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PROGRESS REPORT

Working Group I contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of the IPCC Working Group I)

PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP I TOWARDS THE IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I

1. Summary

The following is a report on the activities of WGI since IPCC-XXXII in October 2010.

Recent key activities and meetings for WGI, in chronological order, have been:

- Publication of the *Workshop Report of the IPCC Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities* in October 2010;
- Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX), Third Lead Author Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, October 2010;
- Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, First Lead Author Meeting, held in Kunming, China, November, 2010;
- Presentation on the WGI AR5 to the UNFCCC in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010 (by video);
- Finalisation of the *Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties*, in December 2010;
- IPCC WGII/WGI Workshop on Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biology and Ecosystems, held in Okinawa, Japan, January 2011;
- Implementation of a WGI Conflict of Interest Policy, completed March 2011;
- Completion of the Zero Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report in March 2011;
- Review of the Zero Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report in April 2011 (ongoing);
- Preparation of the SREX Fourth Lead Author Meeting to be held in Gold Coast, Australia, May 2011;
- Preparation of the IPCC WGI/WGII/WGIII Expert Meeting on Geoengineering, to be held in Lima, Peru, June 2011;
- Preparation of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, Second Lead Author Meeting, to be held in Brest, France, July, 2011.

2. Activities in Support of the WGI AR5

Key activities that have been completed in support of the WGI AR5 since IPCC-XXXII:

- In October 2010, WGI published the *Workshop Report of the IPCC Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities*. The Workshop Report provides a synthesis of the proceedings at the Workshop, including reports from breakout groups. The extended abstracts submitted by the participants in advance of the Workshop are also included as an Annex to the Report. The Workshop Report is available from the Secretariat and electronic copies of the Workshop Report are available from both the IPCC and WGI websites.
- The WGI Bureau instituted a Conflict of Interest (CoI) policy because it was important to have such a policy in place before the first Lead Author Meeting in November 2010. It was recognised that this might need to be updated or amended if the Panel institutes an IPCC-wide CoI policy. The WGI CoI policy consists of a Guidance Note with illustrative examples and a self-declaration form. The note is available from the WGI web site: https://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/guidancepaper/WG1_GuidanceNote_Conflict-of-Interest.pdf.

Information on real, perceived or potential CoI is requested in three specific categories: professional activities (e.g., journal editorship, board membership of NGO), membership of a government delegation at Sessions of the IPCC Panel, and financial; as well as "any other". Reports were received from all 258 CLAs, LAs, REs (including WG Vice-Chairs), both WG Co-Chairs and all TSU staff. The process took a total of five months from start to finish, including assessment and scrutiny of the entries submitted and individual follow up where necessary. Several CLAs and LAs as well as both WGI Co-Chairs took voluntary action at the start of their WGI AR5 duties to remove any possible perception of CoI by stepping down from external positions that were a potential CoI or that might have been perceived as such. Maintaining confidentiality of the submitted information is a high priority for the WGI TSU.

- In December 2010, WGs I, II and III finalised the *Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties*. Preparation of this Guidance Note was an agreed outcome of the IPCC Cross-Working Group Meeting on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties, held in Jasper Ridge, California, USA, from 6-7 July 2010. It is intended to assist AR5 authors in the consistent treatment of uncertainties across all three WGs. The Guidance Note defines a common approach and calibrated language that can be used broadly for developing expert judgments and for evaluating and communicating the degree of certainty in findings of the assessment process.
- In March 2011 the Zero Order Draft of the WGI AR5 was completed, with 14 Chapters and 2 Annexes being submitted to the WGI TSU for compilation and distribution. A proposed list of Frequently Asked Questions for WGI AR5 was developed with the Chapter CLAs, designated members of the WGI Bureau and the WGI TSU in December 2010. These were addressed to the extent possible in the Chapter ZODs.
- In April 2011 the Zero Order Draft was circulated to Expert Reviewers proposed by the WGI AR5 Chapter CLAs, REs and the WGI Bureau. The WGI TSU developed and implemented a comprehensive online review tool that was adapted from the review tools used for the WGI AR4 and the SREX. The ZOD Review is an informal review that is intended to provide the Chapter teams with an early indication as to whether their first compilation reflects the available peer-reviewed literature and provides a balanced coverage of the chapter's scope. The Expert Reviewers were asked to focus specifically on chapter structure, coverage, gaps, balance, and cross-chapter issues. The ZOD Review ends on 10 June 2011 and the comments received will be addressed by the Chapter teams at the Second Lead Author Meeting and in preparing their First Order Drafts.

