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IPCC MEDIA ADVISORY

24 September 2014

Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

GENEVA, 24 September – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will consider the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 27-31 October 2014. The IPCC will approve the Summary for Policymakers and adopt the Synthesis Report.

The Synthesis Report is the capstone of an assessment report. As its name implies, it distills, synthesizes and integrates the findings of the working group contributions into a concise document.

This integrated approach allows the Synthesis Report to draw together the assessment of past changes in climate as well as projections for the future from the three working group reports already released as well as the two Special Reports brought out in 2011. It covers both adaptation and mitigation to provide an overview of possible risks and solutions. A synthesis approach allows authors to highlight contrasts and make comparisons between findings from different working groups. These comparisons provide critically important information for policymakers.

Press conference

A press conference to present the Synthesis Report will be held following its adoption:

When: **11.00 a.m. Copenhagen time on Sunday 2 November 2014
(05.00 EST, 10.00 GMT, 18.00 Beijing, 19.00 Tokyo)**

Where: **Tivoli Congress Center, Copenhagen, Denmark**

The Chairman of the IPCC, Rajendra K. Pachauri, will present the report. Other panellists will include United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Michel Jarraud, and the Secretary of the IPCC, Renate Christ. Authors that have contributed to the report will be present.

The Synthesis Report, press release and other materials will be posted online at the start of the press conference. The press conference will be webcast live. The IPCC will communicate the address for the webcast nearer the time.

Opening session

The IPCC will hold its opening session on Monday, 27 October 2014, from 10.00 to 11.00 Copenhagen time at the Tivoli Congress Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

This opening session is open to media. It will be addressed by the IPCC Chair and senior representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the WMO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the host country.

For the opening session a limited number of places is available for media in the conference hall. Priority will be given to wire services and local media. Otherwise, the IPCC meeting is closed to the public and to media.

Access to materials under embargo

The Synthesis Report, the press release and any other press materials will be made available to media under embargo on the day before the press conference. Please note that registering for the opening session and/or the press conference will not automatically provide you with access to embargoed materials. Media representatives who want access to the embargoed materials must check the option for “embargo” on the online form, regardless of whether they are registering to attend the press conference or not.

The embargo will run until the start of the press conference. Registered media will receive an email alert when the embargoed material is posted. The exact time that the embargoed material is made available will depend on the time the plenary adopts the report. Registering for access will require media representatives to agree to adhere to the terms of the embargo. Failure to adhere to the conditions will result in that journalist or media outlet being excluded from future embargo arrangements.

Registration for press conference and opening session and access to embargo materials

The IPCC operates its own registration and accreditation system, which is based on the media [accreditation guidelines of the United Nations](#)¹. Please also check our [accreditation and registration FAQs](#)². For the Synthesis Report, this system has been revised and simplified in response to media feedback.

Media representatives wishing to **attend the press conference and/or the opening session in person** and/or get **access to embargo materials** must complete the online form available on the IPCC media portal here: <http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/press/>. Please ensure that you have scanned copies of your credentials ready when you start filling in the form as the system will not allow you to proceed without uploading these. **Credentials should be uploaded in a single file (PDF).**

The credentials that are required are:

- **A letter of assignment** requesting accreditation on official letterhead of a media organization, signed by the publisher, editor-in-chief, or assignment editor. It should include the name and duration of assignment of the journalist; and
- **A valid press card;** or a valid media accreditation badge for the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna or Nairobi. If you do not have a press card, please submit **3 recent samples of your work** in a relevant area.

Before filling in the form, please carefully read the guidelines below, which need to be followed by all users, including media representatives who have used the system before.

On the IPCC media portal, follow the following steps:

- Click “Request Access”
- Read carefully the conditions and click “Yes I agree to respect the terms of the embargo”, if you agree
- Fill in the “Request Access” form:
 - Select the event;
 - Select from the following options: opening session; press conference, embargo. You can choose one, two or all options;

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/request.shtml>

² http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/0914_IPCC_media_accreditation_FAQs.pdf

- Upload your credentials in a single PDF file;
- Click “Request Access” to submit the form.

