



WMO

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



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## **PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP I TOWARDS THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)**

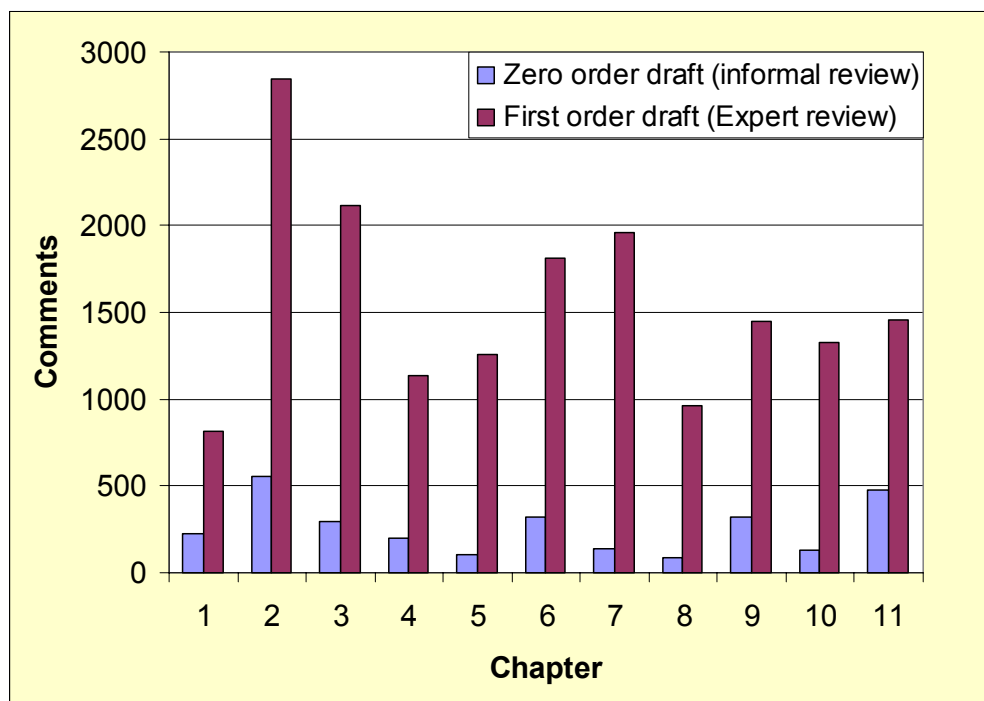
(Submitted by the Co-chairs of Working Group I)

## PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP I TOWARDS THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)

### 1. Review of the First Order Draft

The first-order draft of the Working Group I contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report (WG1-AR4) was made available for expert review on September 9th, 2005. The review period ended on November 4th, 2005.

Over 17,000 comments were received from more than 540 reviewers from 43 countries or international organizations. This is 6 times the number of comments received in an informal review of a zero-order draft and clearly indicates the very high level of interest in and commitment to the IPCC assessment within the scientific expert community. A breakdown of the number of comments received for each chapter and comparison with an earlier informal review of a zero-order draft is shown in the figure below.



**Figure 1.** Numbers of comments received on WG I first- and zero-Order Drafts by chapter.

Nearly all reviewers made use of the web based system that was established as the preferred form of submitting comments. A closed web site developed by the Working Group I Technical Support Unit (TSU) allowed easy access to drafts of each chapter and to a standard format spreadsheet for reviewer comments. In addition reviewers could use this web site to access over 700 papers cited by chapters that were still only submitted or in press at the time of the review.

## **2. Third Lead Authors Meeting.**

The third WG I Lead Author meeting was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from December 13 to 15, 2005, with the kind support of the New Zealand Ministry for Environment, the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research, and the University of Canterbury.

Most of the time in this meeting was dedicated to meetings of chapter teams to review and decide on appropriate responses to expert review comments. Several cross-chapter issues were also dealt with and a subgroup of the Lead Authors (LAs) involved in drafting the Technical Summary (TS) and Summary for Policymakers (SPM) met to discuss comments on a draft Technical Summary and identify further actions as needed.

## **3. Preparation for the Second Order Draft and the Government and Expert Review**

The second-order draft of the Working Group I Report was made available for review on April 7th, 2006. The review period will close on June 2nd, 2006.

A closed web site is again being used to provide access to the draft chapters and all review materials, including unpublished papers. In addition to web site features available for the previous review, additional arrangements have been made to support government focal points who may wish to coordinate a review by their own selected government experts. Care is being taken to ensure that the two forms of review comments – one by experts in their own right, and one by governments – are not confused by participants.

It is anticipated that with the inclusion of a draft SPM and TS in this review, more comments will be received than for the first-order draft. This volume of comments makes use of a standardized spreadsheet format essential if they are to be compiled in time for effective use by the authors.

Governments are urged to ensure that their comments are submitted on or before June 2nd, 2006, as no guarantee can be given that late comments will be able to be considered by the Lead Authors at their last meeting.

## **4. Fourth Lead Author Meeting and Beyond**

The fourth Lead Author meeting will be held near Bergen, Norway, at the kind invitation of the Norwegian government, with local support being provided by the University of Bergen, Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research. This meeting will be held from June 26 – 28th, 2006.

The final draft SPM will be made available for review by governments on October 27, 2006 with written comments required by December 8, 2006. A final draft of the chapters will be distributed with this version of the SPM, however, in accordance with IPCC procedures, the chapters are not subject to further review at that time.

The Working Group I Session to consider approval of the Working Group I contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report will be held in Paris at the kind invitation of the French government. The dates for this Session are January 29 – February 1, 2007.