

FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya, 11 - 13 April 2016

IPCC-XLIII/INF. 8, Add.1
(18.III.2016)
Agenda Item: 8.1
ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) PRODUCTS

Special Reports

Commentary from the Co-chairs of Working Groups I, II and III on each of the proposals for Special Reports contained in document IPCC-XLIII/INF. 7

Additional contribution from UN-Habitat under Annex 2

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

Nairobi, 14 March 2016

Dear Mr. Sivakumar,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 19 January 2016, requesting information on workshops and reports that UN-Habitat intends to produce in 2016 that are relevant to the catalogue of Special Reports the IPCC may produce during the 6th Assessment Report (AR) cycle.

First, let me express our strong interest in proposal No. 25: **Special Report on Cities and Climate Change**. As you are no doubt aware, this topic is indeed of increasingly strong interest under the IPCC. While it received a certain degree of attention in the Fourth Assessment Report, it was the subject of dedicated chapters on mitigation and adaptation in the IPCC's subsequent Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

Since our Governing Council adopted **Resolution 22/3 of 2009** on 'Cities and climate change', UN-Habitat has supported cities in developing countries to act on climate change and developed policy guidance based on this experience. Governing Council **Resolution 25/4 of 2015** requests us to capture lessons from our operational work in order to help cities and human settlements to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and widely disseminate those findings throughout the United Nations system and with policymakers to facilitate better-informed decision-making.

UN-Habitat is pleased to have contributed to the body of knowledge that the IPCC has drawn upon in this area. We note in particular our *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011 on Cities and Climate Change*, which received ample reference in AR5. Indeed, the AR5 chapter on urban vulnerability alone included more than 40 citations of this work and others by UN-Habitat colleagues.

The Special Report would come at an opportune time as it would build on the mandate provided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"; SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"; and SDG 7, "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". It would also support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Paris Agreement reached at COP21.

In 2016, one event looms large on the urban calendar: **Habitat III**, to take place **17-20 October 2016** in Quito, Ecuador. This one-in-a-generation UN system-wide event, for which I serve as Secretary-General, will offer the chance to set the New Urban Agenda. Depending on the IPCC's time requirements, this event would make an excellent springboard for either launching or advancing development of a Special Report on Cities and Climate Change. Likewise, 2016 features a full calendar of regional and thematic events leading up to Habitat III, which could further furnish more specialized platforms for the engagement of IPCC researchers with the urban community (see www.habitat3.org for further details).

Mr. Mannava Sivakumar
Acting Secretary of the IPCC

UN-Habitat also expects to actively engage in the **Climate Action Summit** that the UN Secretary-General has called for **5-6 May 2016** in Washington, DC. Cities and climate change will be one of several themes highlighted at this event. In particular, one important multi-stakeholder initiative on whose Management Committee UN-Habitat serves, the Compact of Mayors, will be visible at this event.

In 2016 UN-Habitat plans to actively continue to lead one multi-stakeholder initiative, launched at COP-21 with 45 endorsing partners: *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*. This initiative is referenced in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda's 5 Year Vision, and just several days ago the UN Secretary-General's Subnational Climate Action Hub decided to include it in their 2016 Work Plan, with UN-Habitat as the lead partner organization. The further work of this initiative could feed into the Special Report.

Several other relevant programmes in which UN-Habitat is involved will be active during the development cycle of the proposed report: (1) the City Resilience Profiling Programme (see www.cityresilience.org/CRPP); (2) a UN-Habitat-led Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on urban resilience; (3) the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, on whose Steering Committee we serve and which will release its second State of City Climate Finance report at COP-22, and; (4) our own Cities and Climate Change Initiative, which anticipates launching a Policy Note on "Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policies" at either Habitat III or COP-22. Events and publications are anticipated from all these initiatives (further information available upon request).

Should the IPCC decide to move forward with a Special Report on this topic, we stand prepared to support and facilitate the Secretariat of the Special Report by providing a point of contact to coordinate inputs from multiple projects and processes at country level and to stimulate peer reviewed material from policy and practice based work. We could also support systematic literature reviews and contributing authors with technical competence. Throughout the report development process, we would ensure synergy with our programme of activities on cities and climate change.

With best regards,



Dr. Joan Clos
UN Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director, UN-Habitat