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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by 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

This report describes the activities undertaken by Working Group III (WGIII) since the last update presented during the 60th Session of the Panel (P-60 • Istanbul, Türkiye • 16-19 January 2024).

1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit

A distributed Technical Support Unit (TSU) structure was agreed by the WGIII Co-Chairs – with nodes at the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in Washington DC; at a partner entity in Asheville, NC; and around the globe, e.g., co-located with the developing country co-chair or elsewhere in WMO Region II. The TSU-Washington node consists of the TSU Head, Head of Science, and several scientific and operational staff. The TSU-Asheville node consists of technical services professionals with vast experience supporting the U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA) process. The TSU-Malaysia node is funded primarily via a Memorandum of Agreement with donor countries, with most staff to be based at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The WGIII Co-Chairs extend their appreciation to the Governments of the United States of America, Norway, and New Zealand for their support in establishing TSU-Malaysia.

Four TSU-Washington positions have been filled: TSU Head, Head of Science, Technical Specialist, and Project Administrator. A vacancy announcement is open for a final staff scientist position. For TSU-Malaysia, a full-time Administrator is on board and a Senior Science Officer posting imminent. Fixed-term agreements are also in place to provide both logistical and scientific support for the organization and implementation of the AR7 Scoping Meeting. Since already affiliated with USGCRP, TSU-Asheville staff are on call for editorial, graphics, data curation, and web development services. Current staff are highlighted on the [WGIII TSU web page](#).

2. AR7 Strategic Planning

In collaboration with sister Working Groups, WGIII helped prepare Strategic Planning Schedule (SPS) documentation, which serves as basis for discussions on the AR7 work plan at the 61st Session of the Panel (P-61). Since late January 2024, the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups and the Task Force on Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) have prepared an SPS draft for consideration at the 67th Session of the IPCC Bureau (B-67 • Geneva, Switzerland • 30-31 May 2024) and then revised the draft for submission to P-61. A detailed schedule was prepared by the TSU Heads – taking into consideration the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, the three Working Group contributions to the AR7, two TFI Methodology Reports, the AR7 Synthesis Report, and other factors such as holidays and review periods. On behalf of the IPCC Bureau, the SPS documents were submitted in late June to the IPCC Secretariat to release to Governments in advance of P-61.

3. AR7 Scoping Meeting

As part of SPS development efforts, WGIII took the lead to identify suitable dates and venue for the AR7 Scoping Meeting. In mid-April, the WGIII Co-Chair (Joy Pereira) secured concurrence from the Malaysian Focal Point to explore options in Kuala Lumpur thus, in effect, WGIII became the local host. In late April and early May 2024, a conference requirements checklist (CRC) was refined in collaboration with sister TSUs and the IPCC Secretariat. TSU-Malaysia staff evaluated 23 potential venues and 12 received serious consideration, then a bid process was initiated with 3 after gaging alignment with the CRC (e.g., number of rooms, capacity), availability on preferred dates, and cost. On 11 June 2024, WGI and WGII TSUs concurred with the WGIII recommendation to secure conference facilities and lodging at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Kuala Lumpur (9-13 December 2024). The WGIII Co-Chairs extend their appreciation to the Government of Norway for co-sponsoring the meeting.

A call for Government nominations for experts to attend the AR7 Scoping Meeting ran from 3 May – 12 June 2024 (extended from 7 June). The WGIII Co-Chairs contributed to development of the nomination form, defining WGIII and cross-cutting priorities in consultation with the WGIII Bureau. The WGIII Co-Chairs also developed an internal process document for the selection of suitable WGIII experts and harmonized its schedule with that of WGI and WGII to share core lists. Regular interaction with the IPCC Chair and Vice Chairs regarding cross-cutting expertise needed for the Synthesis Report will result in an overall balanced slate. Evaluation criteria include scientific, technical, and socio-economic expertise, including the full range of views; geographical representation (including intra-regional considerations); IPCC experience and career stage (i.e., a mix of veterans and those new to the process); gender balance and other diversity/equity/inclusivity (DEI) objectives; and relevant stakeholder and user groups, including Governments. Invitations to the AR7 Scoping Meeting will be issued no later than 16 September to allow adequate time for the local host to process visas.

4. Special Report on Cities

WGIII is an engaged partner in the joint Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SR-Cities), which is being led by WGII. The WGIII Co-Chairs and two WGIII Vice Chairs served on the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) responsible for (i) selecting the invitees to the scoping meeting (Riga, Latvia • 16-19 April 2024), (ii) developing the program and background paper, (iii) organizing and conducting pre-scoping webinars, (iv) managing the meeting, and (v) producing the Decision Document for consideration at P-61. Most WGIII Bureau members attended the scoping meeting. Three WGIII TSU members attended the meeting to provide operational and science support.

5. Cross-Working Group Coordination

As evidenced by work on SR-Cities, AR7 SPS documentation, AR7 Scoping Meeting program planning, and identification of AR7 Expert Meeting topics and priorities, WGIII fully supports cross-working group collaboration. Integrative efforts include bi-monthly (and additional ad hoc) informal cross-Working Group Co-Chair meetings, bi-monthly TSU Head meetings, and regular SR-Cities SSC meetings. WGIII is also engaged in the AR7 Executive Committee and regular secretariat interactions such as the TSU Liaison Group, both of which also meet monthly. The WGIII Bureau meets monthly.