



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION
Geneva, 31 August - 4 September 2008

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Agenda item: 7
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PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(Proposals by Australia to appoint review editors in the preparation of Technical Papers
and to amend the Framework and Criteria for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers)

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the 28th Session of the IPCC Australia offered to present, prior to the 29th Session, two proposals: one to appoint review editors in the preparation of Technical Papers; and a second to amend the Framework and Criteria for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers. Australia is pleased to provide the following proposals on these matters – (a) and (b) – for consideration by the Panel at its 29th Session.

(a) Proposal to appoint review editors in the preparation of Technical Papers

Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work mandates that in preparing Assessment Reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports two Review Editors per chapter (one from within a Working Group/Task Force Bureau and one independent expert) be selected to help ensure a balanced and complete assessment of current information. However, this requirement currently does not extend to Technical Papers. The transparency, balance and completeness of Technical Papers could be improved by including a requirement for two Review Editors - one from within a Working Group/Task Force Bureau and one independent expert - for an entire Technical Paper (rather than for individual chapters as is the procedure for other reports).

Australia proposes that section 5 ‘Technical Papers’, clause (e) of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work be modified as follows :

“e. are revised by the Lead Authors based upon the comments received in the step above, and with advice from four review editors per entire technical paper who are selected as per the procedures for selecting Review Editors for Assessment Reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports in section 4.2.4 of this Appendix and carry out the roles listed in section 5 of Annex 1”.

(b) Proposal to amend the Framework and Criteria for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers

At the 28th Session of the IPCC, the Panel agreed to extend the Framework and Criteria for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers beyond the period of the Fourth Assessment Report. However, the current Framework and Criteria could be strengthened by asking the Panel to consider whether Special Reports and Technical Papers deal with cross-cutting issues across more than one of the three Working Groups of the IPCC. This would ensure Special Reports and Technical Papers add value to the comprehensive assessment process by considering the linkages of particular issues across Working Groups.

Australia proposes the following bullet point be inserted into both sections (A) and (B) of the Framework and Criteria for Special Reports, Methodology Reports and Technical Papers.

“Considers cross-cutting issues that require input from more than one Working Group of the IPCC”.