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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ERROR PROTOCOL

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ERROR PROTOCOL

Recent error claims

A total of sixteen error claims on the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) were reported, through the IPCC Error Protocol and addressed according to the IPCC Error Protocol since the 41st Session of the IPCC (February 2015). The latest versions of the list of errata are available online for:

- Working Group I (http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_Errata_17042015.pdf);
- Working Group II (http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg2/WGIIAR5_Errata.pdf);
- Working Group III (http://mitigation2014.org/report/publication/ipcc_wgiii_ar5_errata.pdf);
- Synthesis Report (http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_Errata.pdf); and
- the 2006 IPCC Guidelines on Greenhouse Gas Inventories (<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/corrigenda9.html>).

Responses to the Panel's request at IPCC-41

At the 41st Session of the IPCC, according to Decision IPCC/XLI-8, the Panel requested the IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom) to further consider how to reflect errata corrected before and after publication, and errata in translations in a consistent manner in publications and electronic versions of reports and to report to the Panel at its 42nd Session. Some procedures, included below, were considered by the ExCom, which noted the need to continue the discussion on, and evaluation of, other proposed processes in the future. This would involve the new IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) leadership and Technical Support Units (TSUs), including consultation of the TSU operational leads from AR5.

Addressing errors corrected before publication

The ExCom discussed the issue of addressing errors corrected after the text is approved by the Plenary and before publication and considered that further discussion on, and evaluation of, processes will be required in order to find a widely acceptable and practical solution.

Reflecting post-publication errata in electronic publications

Post-publication errata are addressed using the Error Protocol and listed in the regularly updated Errata lists, which are publicly available from the IPCC website. The ExCom discussed the issue of reflecting post-publication errata in electronic publications, however further discussion on, and evaluation of, processes will be required in order to find a widely acceptable and practical solution.

Proposal for addressing errata related to translations

The following process for addressing translation errors to other UN languages, which was discussed and first considered by the ExCom in December 2013, and later on in September 2015, is submitted for the Panel's consideration:

1. The point of entry for error claims is the IPCC Secretariat through a separate web based reporting tool. The IPCC Secretariat informs the Co-Chairs of the relevant Working Group /Task Force (WG/TF), or the Chair in the case of the Synthesis Report (SYR);
2. One IPCC Bureau member from the WG or TF that produced the report, who is fluent in the relevant language, will assess the reported error and decide, in consultation with the experts from the WG or TF, whether or not to propose a correction. If such a Bureau member is not available, a member of the author team or the relevant TSU should be enlisted. It is advisable to consult with the official translator(s) who were involved in the original translation of the report;

3. If a correction is proposed, and if it is acceptable to the official translator(s), the corrected translation becomes a translation erratum. Such a translation erratum should be available from the same web sites as the translations of the approved/accepted reports;
4. If the Bureau member or representative, and the official translator(s) disagree, the final decision resides with the official translator(s). The official translator(s) may decide that it is necessary to post an erratum (as per step 3) or stay with the original translation. In either case, the official translator(s) writes a short statement for the Bureau representative justifying his/her interpretation. The Bureau representative shares the statement with the Co-Chairs of the relevant WG/TF, or the Chair in the case of the SYR; and
5. The IPCC Secretariat will post the translation erratum through a notice on the translations page of the IPCC web site. The Secretariat is also responsible for ensuring that the process moves to closure and for informing the claimant about the end of the process.