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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-third Session of the IPCC in October 2025.

#### 1. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

##### 1.1 Expert Review of the First Order Draft

The Expert Review of the First Order Draft was undertaken from 17 October to 12 December 2025. Registration for the Expert Review opened on 17 September and closed on 30 November. 4456 individuals registered to review the First Order Draft. 1365 experts submitted 32,278 comments during the Expert Review.

Ahead of the Expert Review, a number of communication materials were developed and disseminated across various channels to advertise the call for experts to register to review. Several outreach events were also organized before and during the Expert Review period by governments, observer organizations, and urban networks to engage experts and raise awareness of the Expert Review. The table below provides an overview of the outreach events that were organized to support the engagement of experts in the Expert Review of the First Order Draft of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

Event	Date
Webinar organised by the InterAcademy Partnership	18 September
Sub-regional webinar organised by AGNES for East Africa	29 September
Sub-regional webinar organised by AGNES for Southern Africa	29 September
Sub-regional webinar organised by AGNES for West Africa	1 October
Sub-regional webinar organised by AGNES for Central Africa	2 October
Sub-regional webinar organised by AGNES for North Africa	3 October
Webinar organised by SouthSouthNorth for experts from Southern Africa	14 October
Webinar organized by GCOM, UN-Habitat, C40, and ICLEI on Solutions and Actionability	24 October
Webinar organized by International Institute for Environment and Development on Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge and Informality	24 October
Webinar organized GEF and Global Platform for Sustainable Cities for experts on Finance	24 October
Webinar organized by Resilience by Resilient Cities Network	28 October
Webinar organized by Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law for Law Professionals	29 October
Webinar organized by the Wellcome Trust for Health Professionals	29 October
Webinar organized by International Finance Students Association for Youth	3 November
Webinar organized by Arramat & Inuit Circumpolar Council on Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge	24 November
Webinar organized by UN-Habitat	27 November

## **1.2 Third Lead Author Meeting**

The Third Lead Author Meeting was held from 12–16 January 2026 in Oslo, Norway. The kind invitation of the Government of Norway is gratefully acknowledged. This third meeting of the Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors continued the work on the Special Report. The Review Editors joined the chapter teams at this meeting. The programme was primarily devoted to working with chapter teams to consider the comments submitted during the Expert Review of the First Order Draft and to begin work on the Second Order Draft. Substantive attention was also given to cross-chapter coordination and the initial stages of the development of the first draft of the Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers. A training for Coordinating Lead Authors on inclusivity was organized by the IPCC Secretariat through Ernst & Young. The outcome of the Third Lead Author Meeting included each chapter team producing a detailed plan for completing the Second Order Draft and agreement on the Cross-Chapter Boxes to be included in the Second Order Draft as well as a working structure for the first draft of the Summary for Policymakers and Technical Summary. A separate training session on data visualisation was organized for attending Chapter Scientists, with one in-person meeting held after the Meeting and two follow-up virtual trainings that took place online in February and March 2026.

## **1.3 Second Order Draft and Expert and Government Review**

The Second Order Draft will be circulated for Expert and Government Review from 8 May to 3 July 2026. Registration for the Expert Review will open on 10 April.

## **1.4 Fourth Lead Author Meeting**

The Fourth Lead Author Meeting will be held 3–7 August, with a dedicated meeting of the SPM Drafting Authors on 8 August 2026. The meeting will be held in Bhopal, India. The kind invitation of the Government of India is gratefully acknowledged.

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

## **2.1 Onboarding**

To support the work of the chapter teams, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit developed an Author Portal to provide a platform for chapter teams to work collaboratively on drafts, as well as providing authors with information and the resources developed in support of the drafting process, and a mechanism to support the Lead Author Meetings. A training was organized in October 2025 to support onboarding of authors to the tools and platforms that will be used in the preparation of the WGII report.

To further support the work of the chapter teams, the Working Group II Technical Support has produced an Author Handbook as a resource for authors. The Author Handbook provides relevant introductory and background information, guidance materials, user guides, and support tools into a single reference manual to be used throughout the assessment cycle. Periodic updates to the Handbook as well as the provision of additional information will be prepared ahead of each Lead Author Meeting.

