

IPCC WORKING GROUP I – ELEVENTH SESSION Bali, 26-29 October 2009

WG-I :11th /Doc.2 (28.IX.2009) Agenda Item: 2 ENGLISH ONLY

PROPOSED CHAPTER OUTLINES OF THE WORKING GROUP I CONTRIBUTION TO THE IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR5)

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



Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Please refer to the Background Document WGI-11/Inf.1 for information on the broad structure and rationale of the Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Table of Contents

Summary for Policy Makers Technical Summary

Chapter 1: Introduction

Executive Summary

- Rationale and key concepts of the WG1 contribution
- · Treatment of uncertainty
- · Climate change projections since FAR

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 2: Observations: Atmosphere and Surface

Executive Summary

- · Changes in surface temperature
- · Changes in temperature, humidity and clouds
- Changes in radiation fields and energy budget
- Changes in hydrology, runoff, precipitation and drought
- · Changes in atmospheric circulation
- Spatial and temporal patterns of climate variability
- Changes in extreme events, including tropical and extratropical storms

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 3: Observations: Ocean

Executive Summary

- · Changes in ocean temperature and heat content
- Ocean salinity change and freshwater fluxes
- Sea level change, ocean waves and storm surges
- · Ocean biogeochemical changes, including ocean acidification
- Changes in ocean surface processes
- Changes in ocean circulation
- · Spatial and temporal patterns of ocean variability

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 4: Observations: Cryosphere

Executive Summary

- · Changes in ice sheets, including mass balance
- · Changes in ice shelves
- · Changes in glaciers and ice caps
- · Dynamics of ice sheets, ice shelves, ice caps and glaciers
- · Sea ice variability and trends
- · Snow and ice cover variability and trends
- · Changes in frozen ground

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 5: Information from Paleo-Climate Archives

Executive Summary

- · Characteristics of early instrumental, documentary and natural climate archives
- · Reconstruction of radiative forcing and climate response
- · Reconstruction of regional variability and extremes
- · Abrupt climate changes and their regional expression
- · Sea level and ice sheets: patterns, amplitudes and rates of change
- Paleoclimate perspective on irreversibility in the climate system
- · Paleodata-model intercomparisons

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 6: Carbon and Other Biogeochemical Cycles

Executive Summary

- Past changes in CO₂, CH₄, N₂O and biogeochemical cycles
- Recent trends in global and regional sources, sinks and inventories, including land use change
- Processes and understanding of changes, including ocean acidification
- Interactions between the carbon and other biogeochemical cycles, including the nitrogen cycle
- Projections of changes in carbon and other biogeochemical cycles
- · Greenhouse gas stabilisation
- Carbon cycle climate feedbacks and irreversibility
- · Geoengineering involving the carbon cycle

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 7: Clouds and Aerosols

Executive Summary

- · Observations of clouds and their representation in models
- · Coupling of clouds, water vapour, precipitation and the large-scale circulation
- · Cloud and water vapour feedbacks and their effects on climate sensitivity
- · Observations of aerosols and their representation in models
- · Aerosol types including black carbon: chemistry, sources, sinks and distribution
- · Direct and indirect aerosol forcing and effects
- · Aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions
- · Geoengineering involving clouds and aerosols

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 8: Anthropogenic and Natural Radiative Forcing

Executive Summary

- · Radiative forcing changes: solar and volcanic
- Anthropogenic radiative forcing, including effects from land surface changes
- · Effects of atmospheric chemistry and composition
- · Spatial and temporal expression of radiative forcing
- Greenhouse gas and other metrics, including Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Global Temperature Change Potential (GTP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 9: Evaluation of Climate Models

Executive Summary

- · The hierarchy of climate models from global to regional, including downscaling methods
- · Performance metrics and their use
- · New model components and coupling
- · Representation of processes and feedbacks in climate models
- · Simulation of recent and longer term records
- · Simulation of regional patterns, variability and extremes

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 10: Detection and Attribution of Climate Change: from Global to Regional

Executive Summary

- · Evaluation of methodologies
- Atmospheric and surface changes
- · Changes in ocean properties
- · Cryosphere changes
- · Extreme events
- · Pre-instrumental perspective
- Implications of attribution for projections

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 11: Near-term Climate Change: Projections and Predictability

Executive Summary

- · Predictability of interannual to decadal climate variations and change
- · Projections for the next few decades
- Regional climate change, variability and extremes
- · Atmospheric composition and air quality
- · Possible effects of geoengineering
- Quantification of the range of climate change projections

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 12: Long-term Climate Change: Projections, Commitments and Irreversibility

Executive Summary

- · Scenario description
- Projections for the 21st century
- Projections beyond the 21st century
- · Regional climate change, variability and extremes
- Forcing, response and climate sensitivity
- · Climate change commitment and inertia
- · Potential for abrupt change and irreversibility in the climate system
- · Quantification of the range of climate change projections

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 13: Sea Level Change

Executive Summary

- · Synthesis of observed sea level change and its components
- · Models for sea level change
- · Projections of globally averaged sea level rise
- Projections of the regional distribution of sea level change
- · Extreme sea level events
- · Potential ice sheet instability and its implications
- Multi-century projections

Frequently Asked Questions

Chapter 14: Climate Phenomena and their Relevance for Future Regional Climate Change

Executive Summary

- Patterns of variability: observations, understanding and projections
- Monsoon systems: observations, understanding and projections
- · Extremes: observations, understanding and projections
- · Interconnections among phenomena

Frequently Asked Questions

Annex I: Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections

Annex II: Glossary

Annex III: Acronyms and Regional Abbreviations

Annex IV: List of Authors

Annex V: List of Reviewers

Index