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## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **Report by the Working Group II**

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **Report by the Working Group II**

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Working Group II (WGII) since the last update presented during the Sixty-first Session of the IPCC in July 2024.

#### **1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit**

The Working Group II Technical Support Unit for the IPCC Seventh Assessment cycle is co-located in the Netherlands and Singapore. The Technical Support Unit is hosted by Deltares in Delft, through funding from the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, and by the Singapore Management University in Singapore through funding from the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore.

The Working Group II Technical Support Unit is now fully staffed with 13 members from eight countries and five regions. It includes the following posts: Head of TSU (Delft), Head of Science (Singapore), Head of Science (Delft), Head of Operations (Delft), Deputy Head of Operations (Singapore), Science Officer (Delft), Science Officer (Singapore), Science Network Officer (Delft), Senior Communications Manager (Singapore), Storyline and Graphic Design Officer (Delft), Internet Technology and Data Officer (Singapore), and an Artificial Intelligence Support Officer (Delft).

#### **2. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities**

At its Sixty-first Session, the IPCC agreed on the outline and implementation plan for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (Decision IPCC-LXI-5). The budget for the production of the Special Report is as contained in Decision IPCC-LX-10 on the IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget.

A call to the Focal Points of IPCC member Governments, Observer Organisations and Bureau Members inviting the nomination of experts for the roles of Coordinating Lead Author, Lead Author and Review Editor opened on 9 August 2024 and closed on 20 September 2024. A total of 1201 experts were nominated for one or more roles.

The process and timeline for the selection of experts for invitation were developed by the Co-Chairs and TSU and agreed upon with the members of the Working Group I, II and III Bureau. The selection followed an iterative process between the Working Group Co-Chairs and the members of the Working Group I, II and III Bureau. When selecting experts, consideration was given to the criteria defined by the IPCC policies and procedures: the scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, including the range of views; geographical representation; a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC; and gender balance. Invitations to the 97 selected Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors were extended on 2 December with replacements in response to regrets extended on 3 January.

In support of the preparation of the Special Report and to enhance inclusivity, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit has secured funding to provide Chapter Scientists for the Coordinating Lead Authors from developing countries. The Chapter Scientists are being recruited through an open application process with the intent to have all positions in place ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting.

In addition, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit has organised an E-Journal Programme through the University of Utrecht to provide online journal access for all Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The First Lead Author Meeting will be held on 10–14 March 2025 in Osaka, Japan. The kind invitation of the Government of Japan is gratefully acknowledged.

### **3. Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report**

Background information on the scoping process for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report, including the Update to the 1994 IPCC Technical Guidelines on Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations, is contained in WGII-13/INF. 1. It provides an overview of the selection of experts for the scoping meeting, a summary of the pre-scoping activities undertaken ahead of the scoping meeting, and a report of the scoping meeting, including the proposed outline and the annotated outline, which provides additional information from the scoping meeting for the authors. Annexes are also provided, including the participant list and programme from the scoping meeting and a table summarising the cross-Working Group topics discussed at the meeting and their implementation in the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report.

### **4. UNFCCC COP-29**

Working Group II participated in a range of events and activities at COP-29 in November 2024.

The Working Group II Bureau Members contributed to a number of IPCC events held in the IPCC/WMO/MERI Climate Science for Action Pavilion. Working Group II organised an event on the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, which included an introduction to the agreed outline and the next steps in the preparation of the report. A panel was convened with participation from all three Working Groups to engage the audience in soliciting knowledge gaps and priorities for future users of the report.

During the first week of the COP, the WGII Co-Chair provided more than 10 presentations and participated in over 12 bilateral meetings. Several WGII Vice-Chairs were present during both weeks of the COP and participated in a range of discussions, dialogues and events.

### **5. IPCC Task Group on Data**

The IPCC Task Group on Data met in Singapore from 22 to 24 October 2024 at the kind invitation of the Government of Singapore. A Training for Technical Support Unit members was organised on 25 October to enhance the support for authors in the availability of data from the reports of the Seventh Assessment cycle. The meeting organisation was supported by members of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit. On the sidelines of the meeting in Singapore, an outreach event was held on 24 October to increase the visibility of IPCC in and participation of experts from the ASEAN region. The event included the participation of Working Group II Co-Chair, Winston Chow and Working Group III Co-Chair, Joy Pereira. Over 100 experts, stakeholders and policymakers from the ASEAN region were in attendance.