

**THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE IPCC**  
**Berlin, Germany, 7-12 April 2014**

IPCC-XXXIX/Doc. 5  
(4.III.2014)  
Agenda Item: 9.1  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

**Progress in the preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report  
Synthesis Report (SYR)**

(Submitted by the Chair of the IPCC)



## PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress in the preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report Synthesis Report (SYR)

### 1. Preparing the Third Core Writing Team meeting January 2014

Since the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC<sup>1</sup> (Batumi, Georgia, 14-18 October 2013) the Core Writing Team, with the assistance of the Extended Writing team, has continued working on the development of what should have been the '*First Order Draft*', due on the 26 November 2013. This draft should have been built on the Final Drafts of all three Working group contributions to the AR5, in order to be discussed at the Third Core Writing Team meeting (CWT-3) of the SYR, held during 7-10 January 2014 at De Bilt in the Netherlands. However, since the Final Draft and SPM of Working Group III were made available only on 17 December 2013, it was not possible for the CWT to deliver a mature and integrated FOD text by 26 November. Instead, an internal interim version was produced, renamed the '*pre-First Order Draft*', with several placeholders for Topic 3 (Transformation and Changes in Systems) and Topic 4 (Adaptation and Mitigation Measures). These topics were to be reconsidered at CWT-3, when the Final Drafts and SPMs of all three working groups were expected to be available.

### 2. Third Core Writing Team meeting, 7-10 January 2014, KNMI, De Bilt, the Netherlands

This meeting was hosted at the KNMI (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), and sponsored by KNMI and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Government of the Netherlands. An opening statement was delivered by Mr Chris Kuijpers, Director-General of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, who called upon the authors to keep the needs of the policy makers in mind while developing the SYR. The local KNMI staff made every effort to enable the success of this meeting. The Dutch media gave some positive attention to the meeting (TV news, and a lengthy, in-depth interview with the Chair in a Dutch newspaper). The IPCC SYR team is very grateful to the KNMI and the Dutch Ministry for their generous hospitality and financial support.

The meeting used the papersmart system developed by Mr Jesbin Baidya, IPCC Secretariat for all meeting documentation. This led to a substantial reduction in the carbon footprint, usually caused previously by numerous photocopies and printouts. Mr Baidya also developed a user-friendly document management system, as a virtual workplace specifically tailored for the needs of IPCC authors to develop drafts.

The main agenda item at this meeting was the consideration of the '*pre-First Order Draft*' SYR from 26 November, and setting the stage for writing a mature '*First Order Draft*' which would include information from the Final Draft of WG III. The Chair stressed the need for achieving policy relevant, neutral and clear messages, while writing in a non-technical style.

The CWT made substantial progress in the drafting of the SYR during CWT-3. Topics 1 and 2 further refined their texts and developed plans for integrated graphs.

Topics 3 and 4 had substantial work to accomplish to integrate the information now available from the FD and SPM of WG III. The sequence of a few sub-sections within Topic 4 was revised to provide for a better flow. Section 4.5 (constraints, limits and enabling factors) has become 4.2, and 4.4 (adaptation and mitigation in the context of multiple objectives) is now the concluding section 4.6 (renamed to '*trade-offs, synergies, and integrated responses*'). The reason for those structural changes is that they made for better logical flow, so that Topic 4 would start by framing what are the tools available for action, and then move towards an ever more integrated perspective of climate responses in the context of sustainable development. While the content of Topic 4 remains unchanged, we are putting greater emphasis on policy-

---

<sup>1</sup> See Draft Report of IPCC-37, [http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/7/240220140302-doc2\\_draft\\_reportp37.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/7/240220140302-doc2_draft_reportp37.pdf)

related concerns for adaptation and mitigation, on technology and on finance in section 4.5. This was done in response to a series of review comments received during the internal review of the ZOD held in April 2013, which pointed out that this section should be strengthened considerably. Section 4.6 handles the implementation of policies in the context of multiple objectives by exploring the complexities and realities of the world and the challenge policy makers face as they are confronted with choices that are often conflicting, hence requiring us to look into synergies and trade-offs. This is particularly critical for developing country policy makers who are faced with making hard decisions on development and poverty alleviation in the face of a changing climate. Further, the authors felt that 4.6 is where the issue related to the integration of approaches should be dealt with as a way to move beyond sectoral treatment and consider cross-sectoral and systemic challenges to policy formulation.