3. Meetings in Support of the WGI AR5

Since the submission of the last Progress Report on WGI AR5, several IPCC Expert Meetings, Workshops, Cross-Working Group Meetings and Lead Author Meetings have already been held or are in planning, in support of the development of the WGI AR5:

- The *Working Group I First Lead Author Meeting* was held in Kunming, China, 8-11 November 2010. This first meeting of CLAs and LAs provided a substantive start to the WGI contribution to the AR5. The meeting time was mostly devoted to work in the Chapter teams and sessions on cross-chapter issues. The Chapter teams developed a detailed plan for completing the ZOD by March 2011. Contributing chapters selected an editorial team for Annex I: Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections, which is an integral part of WGI AR5, and an editorial board was appointed. Furthermore, it was decided to include a second Annex: Climate System Scenario Tables.
During the meeting, plenary presentations were made on the IPCC Principles and Procedures and providing general guidance from the WGI Bureau. The outcomes of the IPCC meetings that have been held in preparation of the AR5 were described, including AR5 Scoping Meetings, joint WG Expert Meetings and Workshops. The WGI TSU introduced the resources that it has developed in support of the writing process. These include a compilation of technical resources such as a Chapter Template and Style Guide, and a suite of electronic resources such as discussion fora, a document repository and exchange mechanism; and a web-based reference management tool.
- A *WGII/WGI Workshop on Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biology and Ecosystems* was held in Okinawa, Japan from 17-19 January 2011. The Workshop provided an opportunity for the experts from the WGI and WGII communities, as well as the relevant authors from both WGs contributions to AR5, to discuss the rapidly advancing research in this area. The Workshop stimulated communication among the scientists and authors across the disciplines and WGs, encouraged efficient transfer of information, and provided an opportunity for further discussion of the information that will be available for assessment in the AR5. A Workshop Report is currently under development, organised by the two WGs, with finalisation planned for June.
- An *IPCC WGI/WGII/WGIII Expert Meeting on Geoengineering* will be held in Lima, Peru, 20-22 June 2011, with WGIII taking the organisational lead. This Expert Meeting will serve as a platform to bring together experts from many different disciplines. They will discuss the scientific basis of geoengineering options, risks, and impacts, and its role within the portfolio of response options to anthropogenic climate change. The Expert Meeting is intended to encourage the consistent treatment of geoengineering options across the contributions of each WG to the AR5.
- The *Working Group I Second Lead Author Meeting* will be held in Brest, France, 18-22 July 2011. This second meeting of Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors will be critical in making progress on the WGI contribution to the AR5. The Chapter teams will discuss the comments received in the ZOD Review and how to address these in preparing the First Order Draft of the chapters. In addition, a number of cross-chapter breakout groups will be held to focus on issues of gaps, overlaps and chapter boundaries.

A complete listing of all meetings in support of the development of the WGI AR5 is available from the WGI website: <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/meetings/meetings.html>, and the complete outline of the WGI AR5 can be found at <https://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/AR5/chapteroutline.html>.

4. Special Reports

Working Group I is actively engaged in the WGI/WGII joint Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). Operational oversight resides with WGII, but the WGI Co-Chairs, Bureau and TSU have remained heavily involved throughout the process, in particular in support of Chapter 3. This Chapter of the SREX, which is the responsibility of WGI, is entitled "Changes in Climate Extremes and their Impacts on the Natural Physical Environment".

Following the Expert Review of the First Order Draft that was completed in September 2010, the CLAs, LAs and REs met for the Third Lead Author Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 25-28 October 2010 to respond to comments and to revise the draft of their Chapters.

There has been one change in the author team for Chapter 3. Following consultation with the WGI Bureau, Amadou Gaye (Senegal) resigned his role as LA on Chapter 3 in November 2010.

The Second Order Draft was completed in January 2011 and the Expert and Government Review was held from 7 February to 1 April 2011. Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors will meet from 16-19 May 2011 in Gold Coast, Australia for the Fourth Lead Author Meeting to consider the comments received.

An extended Progress Report on the SREX has been provided by the Co-Chairs of WGII and WGI (see IPCC-XXXIII/Doc. 17).