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# INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



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## **PROGRESS REPORT BY WORKING GROUP II**

(Submitted by the Co-chairs of Working Group II)

## WORKING GROUP II PROGRESS REPORT

### 1. The Fourth Assessment Report

Since the last Progress Report by the Co-Chairs (April 2005), the major activities towards the delivery of the Fourth Assessment Report have been:

- the submission of the First-Order Draft (FOD) by the chapter writing teams,
- the identification of the Expert Reviewer teams,
- the commencement of the Expert Review of the FOD,
- start of work by Review Editors,
- start of preparation of the first draft of the WGII Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers
- start of development of a regional database on source material used in the WGII Fourth Assessment
- co-ordination with other Working Groups, including on Cross-Cutting Themes,
- vocabulary, acronyms, abbreviations and units.

These are described in further detail below.

#### 1.1 The First-Order Drafts

All chapters submitted their Zero-Order Drafts within one week of the deadline of August 15th 2005. After processing to ensure homogeneity in terms of layout, line numbering etc., these FODs were sent out for review on or before September 9th.

#### 1.2 The Expert Review

Following the *Principles Governing IPCC Work*, the review period will be eight weeks, between September 9<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the work in the last six months has focussed on the development of the Expert Reviewer lists. The Expert Reviewers of the FOD will be the following:

- a. All persons nominated by their governments in the roles of Co-ordinating Lead Author, Lead Author, Contributing Author and/or Expert Reviewer (but not Review Editor).
- b. Appropriate experts identified by the Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs and Review Editors, and approved by the WGII Bureau
- c. All expert reviewers of the Zero-Order Draft (ZOD).
- d. All Expert Reviewers nominated by appropriate organizations.

An important aim of the FOD expert review is that it should ensure that chapters within the same working group report, and in different working groups, are complementary and non-contradictory, while at the same time they do not duplicate one another. To address this, expert reviewers have been identified who will review between WGII chapters which are clearly related, for example chapters 17 (Assessment of Adaptation Practices, Options, Constraints and Capacity) and 18 (Inter-relationships between Adaptation and Mitigation), and in related chapters between working groups.

Successful enquiries were made of the other Working Groups to ensure that WGII procedures were in agreement with theirs. Within the review, all efforts were made to ensure that roles were kept separate. For example, checks were made to ensure that Contributing Authors who had input to the FODs were not asked to act as informal Expert Reviewers.

A guidance note has been developed for Expert Reviewers, to ensure that they are aware of the nature of the review, and of their task. The review will be carried out electronically: reviewers are expected to enter their comments into a spreadsheet and provide this as an attachment to an email sent to the WGII Technical Support Unit.

Expert Review comments will be collated by the Technical Support Unit, and circulated to authors and Review Editors in early December. This allows a month for comments to be considered and acted upon, prior to the third Lead Author meeting which is from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

### 1.3 The Review Editors

Working Group II has between two and three Review Editors per chapter. In the last six months, they have begun to undertake their activities in the Fourth Assessment, as follows:

- a) They have been provided with a guidance document to read, setting out their role and the tasks they will undertake
- b) They have been provided with a set of documents to show the context and progress of the Fourth Assessment, including the Green Book provided to authors at the first Lead Author meeting, and the Blue Book which they received at the second Lead Author meeting.
- c) As set out in the *Principles Governing IPCC Work*, they have been requested to provide names of Expert Reviewers.

The Review Editors will be sent the First-Order Drafts in September and the comments from the Expert Reviewers in December. They will attend the third and fourth Lead Author meetings.

## **2. Technical Paper on Water**

Working Group II has been requested by IPCC to lead the preparation of a Technical Paper on Climate Change and Water. The relevant minute from the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the IPCC (Vienna, November 2003) reads:

*7.3 The Panel agreed to prepare a technical paper on climate change and water to be finalised in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007 and it agreed with the process and possible areas to be covered by the technical paper, as presented in the proposal submitted by the Co-chairs of Working Group II.*

Working Group II has consulted with the other two Working Groups regarding the Technical Paper on Water, with respect to the timetable and authorship. Reasons are now emerging which give good cause to postpone the delivery of the Technical Paper on Climate Change and Water. These are:

- The final approval meeting for the Fourth Assessment Working Group reports will not take place until May 2007. Given that the Technical Paper must be based on material appearing in all three Fourth Assessment Reports, and that this material should be approved by the IPCC, this leaves a very short period of time for the Technical Paper authors to complete their writing and submit it for Government and Expert Review.
- The decision to have a Synthesis Report for the Fourth Assessment means that those authors involved in the Synthesis Report and the Technical Paper would be over-committed to IPCC activities in mid-2007.
- A suggested reason for preparing the Technical Paper by this date has been to have the report ready for the World Water Forum. However, the Fourth World Water Forum meets between March 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006 in Mexico, and the Fifth Forum is not until March 2009.

We therefore submit to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC in Montreal a request for a six-month postponement in the finalisation of the Technical Paper on climate change and water. The proposed new date for finalisation is late March/early April 2008. This date is set far enough beyond the completion of the AR4, including the SYR, to allow the authors sufficient time to produce a high

quality Technical Paper. It is soon enough after the completion of the AR4 for the Technical Paper to have relevance.

### **3. Cross-working Group Activities**

Working Group II continues to co-operate with the other Working Groups in the completion of the Fourth Assessment. Regular communication between the three Technical Support Units is an important mechanism to ensure that, wherever possible, common practices are followed.

Following the successful joint meeting at La Reunion in February 2005, there are plans to hold a further meeting between Working Group II and III authors during the UNFCCC COP 11. This would consider issues of joint interest related to adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, especially as these relate to complementarity and consistency between the AR4 reports of the two Working Groups.

A small author meeting on Regional Information is being planned between Working Groups I and II, to be held in October 2005. This will involve around 6-8 authors, with the goal of ensuring that Working Group II authors, particularly in the regional chapters and Chapter 2 (Scenarios and methods), understand the material that will be presented and assessed in Working Group I on regional climate change. The goal is to ensure that Working Group II authors are up-to-date in their understanding of regional climate change, and that their consideration of the climate change impacts is consistent with what is being said in Working Group I about the changes which will take place.

### **4. First Draft of the Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers**

Apart from reviewing the FOD, the main task over the next three months will be the initial drafting of the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policymakers. The first draft will be considered at the Third LA Meeting in January 2006, and a second draft will be prepared for expert and government review in April 2006.

### **5. Development of a regional database on source material in the Fourth Assessment**

We have agreed with authors a form in which an electronic regional database on source material will be developed. Authors will be asked to start on this next month.