The authors of the Box on Article 2 of the UNFCCC worked hard to further shape this part of the SYR (both on the text and figure) while taking into account the limited space for this complex subject.

The use of other Boxes was discussed, given the views expressed by some delegates at IPCC-37 in Batumi (October 2013)<sup>2</sup> when discussing the progress report of the SYR. One box, i.e. on Valuation of Ethics and Economics, has now been removed and its contents will be merged in the introductory section 3.1 in Topic 3. The other Boxes including the one on recent temperature trends (Topic 1) and Geo-engineering (Topic 3) were maintained after discussion by the CWT, because the authors felt there was no logical 'home' for these issues in the flow of the main Topic texts.

### **3. Preparation of the First Order Draft for Government /Expert Review**

For all parts of the SYR (SPM, Introduction, Topics 1,2,3,4, Box Art.2 and Glossary) work plans were established for the timely delivery of the First Order Draft by 21 April, which is also the start of the Government and Expert review. Once the SPMs of WGII and WGIII are approved, the text of the FOD SYR will be adjusted to match the content of the approved SPMs. This will be done at the CWT-3bis meeting which will be held 14-15 April 2014, back-to-back with the Twelfth Session of WGIII (WGIII-12) and the Thirty-Ninth Session of the IPCC (Berlin, 7-12 April 2014).

### **4. Evolution of the SYR author team**

The WG Co-chairs were given a last opportunity in November 2013 to nominate additional Core Writing Team (CWT) members and Extended Writing Team (EWT) members for the Synthesis Report, in order to fill gaps in crucial expertise. After receiving these nominations, the Chair sought the IPCC Bureau's endorsement of these, as per the IPCC Processes and Procedures. The Bureau approved the inclusion of the following additional CWT members: Prof. Myles Allen (LA from WG I), Dr Michael Mastrandrea (TSU WG II), Dr Katherine Mach (TSU WG II), Prof. Detlef van Vuuren (LA from WG III) and Kristin Seyboth M.Sc. (TSU WG III). The TSU individuals were already involved as EWT members but given their outstanding contributions, the Chair and Co-chairs felt they should be promoted to be fully involved in the CWT.

In addition, in November 2013 the Chair decided to endorse the following nominations for EWT members: Dr Sivan Kharta, Prof. David Victor, and Dr Gabriel Blanco all from WGIII, and Dr Simon Allen from WGI TSU.

In February, Prof. Marc Fleurbaey (WG III) had to step down as CWT member due to numerous other commitments but he will remain involved as a EWT. We thank Marc for his dedication and

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/5/091020130500-Doc\\_22\\_corr01\\_p37.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/5/091020130500-Doc_22_corr01_p37.pdf)

important contributions. In February 2013, Dr Simon Allen also had to step down as EWT member as he has taken on a new position. We wish Simon all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his contributions to the SYR and the IPCC.

## 5. The SYR Technical Support Unit

Mr Sander Brinkman, M.Sc., joined the SYR TSU on a part-time basis as Senior Scientific Officer on 28 November. Mr Brinkman is a lecturer at The Hague University of Applied Sciences on Climate & Management. He was part of the WG III TSU during the AR4.

## 6. Upcoming Government and Expert Review

The First Order Draft will be made available for Government and Expert review from 21 April to 13 June. The text of the SYR FOD will be fully based on the accepted AR5 WG reports and the approved SPMs. IPCC Focal Points will be advised and reminded a few days prior to the start of this review by the Secretary of the IPCC. The Review will be announced on the IPCC homepage.

## 7. Schedule for 2014

CWT-3bis	14-15 April	Berlin, Germany
Combined Government/Expert Review	21 April-13 June	
CWT-4	30 June-3 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Government Consideration of Final Draft	25 August-10 October	
CWT-5 and IPCC-40 (approval session)	24-25 and 27-31 October	Copenhagen, Denmark
<i>TBD: presentations and outreach at COP-20</i>	<i>1-12 December</i>	<i>Lima, Peru</i>