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PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group I

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Update from Working Group I

1. Establishment of the Technical Support Unit

It was agreed among the Working Group I (WGI) Co-Chairs that there will be one Technical Support Unit (TSU), located in France and that China would provide additional staff as in-kind support as needed.

The French TSU is funded by three ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Research and Ministry of Foreign Affairs). It is hosted by Université Paris-Saclay and located in the facilities of Ecole normale supérieure located on the Plateau de Saclay in the Paris area.

As of mid-December 2023, the TSU has hired the Head of TSU and the Project Assistant. A Senior Advisor has also been appointed and will start her contract on 1 February 2024. She will be in charge of coordinating mechanisms to facilitate handshakes between the IPCC Working Groups and will also foster and maintain close contact with the IPCC broader scientific and stakeholder communities and advise the WGI Co-Chairs accordingly. The TSU is also in the process of hiring the IT Officer and the Head of Science Team: interviews are on-going with the objective of a starting date on 1 February or 1 March 2024.

Other positions, including Science Officers, a Data Specialist, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Specialist and a Communication Specialist will be opened throughout the first semester of 2024.

2. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

Under the lead of Working Group II (WGII) Co-Chairs, WGI contributed to the preparation of the Call for nominations for the scoping meeting of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities: definition of the expertise and composition of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). Over 1200 nominations were received and WGI Co-Chairs, together with two WGI Vice-Chairs, as members of the SSC, are actively participating in the selection process with the objective to have a final list of participants available by the end of January 2024.

3. UNFCCC COP28

WGI contributed to the organization of two events that were held in the IPCC Pavilion:

- 1 December: ***Where is global warming in relation to the long-term temperature goal?***
The aim of this event was to interpret 2023's extreme temperatures in the context of the Paris Agreement, including for the science community to understand how the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal (LTTG) is interpreted and used in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations; and for the policy-making community to understand how the chosen definition of temperature change affect the quantification of global warming to date. In particular, although there have been relatively more days this year with temperatures exceeding 1.5 degrees, there is no evidence that the overall Inter-annual trend has deviated from the trajectory projected by IPCC assessment report (AR), especially since the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
- 2 December: ***Physical Science Challenges for AR7***
The event discussed physical science challenges for the seventh assessment cycle in the light of knowledge gaps identified in the Sixth Assessment Report, and of the scientific outcomes of the World Climate Research Programme Open Science Conference held in Kigali in October 2023. From these outcomes highlighting the emerging topics, crossing with initial government outputs sent to the bureau BUR-66, WGI Co-Chairs developed a vision highlighting the main directions that could be taken.

WGI also participated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) side event on December 4, 2023: ***Key Findings of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report in the Context of Recent Developments and Outlook for the Seventh Cycle***. The purpose of this event was to reflect on selected key findings of the IPCC's Synthesis Report and other AR6 products, in the context of recent developments. For instance, WGI stated how extremes witnessed during the last few years are aligned with findings of the AR6 regarding the evolution of extremes, and fleshed out emerging topics and knowledge gaps, based in particular on the outcomes of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Open Science Conference meeting.

4. Cross-Working Group coordination

Working Groups I, II, III collaboration has started from the very beginning of the cycle. Monthly meetings have been set-up to take stock and follow up on the various ongoing activities. In practice, additional cross Working Group meetings were also organized to work in a collaborative way on specific tasks such as the development of a written document with options for the Programme of Work for the seventh assessment cycle. This led to consensus on several aspects of the Programme of Work, based on lessons learned from the AR6 and other timing considerations. For instance, a consensus is that only one additional Special Report is doable beyond the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, but would not be doable before 2027. Shorter and more focused AR would increase policy relevance and readability and give less work to authors. WGI Bureau has also proposed to align and synchronize the Working Group reports.

In the same way, cross-TSU meetings have been set up every two weeks.