

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

IPCC-LXI/Doc. 2
(19.VI.2024)
Agenda Item: 4.1
ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR7) PRODUCTS

Outline of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

(Prepared by the Scientific Steering Committee for the Scoping of the Special Report)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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SEVENTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR7) PRODUCTS

Outline of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

1. Introduction

The Panel at its Forty-third Session (Nairobi, Kenya, 11–13 April 2016) in its Decision IPCC/XLIII-6. Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Products, Special Reports, paragraph 6, decided that the seventh assessment cycle would include a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

Thereafter, the Chair of the IPCC established a Scientific Steering Committee, Chaired by Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, IPCC Vice Chair, to undertake the scoping of the Special Report under the joint scientific leadership of Working Groups I, II and III with support from the Working Group II Technical Support Unit.

2. Scoping Meeting

A Scoping Meeting for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities was held in Riga, Latvia from 16 to 19 April 2024.

Participants were invited to discuss all aspects of the scope, outline, and contents of the report. The proposed outline for the Special Report was developed over the course of the scoping meeting. After intensive discussions within an iterative process between plenary sessions, breakout groups and stocktaking sessions, consensus was reached on the structure presented in Annex I.

3. Proposed Content and Structure of the Report

The proposed title and outline, with chapter headings and bullets of indicative content are presented in Annex I.

4. Time Schedule

A call for the nominations of experts to serve as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors will be issued in early August, immediately following the 61st Session of the IPCC. Approval and acceptance of the Special Report is planned for the 56th Session of the IPCC in early 2027. In order to achieve this, the timetable for the Special Report is as follows:

2024	
9 August – 20 September	Call for author nominations
23 September – 19 December	Selection of authors
2025	
10–15 March	First Lead Author Meeting
21–25 July	Second Lead Author Meeting
17 October – 12 December	Expert Review of First Order Draft
2026	
12–16 January	Third Lead Author Meeting
8 May – 3 July	Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft
3–7 August	Fourth Lead Author Meeting
11 December – 5 February	Final Government Distribution of the Final Draft & Government Review of the Summary for Policymakers

2027	
11 December – 5 February	Final Government Distribution of the Final Draft & Government Review of the Summary for Policymakers
15–19 March	Approval of the Summary for Policymakers and acceptance of the Special Report

5. Provisional Budget Estimate

The IPCC Secretariat has developed budget implications based on the proposed outline with five chapters, assuming chapter teams of about 15-20 authors with 50% from developing countries (DC) and countries with economies in transition (EIT).

Activity	DC/EIT Support	Additional Expenditure	Subtotal	Reference to Decision IPCC-LX-10
LAM1	200,000 50 journeys ¹	34,000	234,000	Annex 3
LAM2	200,000 50 journeys	34,000	234,000	Annex 3
LAM3	200,000 50 journeys	34,000	234,000	Annex 4
LAM4	200,000 50 journeys	34,000	234,000	Annex 4
IPCC-67 ²	40,000 10 journeys	6,800	46,800	n/a
Total				

Budget 2025: assuming 2 Lead Author Meetings with 50 journeys each for Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Bureau Members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at 4,000 CHF per journey, plus 68,000 CHF for other meeting costs. A subtotal of 468,000 CHF will be needed from the IPCC Trust Fund in 2025.

Budget 2026: assuming 2 Lead Author Meetings with 50 journeys each for Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Review Editors and Bureau Members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at 4,000 CHF per journey, plus 68,000 CHF for other meeting costs. A subtotal of 468,000 CHF will be needed from the IPCC Trust Fund in 2026.

Budget 2027: The overall budget for IPCC-67 would include funds for 10 Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend a preparatory meeting of SPM Drafting Authors and participate in the IPCC Joint WG Session to approve the Summary for Policymakers. This assumes 4,000 CHF per journey plus 17% for other meeting costs.

Costs for publication, translation and outreach of the Special Report will be included in the budget line items 'publications/translation' and 'outreach' for 2027.

¹ Including DC/EIT Bureau Members who will travel to LAM1-LAM4 in support of the Special Report.

² This will be part of the overall budget for IPCC-56 for DC/EIT SPM Drafting Authors who will travel to the Joint WG Session in support of the Special Report.