A series of coordinated activities were organized ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting to support author onboarding. All calls and activities were organized at multiple times to accommodate time zone differences.

In September, a cross-Working Group webinar was held to introduce the selected Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors to the IPCC, its policies and procedures, and the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report. A Working Group II webinar followed to welcome the Working Group II chapter teams to the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report and to provide initial information on the report production process and to provide an opportunity for Q&A.

A second Working Group II webinar was held in late November for the Working Group II authors for the WGII authors to provide background and supporting information on the programme and objectives of the First Lead Author Meeting taking place from 1-5 December 2025 in Saint Denis, Paris, France.

A number of additional webinars and trainings were organized after the First Lead Author Meeting, including on writing a Zero Order Draft, the use of uncertainty language in IPCC reports, the use of literature in IPCC reports, figures, reference management, and data curation.

To offer a more informal opportunity for authors to engage with Co-Chairs and to ask questions to the TSU, monthly informal 'Coffee with Co-Chairs' and 'Ask Your TSU' sessions are held.

The Coordinating Lead Authors also have monthly meetings with the Co-Chairs to discuss operational and scientific processes of WGII AR7.

## **2.2 First Lead Author Meeting**

A Joint Working Group I / II / III First Lead Author Meeting was held 1–5 December 2025 in Saint Denis, Paris, France. The kind invitation of the Government of France is gratefully acknowledged. Months of cross-Working Group preparations were undertaken in the organization of the meeting to prepare the cross-Working Group elements intended to strengthen the integration across Working Groups. Cross-Working Group elements included joint plenary sessions, cross-Working Group breakout groups, and joint trainings. In addition, there was a presentation on inclusivity from Ernst & Young organized by the IPCC Secretariat.

The Working Group II sessions of the programme were developed by the WGII Bureau to support Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors in preparing the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report and to provide a continuing introduction to the IPCC process. The modalities for this work included plenary sessions, a dedicated Q&A session by the Working Group II Vice-Chairs for those new to the IPCC, and a carousel session to support smaller group discussions across a number of practical topics (e.g., inclusivity, skills and capacities), and cross-chapter breakout groups on key scientific topics. On the first day, an interactive session was held to introduce authors to the vision of the Working Group II Bureau and by extension offered an opportunity for authors to get to know each other a bit better in an informal setting. For the last day, in order to provide a stocktake of the week from chapters, authors worked together to prepare posters to support their report back. Authors prepared posters on the three clusters of chapters (global, regional, thematic) as well as on the introduction, the Atlas, each cross-chapter paper, and the Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation (TGIA).

## **2.3 The Zero Order Draft**

The Zero Order Draft of the twenty chapters, five cross-chapter papers, the atlas, and the Technical Guidelines was submitted to the WGII TSU on 9 February for compilation ahead of the informal review. On 23 February, invited experts were provided with access to the drafts and invited to provide their feedback until the close of the informal review on 2 April.

## **2.4 Second Lead Author Meeting**

The Second Lead Author Meeting will be held 18–22 May 2026 in Nassau, Bahamas. The kind invitation of the Government of the Bahamas is gratefully acknowledged.

## **2.5 Chapter Scientists Programme**

Acknowledging the key role of Chapter Scientists in the support of the chapter team and the important capacity building opportunity for early-career scientists from developing countries participating as Chapter Scientists, and recognizing the success of the Chapter Scientists programme that was developed for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, the Working Group II Co-Chairs and TSU, with support from Working Group I and Working Group III, explored options for the provision of funding for Chapter Scientists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for all Coordinating Lead Authors from developing countries and countries with economies

in transition and for all three Working Groups. A call for applications was coordinated by International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) External Activities Unit, together with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), with funding from Wellcome Trust. Over 5000 applications were received. 57 early-career scientists were selected as Chapter Scientists across the three Working Groups. A coordinated cross-Working Group on boarding session was organized. The Working Group II Technical Support Unit has established monthly check-ins with the 34 Chapter Scientists supporting the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report and similar to what was undertaken for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, a skills building plan is also currently under development.

