

**SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE IPCC**  
**Bangkok, Thailand, 24 to 27 March 2026**

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Agenda Item: 9  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROGRESS WITH THE TIMELINE OF THE SEVENTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR7)**

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

## PROGRESS WITH THE TIMELINE OF THE SEVENTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR7)

### 1. Background

This document was developed at the request of the Panel at its 64<sup>th</sup> Session (IPCC-64) to inform the discussions relevant to the agenda item 9 on the Progress with the timeline of the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7).

This document provides an overview of the discussions held on the timeline Working Group Contributions to AR7 from the beginning of this assessment cycle through the IPCC-64.

For ease of reference, the terms “schedule” and “timeline” are used interchangeably in this document.

### 2. Discussions on the timeline of the AR7 from Previous Sessions of the IPCC

#### 2.1. Discussion at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC

The discussion on the AR7 timeline began at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Panel (IPCC-60), the inaugural session of the seventh assessment cycle, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 16 to 19 January 2024.

Such discussions took place under the [agenda](#) item 7, on the Planning for the AR7 cycle and were informed by a document on Synthesis of IPCC Member Countries’ views on the Products for the Seventh Assessment Cycle ([IPCC-LX/INF. 6, Rev.1](#)) and a document on Options for the Programme of Work (PoW) in the AR7 Cycle ([IPCC-LX/Doc. 4, Rev.1](#)). As part of the options presented in the second document, there were also considerations for possible timelines for delivery of the products of the AR7.

Following the discussions, through decision ([IPCC-LX-9](#)), the Panel decided to deliver three sequential Working Group reports in AR7: Physical Science Basis, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, as well as Mitigation of Climate Change. It further decided to develop a distinct product by revising the 1994 Technical Guidelines on Impacts and Adaptation. Under the same decision, the Panel confirmed that a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and Methodology Reports on Short-Lived Climate Forcers and Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies will be completed by 2027, and that the AR7 Synthesis Report will follow all Working Group contributions, to be finalised by late 2029. Additionally, the Panel requested the Bureau to prepare a document outlining the month and year of delivery on the basis of an AR7 strategic plan and present it at the next IPCC Session for decision.

#### 2.2. Discussions at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC

At the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-61) held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 27 July to 2 August 2024, the timeline discussions took place under the [agenda](#) item 5 on Strategic Planning Schedule for the AR7 Cycle and were informed by the document [IPCC-LXI/Doc. 10](#).

Divergent views were expressed on the overall timeline and alignment with UNFCCC processes, due to which discussions continued in a Contact Group. Despite constructive discussions, time limitations and insufficient convergence prevented agreement.

Finally, the Panel, by decision ([IPCC-LXI-9](#)) and in line with paragraph [4.1 of Appendix A of the Principles Governing the Work of the IPCC](#) decided to agree at its Sixty-second Session on the scope, outline, and the work plan, including schedule and budget. Further, it took note of the decisions agreeing on the outlines for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

and the 2027 Methodology Report on Inventories for Short-Lived Climate Forcers as key components of the AR7 product suite.

### **2.3. Discussions at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IPCC**

At 62<sup>nd</sup> Session (IPCC-62), the Panel considered the scope, outline, and workplan of the three Working Groups' contributions to the AR7, in line with IPCC procedures and the decision [IPCC-LXI-9](#) from IPCC-61. They were discussed under [agenda](#) item 5 on Scoping of the AR7 and informed by the session documents [IPCC-LXII/Doc. 14](#), [IPCC-LXII/Doc. 15](#), and [IPCC LXII/Doc. 16](#).

At IPCC-62, the Panel agreed on the outlines of the Working Groups' contributions to the AR7.

Due to divergent views, timeline discussions were held in a huddle where two proposals emerged, with the first being a slight adjustment to the existing plan and the second being a broader extension, shifting Working Group approvals into later months in 2028 and early 2029. Despite further discussion, the Panel was unable to reach consensus on the timeline issue.

Through a decision ([IPCC-LXII-8](#)), the Panel agreed on the outlines of the three Working Groups' contributions to the AR7. It also agreed to invite the Working Groups to start their work as indicated in the 2025 budget by initiating the call for nominations for the authors and convening the First Lead Author meeting (LAM1) in 2025. Furthermore, it agreed to defer further consideration of the workplan, including the proposed Implementation Plan for preparing the Working Group contributions to the AR7, to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-63).

### **2.4. Discussions at 63<sup>rd</sup> session of IPCC-63**

At IPCC-63, held from 27 to 30 October 2025 in Lima, Peru, the timeline discussions took place under [agenda](#) item 5 on the workplan of the AR7 and were informed by the document [IPCC-LXIII/Doc. 10](#).

