID plan. In addition, some review periods have been extended when overlaps occur to ensure adequate time for experts and governments to review.

Support for Governmental reviews: Webinars will be organized jointly with the Secretariat to orient focal points and government reviewers on the review process. This is consistent with the practice adopted in AR6 after the submission of the Final Government Drafts for the WG assessment reports and the Synthesis Report. Pre-plenary briefing sessions will be organized to inform Focal Points and delegates about the stages in the report production process and underscore the importance of a wide range of nomination and participation in the IPCC process.

Other aspects that could enhance the inclusivity of government representatives (e.g., travel for additional delegates to Panel meetings, and travel plans that ensure that delegations can participate fully until the end of an approval session) are outside the scope of the Bureau but will be referred to the appropriate entity as they are brought to the attention of Bureau members.

3. Diversity of content

The inclusion of diverse literature and knowledge sources, including from the Social Sciences and Humanities, non-English literature, non-peer reviewed literature, Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge improve the robustness of IPCC reports. A proposal for an Expert Meeting addressing enriched inclusion of multiple knowledge sources and perspectives is included in the Expert Meeting proposal to IPCC-61 (IPCC-LXI/Doc.7).

Annex 2 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work outlines the procedure on the use of literature in IPCC reports, including non-peer reviewed and non-English literature. For AR7, the guidance document will be distributed to all authors, aiming at enhanced inclusion of these sources that contribute to a robust and rigorous assessment.

To enhance equitable access to literature, the Bureau will explore options for ensuring equitable permanent and direct access to scientific journal articles, including potential agreements with the UN library and universities. This effort is included in the Terms of Reference for the IPCC Publications and Translations Committee (IPCC-LXI/Doc.4).

Other options to enhance the inclusivity of the scientific knowledge are:

- Before the AR scoping, webinars will be organized to solicit input from a broader set of experts, as was done ahead of the scoping of the SR on Climate Change and Cities;
- During scoping and report production, specific topics and regions that are underrepresented or face largest challenges due to lack of data/literature will be identified, and options for incorporating these aspects will be explored;

- Actively network with international organizations, including IPCC observers in order to understand the needs in various sectors for scoping the reports; and
- Use Expert Meetings to enhance the use of scientific knowledge and experiences promoting inclusivity of a diverse range of knowledge sources and scientific disciplines.