Outline of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

Title: IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

Summary for Policymakers

Technical Summary

Chapter 1: Cities in the context of climate change: framing of the report

- Integrated storyline of the report, chapter narrative, sequence, and linkages to other relevant processes and assessments
- Framing urban systems and climate risks (including complex, cascading, compounding, and repeating risks), and loss and damage.
- Climate resilient urban development, including consideration of interacting city targets and sustainable development goals.
- Cities as hotspots of effects of hazards and emissions, vulnerabilities, exposure, and impacts, while also being key climate actors.
- City typologies and other concepts relevant to the report considering the multi-dimensional characteristics of urban systems and their dynamics.
- Treatment of urban vulnerabilities, marginalized areas and people, equity, informality and justice.
- Psychology, perception, behaviour and attitudes toward climate change and cities.
- Interconnection between local context and global context (governance, science, air quality, and climate change).
- Assessment methodologies, including following a regional approach, diverse knowledge systems (including Indigenous Knowledge), practitioner expertise, city networks, and considered time frames and spatial scales.

Chapter 2: Cities in a changing climate: trends, challenges and opportunities

- Understanding and learning from the past (global climate, hazards, crises, socioeconomic developments), past and current climate in cities (trends, means, extremes), going to the future
- Urbanization, urban service, urban development trends (population, demographics, informality and inequity, land use, geography, minorities and intersectionality, urban extent, form, path dependencies, lock-in, retreat, reconstruction, growth and decline, resource and carbon footprint, health and wellbeing, waste management, ecosystems, economy, finance and insurance, work, artificial intelligence and digitization)

- Emissions trend, scenarios - taking into account the need to provide infrastructure to informal settlements, and including scenarios of rapid up-taking and upscaling of solutions, multi-level governance
- Climate, impact and risk scenarios: Cities at risk/crisis- compounding, with and without strong risk reduction, adaptation, resilience building- the need for climate resilient development (urban climate scenarios), eco-systems and biodiversity, food, health and housing, innovative technologies/methods (measurements and models)
- Adaptation, losses and damages, and socio-economic trends, policy and governance, colonization
- Understanding the two-way interaction/feedback between cities, regions and countries, science behind the interactions (understanding the biophysical mechanisms); social interactions; climate and air quality, multi-hazard components (compounding and cascading hazards)
- Data, information, tools accessibility/availability/usability/transparency
- Uncertainties, implementation gaps, unprecedented, ingenuity/social tipping and data
- Complexity and the need to contextualized climate change within broader societal trends (geopolitical, polarizing societal trends) and goals (Sustainable Development Goals), justice, cascading effects on critical infrastructure

Chapter 3: Actions and solutions to reduce urban risks and emissions

- Urban mitigation options for spatial planning, energy, buildings, mobility and transport, water, land, behavioral change and cross-sectoral, integrated approaches in urban systems.
- Urban adaptation options for managing risks in natural, ecological and human systems (including but not limited to physical infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and planning and social policies).
- Stocktaking and analysis of city actions across mitigation and adaptation, and responding to losses and damages, including lessons-learned, effectiveness and feasibility, mitigation measures with baseline emissions inventories and target-setting.
- Urban observation and modelling tools for monitoring and evaluation for sectors and unaccounted sources.
- Local risk assessments using scientific information, Indigenous Knowledge, and local knowledge of impacts, transformative adaptation, maladaptation and adaptation policy cycles.
- Linking mitigation and adaptation to sustainable development and just transitions, including integration, planning approaches under and for uncertainty and tipping points, synergies, trade-offs, nexus approaches, social innovation, climate resilient development and achieving net-zero targets.

- Metrics for assessing mitigation and adaptation options in the context of sustainable development and cities, including service provisioning that delivers health and well-being for all.
- Case studies/best practices/stories towards climate resilient development and decarbonization in cities.

Chapter 4: How to facilitate and accelerate change

- New ways of planning under and for uncertainty and tipping points
- Providing climate and information services to enable action, including evaluation of mitigation, adaptation, responses to losses and damages, and sustainable development
- Innovation in governance, urban planning, decision-making, technology, urban service provision, infrastructure, social systems, and finance, including adoption of innovation
- Institutional capacities, competencies, inclusive multi-level governance
- Indigenous Knowledge, local knowledge, diverse knowledge systems and values
- Behavioural and lifestyle changes, education for empowerment, social movements and communications
- Financial systems, legal frameworks, economic and policy instruments
- Holistic planning and systems thinking approach
- Structural inequity, colonialism, and justice
- Enabling conditions for poverty eradication, equity in just transitions
- Political will and leadership
- Conflicting goals and trade-offs

Chapter 5: Solutions by city types and regions

This chapter contains a summary of solution-relevant information by city types, distinguished by multi-dimensional characteristics such as:

- Geographical location (regions)
- Informality
- City climate and projections
- Climate impact drivers
- Mitigation options
- Sectoral contributions to the economy

- Migration, urbanization and demographic trends
- Vulnerability, impacts and risks
- Capacities
- Inclusiveness, equity and justice
- Governance
- Climate finance

Annex I: Glossary