

IPCC PRESS RELEASE

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IPCC makes progress towards Fifth Assessment Report

GENEVA, 11 June – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is making solid progress towards its next major report, the Fifth Assessment Report, which will be released in 2013 and 2014.

The IPCC provides governments with a clear scientific view of the current state of knowledge about climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation, through regular assessments of the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information published worldwide. These assessments are policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive.

All three working groups of the IPCC are actively seeking wide participation by experts in the review of the drafts, encompassing the range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views, expertise, and geographical representation. The main stages of the review process are the review of the first order draft by scientific experts, the review of the second order draft by experts and governments, and a final round of government comments on the draft Summary for Policy Makers. All review comments have to be addressed by the report authors.

- The expert review period for the first order draft of Working Group II, covering impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, starts on 11 June and runs to 6 August 2012. Further information is available at www.ipcc-wg2.gov. Experts interested in participating can send an email to tsu@ipcc-wg2.gov.
- Working Group III, which assesses the mitigation of climate change, will hold the expert review of its first order draft from 20 July to 14 September 2012 and is currently inviting experts for participation. Interested experts can register at: <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/ar5review/registration/>

Working Group I, which covers the physical science of climate change, received 21,400 comments from 659 experts worldwide in the expert review of its first order draft, which ran from 16 December 2011 to 10 February 2012. Working Group I authors are now considering these comments, as they work on the second order draft, which will be available for expert and government review from 5 October to 30 November 2012. Information about how to participate in the expert review will be available at www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch nearer the time.

Following the reviews, the Summary for Policy Makers and the full report are submitted for approval and acceptance, respectively, to the IPCC's governing body, the Panel. To ensure transparency, all review comments and author responses are published after the reports are finally approved and released.

The Core Writing Team for the Synthesis Report is meeting for the first time on 11-13 June in Geneva. The team of 45 authors, selected in March, will prepare the work plan for the Synthesis Report that synthesizes key findings from the assessment reports of the IPCC's three Working Groups and from recent Special Reports, written in a non-technical style suitable for policymakers.

The Synthesis Report is due to be released in October 2014, marking the end of the current assessment cycle. Working Group I will release its report in September 2013. Working Group II will release its report in March 2014, followed by Working Group III in April 2014.

The three working groups reported on this progress to a meeting of the Panel on 6-9 June in Geneva.

The Panel also took a number of decisions on governance, including approving a communications strategy.

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For more information on the review process, go to:

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/review_of_wg_contributions.pdf