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SCOPING OF THE IPCC SEVENTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR7)

Steps taken, and further plans, to improve inclusivity in the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)

(Prepared by the Chair of the IPCC, with support from the Working Group and TFI Co-Chairs)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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In Decision IPCC-LX-9 Para 12, the IPCC highlighted that AR7 products be developed with “*the need to be inclusive in representation and literature assessment.*” This Information Document updates IPCC-LXI/INF. 15, *Improving inclusivity in AR7*, prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Groups and TFI¹ with inputs from the Working Group Bureaux. It has been revised to identify steps already taken to improve inclusivity and to provide an update on forward plans.

Embracing principles of inclusivity has major advantages for the quality and scope of the IPCC reports, its authority, and the well-being of all individuals contributing to the IPCC process.

To facilitate the monitoring of progress, this document follows the same structure as IPCC-LXI/INF. 15:

- (i) measures that support authors and experts in the writing and scoping of reports;
- (ii) measures to enhance the diversity of knowledge sources in IPCC reports; and
- (iii) measures to support experts and governments in the review of IPCC reports and to support of governments during approval of reports.

1. Inclusivity of authors and experts

In the AR7, the Bureau has been working towards improving the diversity of climate change experts involved in the preparation of IPCC reports by ensuring a balanced representation of developed and developing countries, gender, scientific disciplines, early-career researchers, new and experienced IPCC participants, and practitioners and experts from Indigenous communities.

Inclusivity of authors and experts not only relates to ensuring diversity in participation in meetings and author teams, but also to ensuring the voices and written contributions of all participants are heard, read and considered, and to ensuring equal access to the information to be assessed in the reports.

Steps taken

Expert Meeting on Gender, Inclusivity and Diversity. A Scientific Steering Committee for this Expert Meeting has been established and arrangements have been made for the meeting to be held at WMO² headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Generous support from the Government of Canada has allowed the number of planned participants to be increased from 40 to 60.

AR7 and Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. Cross-Working Group pre-scoping virtual consultations were conducted to engage experts who were nominated but not selected for these scoping meetings of these reports. The insights from these webinars were shared with the scoping meeting experts. Funding has also been obtained for Chapter Scientists from developing countries to support the Special Report — this will be managed by the Working Group II Technical Support Unit. The positions have been advertised and further work is under way to raise support for Chapter Scientists for the other AR7 products.

¹ TFI: The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

² WMO: World Meteorological Organization, <https://wmo.int/>.

Active networking with scientific, governmental and IPCC Observer Organizations (that can nominate authors) takes place on a continuous basis, including at UNFCCC COPs and Subsidiary Bodies' meetings and regional meetings, to understand the priorities of different user groups and raise awareness about opportunities to contribute to the IPCC process, including the nomination of experts for IPCC activities.

Code of Conduct. A Code of Conduct for meetings has been developed and an IPCC process for addressing conduct complaints is under development. The Gender Action Team, consisting of a broad representation across the Bureau, regions and Working Groups, regularly meets to discuss procedures and interventions that promote a diverse and inclusive working atmosphere and assessment process.

Access to peer-reviewed literature. One publishing house, the American Geophysical Union, will grant access to all of its journals to IPCC authors. The Working Group II Technical Support Unit has also organised an E-Journal Programme through the University of Utrecht that will provide all Global South Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities with online journal access. These efforts are also covered by the agreed Terms of Reference for the IPCC Publications and Translations Committee (Decision IPCC-LXI-11).

Further plans

A number of options are under development.

1. Use the proposed period between the AR7 Scoping Meeting and LAM1 to:
 - a. organize outreach activities to raise awareness about the different ways to participate in the IPCC (for example as authors, experts, reviewers or contributing authors), tailored to the different target audiences;
 - b. facilitate the participation of Bureau members in outreach activities by developing a common set of presentations on ways to participate in the IPCC;
 - c. enable Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs to engage actively with Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors in promoting inclusivity in report preparation, for example by referring to the IPCC Code of Conduct;
 - d. raise awareness amongst the selected authors about inclusivity questions, through pre-LAM1 webinars.
2. During the assessment cycle, promote inclusive participation in meetings by providing feasible and tailored options for online participation, information on or direct support for childcare, and avoiding overlap with major public holidays.
3. Provide training on inclusive practices for Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors during LAM1 and subsequent capacity enhancements aimed at improved communication and participation at meetings.
4. Present a guidance note on selecting and incorporating contributions from Contributing Authors, including instructions for handling unsolicited inputs, in order to ensure an improved balance in the team of experts.
5. Monitor and evaluate inclusivity practices by periodically (typically after each LAM) surveying participants on their experiences and adjusting practices if needed.

6. Enquire about potential difficulties in online access to literature and scientific databases for authors, and help in finding solutions with Coordinating Lead Authors.

In addition, the Bureau will explore reliable Internet access for IPCC authors and consider geographic balance when identifying prospective hosts of IPCC meetings.

2. Diversity of content

Steps taken

Workshop on New and Extended Methods of Assessment. A small drafting group convened by the Chair has developed a proposal for an IPCC Workshop on new and extended methods of assessment (IPCC-LXII/Doc. 7). This would consider how, for example, Indigenous Knowledge systems, local knowledge and practitioner knowledge could be robustly assessed.

AR7. Before the scoping meeting, webinars were organised to solicit input from a broader set of experts, as was done ahead of the scoping of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. The proposed Working Group report outlines also include a number of references to the diversity of sources of knowledge.

Active networking has taken place with international organizations, including IPCC Observer Organisations, to understand the needs in various sectors for scoping the reports.

Further plans

Annex 2 of the Principles governing the IPCC work³ outlines the procedure on the use of literature in IPCC reports, including non-peer reviewed and non-English language literature. For the 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.

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

- during the report production, specific topics and regions that are underrepresented or face a severe lack of data and literature sources, will be identified, and options for enhancing their representation explored;
- active networking with international organizations, including IPCC Observer Organisations, will continue during the production phase of the reports, to solicit a broad range of inputs from and understand priorities of different sectors, geographies and communities;
- Expert Meetings will be used to enhance the use of scientific knowledge and experiences promoting inclusivity of a diverse range of knowledge sources and scientific disciplines;
- steps will be taken to enhance the assessment of grey literature in order to capture better the progress and gaps in implementation of climate action. The assessment of grey literature will be addressed at the proposed Workshop on new and extended methods of assessment and by the efforts of the Working Groups.

³ IPCC, 'Annex 2: Procedure on the Use of Literature in IPCC Reports', in *Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work: Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports*, 2013, <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>.

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

Further plans

Support for government reviews. Virtual information sessions 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 the AR6 after the submission of the Final Government Drafts of the Working Group Assessment Reports and the Synthesis Report. Pre-plenary briefing sessions will be organized to inform Focal Points and delegates about the stages of the report production process and underscore the importance of having a wide range of experts nominated or participating in the IPCC process.

Overlapping reviews. The proposed report timelines have been developed to minimize the overlap of review periods of IPCC reports and to constrain these to be no more than two consecutive weeks for governments reviews. This ensures that all government and expert reviews are conducted over at least eight weeks. In addition, when overlap does occur, some of the proposed review periods were extended to ensure adequate time for experts and governments to get involved in the review.

Timely conclusion of meetings. The Chair and the Secretariat, seeking the support of member governments, will make every effort to conclude meetings in a timely manner to ensure that all perspectives are represented in final decisions.