Due to the persistently divergent views on the matter, discussions continued in a Contact Group, which was tasked with advancing the discussions and reporting back to the plenary at the session. Despite several meetings of the Contact Group and extensive discussions, the Panel was unable to reach consensus on the long term workplan for the Working Group contributions to the AR7.

Governments remained divided on the timeline discussions. There were delegations that considered the revised schedule to be a pragmatic and workable compromise, consistent with past practice and necessary to support the timely delivery of robust and policy-relevant reports. There were also delegations, however, that expressed concern that the timetable remained too compressed, citing the cumulative burden of overlapping and back-to-back review processes, limited time for national coordination, and the need for a more structurally inclusive approach. Although the Working Group Co-Chairs made further efforts to respond to concerns, including through revisions including visualisation of key milestones, these were not sufficient to bridge the remaining differences.

The Panel adopted a decision on the Workplan for the Seventh Assessment Report ([IPCC-LXIII-7](#)), which included, but was not limited to, inviting the Working Groups to continue their work as indicated by the 2026 budget document, by convening their Second Lead Author Meetings, as well as the third Working Group I Lead Author Meeting in 2026. The Panel also agreed to defer further consideration of the workplan for the preparation of the Working Group contributions to the AR7 to future sessions.

### **3. Update on implantation of relevant decisions of the Panel**

Since IPCC-63, the Working Groups held their First joint Lead Author Meeting from 1 to 5 December 2025 in Paris, France. The Working Group I Second Lead Author Meeting (LAM2) is planned from 20 to 24 April 2026 in Santiago, Chile, the Working Group III LAM2 from 10 to 14 May 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and the Working Group II LAM2 in Nassau, The Bahamas, from 18 to 22 May 2026. The Working Group I Third Lead Author Meeting is being planned for later in 2026.

For more information, please see the Working Groups' Progress Reports, respectively Working Group I: [IPCC-LXIV/INF. 2, Rev. 1](#), Working Group II: [IPCC-LXIV/INF. 10](#), Working Group III: [IPCC-LXIV/INF. 9](#).

### **4. Discussions at the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the IPCC**

On the first day of IPCC-64, the timeline was discussed under the agenda of IPCC-64. During these discussions, there were delegations that expressed concern that the timeline for the Working Group contributions to the AR7 had not been included as a dedicated agenda item, questioning both the rationale for its omission and the process envisaged for addressing it between the current and next sessions. There were views expressed stressing the need for clarity, adequate information, and a formal space for discussion, while there were also views cautioning that reopening the agenda could be problematic given mandates and preparedness.

The IPCC Chair underscored that the agenda was already congested and that premature negotiations without sufficient information could be risky, proposing instead to keep the agenda unchanged, hold informal consultations during the session, and return to the timeline under "Other Business."

This approach was challenged by those who argued that the timeline required structured, formal treatment rather than informal or AOB discussions. Following further exchanges, marked by calls for pragmatism, concerns about process, and queries about how flexibility was being assessed, a huddle was convened, resulting in agreement, which was presented to the Panel.

Based on the discussions in the huddle, the Panel further agreed to:

- Establish a Contact Group to deliberate on how to make progress on the timeline (Terms of Reference (ToRs) are appended as Annex I to this document).
- Request the Secretariat to provide a document with information on the schedule, with discussions resuming from the point at which they had been left at the IPCC-63.
- Invite IPCC member countries to provide their proposals for the way forward.
- Request the Contact Group to report back to the Panel on 26 March, in the morning, to allow for continued discussions on the matter.

### **5. Expected outcome**

At its 64<sup>th</sup> Session, the Panel is expected to consider the outcomes of the Contact Group deliberation, take note of the information provided in this document and advise as necessary on the timeline for the Working Group contributions to the AR7.

## ANNEX I

### Terms of Reference

#### Contact Group on the progress with the timeline of the AR7

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##### **Mandate:**

- To advise the Panel on the progress with the timeline of the AR7.

##### **Modus Operandi**

- The Contact Group will start on 25 March, during the IPCC-64, with a view to report back to the Panel on 26 March.

##### **Composition**

- The Contact Group will be open-ended, allowing for representatives of all member countries to take part and will be co-chaired by
  - Two Co-Chairs (developed country and developing country)

##### **Resources**

- In undertaking its work, the Contact Group will build on but not be limited to documents produced on the AR7 timeline:
  - [IPCC-61](#); [IPCC-62](#); [IPCC-63](#)