### **3. IPCC Expert Meeting on Methodologies, Metrics, and Indicators for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation**

The Expert Meeting was held 3–5 March 2026 in Accra. The kind invitation of the Government of Ghana is gratefully acknowledged.

The IPCC at its Sixty-second Session in Hangzhou, China approved the Working Group II proposal for an IPCC Expert Meeting on the Methodologies, Metrics and Indicators for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation (Decision IPCC-LXII-4). Following the approval of the proposal, the Working Group II Co-Chairs established a Scientific Steering Committee to lead the design, convening of and reporting of the Expert Meeting and to advise the Working Group II Bureau on the selection of participants. The Scientific Steering Committee includes members of the Working Group II and Working Group I Bureau as well as external experts and is Chaired by Working Group II Vice-Chair, Adelle Thomas. Meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee were held in May, August, October, December, January, February, and daily during the meeting.

The Working Group II Bureau, supported by the Scientific Steering Committee, selected experts for participation following an iterative process and with the aim to ensure the composition of participants included the relevant range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and professional expertise, geographic representation, gender balance, and a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC.

Ahead of the meeting, the Scientific Steering Committee developed a background document for participants to support and advance preparations. During the meeting, the programme included a mix of plenary sessions, breakout groups and stocktake sessions. On the first day, an ice-breaking activity was held to provide experts with an opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting. On the last day, experts participated in writing sprints and reading sprints to integrate the information from the previous two days and consider practical applications. The communication activities organized around the meeting included a dedicated media briefing with local and national news outlets as well as a dedicated outreach event for students that included presentations on the IPCC, including opportunities for early-career researchers to engage with the IPCC process, and a panel discussion on operationalizing the IPCC findings in national contexts.

The meeting report is currently being prepared by the Scientific Steering Committee and will be available prior to the Sixty-fifth Session of the IPCC.

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

Working Group II is actively engaged in the work of the IPCC Task Group on Data (TG-Data). A member of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit participates in an *ex officio* role and attended the first meeting of the group in December 2025. The Working Group II Technical Support Unit, with contributions from Working Group I, Working Group III and the Data Distribution Centre, organized and held a webinar on data curation for the authors of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. A similar webinar will be organized and held for the authors of the Working Group II contribution of the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report.

## 5. Cross-IPCC Coordination

Efforts to ensure strong and consistent collaboration across the IPCC and with Working Groups and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) are well established. This includes bi-weekly meetings of the Co-Chairs as well as bi-weekly meetings of the Heads of the Technical Support Units. Additional weekly and monthly meetings were held to support targeted discussions, such as the Joint Working Group I/II/III First Lead Author Meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report.

Working Group II Bureau Members have also participated in the Scientific Steering Committees for IPCC and IPCC Co-sponsored Expert Meetings including the IPCC Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (23–25 September 2025, Geneva, Switzerland), the WCRP-IPCC Co-sponsored Meeting on Tipping Points and High Impact Events (27–28 November 2025, Paris, France), the Wellcome Trust-IPCC Co-sponsored Meeting on Climate Change and Health (27–29 January 2026, London, UK); IPCC Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems & Methods of Assessment (10-12 February 2026, Reading, UK), the IPCC Expert Meeting on Regional Climate for the Working Group I / Working Group II Atlas (April 2026, Santiago, Chile); and the FAO-IPCC Co-sponsored Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture (June 2026, Rome, Italy).

## 6. UNFCCC COP-30

Working Group II Bureau members were present during both weeks of the COP and participated in a range of discussions, dialogues, activities and events at COP-30 in November 2025.

The Working Group II Bureau Members contributed to a number of IPCC events held in the WMO/MERI/IPCC Climate Science for Action Pavilion, including *Unpacking the AR7 Ambitions, Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems, Working Group I / Working Group II Atlas, The Science and Processes of its Seventh Cycle*. An IPCC Side Event *Assessing Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability Aspects in AR7* which was organized with Working Group II and included presentations from members of the Working Group II Bureau.

During the first week, the Working Group II Co-Chairs provided more than 17 presentations and participated in over 6 bilateral meetings. In addition, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit organised two coffee meetups with authors of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report who were attending COP-30. This offered an opportunity for the authors to meet and engage with the Working Group II Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs.