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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by the Working Group III

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by the Working Group III

This report describes the activities undertaken by Working Group III (WGIII) since the last update presented during the 61st Session of the IPCC (P-61) in July 2024.

1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit

The distributed Technical Support Unit (TSU) structure has taken shape – with nodes at the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in Washington DC, USA; at the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies (NCICS) in Asheville, NC, USA; and at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Current staff are highlighted on the [WGIII TSU web page](#).

In the United States, the TSU-Washington node welcomed its fifth and final member – Climate Change Mitigation Staff Scientist, Dr. Martin Wolf – on 3 September 2024. The TSU-Asheville node consists of technical services professionals with vast experience supporting the U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA) process. They have been actively contributing to TG-Data and AR7 data curation planning activities and evaluation of author tools. TSU-Asheville staff are also on call for editorial, graphics, and web development services. Two TSU-Asheville members provided on-site support at the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) Scoping Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (9-13 December 2024), as did all five members of the TSU-Washington node.

The TSU-Malaysia node is funded primarily via a Memorandum of Agreement with donor countries. 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, and WGIII is working to broaden the donor base. In 2024, since WGIII served as the local host, TSU-Malaysia helped with logistical support of the AR7 Scoping Meeting, relying on both the TSU-Malaysia Administrator and several temporary staff. UKM volunteers also supported the meeting. With this major event successfully completed, in 2025, efforts are underway to secure full-time scientific support at TSU-Malaysia. A [vacancy announcement](#) for a TSU-Malaysia Senior Science Officer was issued in late January 2025, with a close date of 14 March 2025. Postings for two junior positions (Science Officer and Program Officer) will be made later in the calendar year and, once hired, the WGIII TSU will be fully staffed.

2. 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. WGIII contributed to the author nominations and writing team selections processes and is helping develop the program for the first Lead Authors Meeting (LAM1) to be held in Osaka, Japan, 10-14 March 2025.

3. AR7 Scoping Meeting

WGIII served as local host for the 68th Session of the Bureau (B-68) and for the Scoping Meeting for the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) — which took place on 8 December and 9-13 December 2024, respectively. During P-61 (Sofia, Bulgaria • 27 July – 2 August 2024), the IPCC Secretary requested that the WGIII TSU explore viability of hosting a hybrid B-68. The Letter of Agreement for both meetings was executed on 10 October 2024. The WGIII Co-Chairs extend their appreciation to the Government of Norway for co-sponsoring the AR7 Scoping Meeting.

Over the summer of 2024, and in-person at P-61, the WGIII Bureau met to evaluate scoping meeting nomination packages (1,007 for WGIII, out of 2,210 total nominations). Regular interaction with the IPCC Chair regarding cross-cutting expertise needed for the Synthesis Report and with the WGI and

WGII Co-Chairs resulted in a slate of 240 experts to be invited. Criteria included scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, including the range of views; geographical representation; a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC; gender balance; and experts with a background from relevant stakeholder and user groups, including governments. Invitations were issued by the IPCC Secretariat on 17 September 2024, with complementary TSU invites immediately following with logistical information.

Cross-WG programming efforts ensued. Extensive coordination with the IPCC Secretariat took place daily and sister TSUs were routinely consulted regarding organizational issues; meetings were held bi-weekly to coordinate logistical, operational, and science support activities. The WGIII TSU Head traveled to Kuala Lumpur in early October 2024 for a site visit, which included meetings with Hilton representatives, the Malaysian IPCC Focal Point, the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), as well as representatives from the British High Commission. Each WG developed and followed discrete agendas, but coordinated schedules and jointly organized cross-working group breakout groups and plenaries.

The AR7 Scoping Meeting resulted in draft outlines of all three WG contributions to the AR7. Approximately 230 experts from 70 countries were in attendance, along with WG Bureau members, TSU personnel, and local support staff – totaling about 280 individuals. The final participant listing can be found [here](#).

After conclusion of the AR7 Scoping Meeting, on 14 December 2024, the British High Commission in partnership with NRES and UKM organized a one-day outreach event on climate science and policy. The event highlighted the global climate action agenda and sought to empower early career scientists from the region to play a more significant role in the IPCC process. Multiple IPCC Bureau members served as panelists, including five from WGIII.

Follow-up to the scoping meeting in December/January involved drafting of the WGIII AR7 decision and background documents by the WGIII Co-Chairs in consultation with the WGIII Bureau. The background document was then shared with WGIII AR7 Scoping Meeting experts 15-20 January 2025, to ensure accuracy prior to dissemination to Governments. Preparations for the AR7 author nomination process are also underway.

4. Pre-Scoping Activities

Pre-scoping activities of note include:

- Webinars (30 October)
- WGIII AR6 Bureau consultations (10 and 16 October)
- WGIII AR6 CLA consultations (24 October and 4 November)
- Informal Bureau Meetings
- COP-29 engagement.

The pre-scoping webinars sought input from nominated experts who were not selected to participate in the AR7 Scoping Meeting. Access to the webinars was also given to IPCC Focal Points and the alternates on file with the Secretariat. Three webinars took place during 30 October to accommodate time zones and to enhance regional engagement. There were 643 total registrants.

WGIII also engaged in outreach events to solicit input from under-represented constituencies, such as "Towards IPCC AR7: How can ASEAN climate experts be involved" (held on 24 October 2024, in Singapore); "International Conference on Sustainable Energy (ICUE 2024) on Energy Transition and Net-Zero Climate Future" (held on 21-23 October 2024 in Pattaya City, Thailand); and "IPCC Symposium" (held 12 and 13 September 2024, in Tokyo, Japan).

For COP-29, WGIII Bureau members were active participants in the following sessions:

- Special Report on Climate Change and Cities outline (12 November)
- AR7: Greater granularity and local / regional focus (12 November)
- Plans for the IPCC seventh cycle: a consultative workshop (14 November)
- An IPCC Side Event on AR7 vision (14 November)
- Towards a robust economic and policy assessment for Working Group III: Ways to improve in AR7 (18 November).

Insights gained from the various pre-scoping activities were included in an AR7 Vision Paper, which served as an input to the AR7 Scoping Meeting. That document provided views of the IPCC Chair and Working Group Co-Chairs on cross-cutting topics and integration, as well as specific Working Group sections. This document was provided to scoping meeting participants two weeks before the scoping meeting.