The IPCC media team will review your credentials and when approved you will receive an email with your personal log-in details. Please note that due to the high number of requests, this might take a number of days.

If you have used the system before, the email that you will receive will indicate that you should use “Your global IPCC password”, which refers to your previous password. In case you have lost it, please click “Forgot password” on the IPCC media portal.

Registration details

Each member of your media team should register separately in order to get access to the venue. If you work as a photographer or as part of a TV crew you are asked to indicate this on the letter of assignment so that the IPCC can plan sufficient space. Please also state any special requirements, e.g. for TV crews.

There is limited space for satellite trucks. If you will need space for this, please let us know on your letter of assignment. Please also indicate whether you would like satellite broadcast facilities.

The deadline for registration for the press conference and opening session is Wednesday, 15 October 2014.

In order to get access to the opening session and press conference venue, you will need to pick up your press badge at the media registration desk at the Tivoli Congress Center in Copenhagen. The desk will be open at the following times:

- Sunday, 26 October 2014, from 4 pm to 6 pm
- Monday, 27 October 2014, from 8 am to 10 am
- Saturday, 1 November 2014, from 4 pm to 6 pm
- Sunday, 2 November 2014, from 8 am to 11 am

To facilitate the process, please bring with you the original credentials that you submitted with your request and your passport or a valid ID. We advise you to pick up your badges as early as possible.

Other arrangements

The IPCC will advise nearer the time how to request interviews both in person at the site of the press conference and by phone or email, and issue a further advisory on arrangements for broadcasters.

For more information contact:

IPCC Press Office, Email: ipcc-media@wmo.int
 Jonathan Lynn, + 41 22 730 8066
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Notes for editors

What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC does not do its own research, conduct climate measurements or produce its own climate models; it assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a snapshot of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view or line. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists who – like the Chair and other elected officials – work as volunteers. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. They are not paid for their work at the IPCC. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the IPCC, comprising the Panel, are its 195 member governments. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. That word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this. It is not a United Nations agency, but is sponsored by two UN organizations – WMO and UNEP.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something.

The Fifth Assessment Report

The IPCC produces comprehensive assessment reports on climate change every six years or so. Among its other products it also issues special reports on particular topics requested by its members, and methodology reports and software to help members report their greenhouse gas inventories (emissions minus removals).

The IPCC is currently finalizing the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which will be completed by the Synthesis Report, due to be released on 2 November 2014. AR5 is the most comprehensive assessment of climate change ever undertaken. Over 830 scientists from over 80 countries were selected to form the author teams producing the report. They in turn drew on the work of over 1,000 contributing authors and over 1,000 expert reviewers. AR5 assessed over 30,000 scientific papers.

The 1,535-page contribution of Working Group I (the physical science basis of climate change) to AR5 was finalized and released in September 2013 and published in January 2014. The Working Group II contribution (impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability) of about 1,800 pages was finalized and released in March 2014, and the Working Group III contribution (mitigation of climate change) of

about 1,500 pages was finalized and released in April 2014. Both the Working Group II and III reports are expected to be published in October.

The Synthesis Report

The Synthesis Report is the capstone of an assessment report. As its name implies, it distills, synthesizes and integrates the findings of the working group contributions into a concise document, of about 100 pages for the Fifth Assessment Report.

This integrated approach allows the Synthesis Report to draw together the assessment of past changes in climate as well as projections for the future from the three working group reports as well as the two Special Reports brought out in 2011. It covers both adaptation and mitigation to provide an overview of possible risks and solutions. A synthesis approach allows authors to highlight contrasts and make comparisons between findings from different working groups. These comparisons provide critically important information for policymakers.

The writing of the Synthesis Report is led by the Chair of the IPCC, Rajendra Pachauri. Its core writing team includes authors of the working group reports and the members of the IPCC's Executive Committee.

The Synthesis Report comprises a Summary for Policymakers and a longer report. At its meeting in October, the Panel will approve the Summary for Policymakers line by line, and adopt the longer report section by section, to ensure consistency with the underlying working group reports.

For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to:

www.ipcc.ch