

# ipcc

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## **PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR5)**

### **Working Group I Progress Report**

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

#### **IPCC Secretariat**

c/o WMO • 7bis, Avenue de la Paix • C.P. 2300 • 1211 Geneva 2 • Switzerland  
telephone : +41 (0) 22 730 8208 / 54 / 84 • fax : +41 (0) 22 730 8025 / 13 • email : IPCC-Sec@wmo.int • [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)



## 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-XXXV in June 2012.

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

- Participation in the First Core Writing Team Meeting for the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, June 2012;
- Completion of the Second Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, August 2012;
- Development of an Outreach and Communications Plan for the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, November 2012;
- Completion of the Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 5 October – 30 November 2012;
- Completion of the compilation and distribution to authors of the review comments submitted during the Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft, December 2012;
- Transition from the interim Working Group I Conflict of Interest Policy to the IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy, January 2013;
- Completion of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Fourth Lead Author Meeting, held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 13–19 January 2013;
- Completion of the Final Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, May 2012;
- Participation in the Second Core Writing Team Meeting for the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, June 2013;
- Completion of the Final Government Distribution of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 5 June – 2 August 2013;
- Completion of the compilation and distribution to authors of the comments submitted on the SPM during the Final Government Distribution, August 2013;
- Organized a Media Briefing in Switzerland on the background to AR5 and the IPCC process, 29 August 2013;
- Development of a dedicated website for the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: [www.climatechange2013.org](http://www.climatechange2013.org), launched 30 August 2013;
- Completion of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Preparatory Meeting of Authors, held in Stockholm, Sweden, 20–21 September 2013;
- Approval of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers and Acceptance of the underlying scientific and technical assessment during the Twelfth Session of Working Group I, held in Stockholm, Sweden, 23–26 September 2013;
- Release of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers, Press Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, 27 September 2013;
- Dedication of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report to Bert Bolin at the Symposium *Climate Change: Bert Bolin and Beyond*, Stockholm, Sweden, 27 September 2013;
- Organization of a science and stakeholder event involving all the Swiss Lead Authors and Review Editors, Bern, Switzerland, 30 September 2013;
- Preparation for the presentation of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report to the policy community in Brussels in cooperation with the EC, 4 November 2013;
- Preparation for the presentation of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report to the 19th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, November 2013;
- Outreach and communication activities in support of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (ongoing).

## 2. Activities in Support of the WGI AR5

Key activities that have been completed or are under preparation in support of the WGI AR5 since IPCC-XXXV:

- In August 2012, the Second Order Draft of the WGI AR5 was completed, with 14 Chapters and 3 Annexes being submitted to the WGI TSU for compilation and distribution. In addition, the First Order Draft of the Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers was finalized. In preparation of the review, the WGI Bureau and TSU developed an enhanced review mechanism to accommodate both individual experts and member Governments. In support of the Expert Review component, the online registration process developed for the Expert Review of the First Order Draft was continued. The registration site for experts was opened on 7 September 2012. The WGI TSU received and processed over 1500 registrants.

The Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft was held from 5 October – 30 November 2012. During the eight-week review period 800 experts and 26 governments submitted 31,422 comments. Review comments were compiled and distributed to the chapter teams in early December. At the WGI Fourth Lead Author Meeting, held in January in Australia, the chapter teams met to consider and respond to the comments received.

- In January 2013, WGI completed the transition from the WGI Interim Conflict of Interest Policy to the IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy. In March 2012, The IPCC Executive Committee approved the plan for the transition from the interim WGI Col Policy that had been in place since October 2010 to the approved IPCC Col Policy. It was agreed that all WGI CLAs, LAs, REs and TSU members would submit the new IPCC Col form in place of the scheduled annual WGI update in October 2012. With the permission of the IPCC Legal and Liaison Officer, the WGI TSU adapted the layout of the IPCC Col disclosure form to make it more user-friendly and to give it a visual identity that is closer to the WGI interim Col form; however the text may not be and has not been edited. Compliance was 100% complete with 257 forms submitted by 249 CLAs, LAs and REs and 8 TSU members. All forms were evaluated using the same criteria as in 2010/2011. These include the nature of the interest, the individual's role in IPCC, and whether the interest has a direct impact on the individual's IPCC contribution.

The outcome of the evaluation and conclusions were approved by the WGI Bureau at a meeting on 14 January 2013 during WGI's LA4 meeting in Hobart, Tasmania. All 257 respondents were notified by the WGI TSU and a written report was submitted to the Chair of the IPCC Col Committee on 19 January, formally concluding the 2012 IPCC Col process for WGI.

- In May 2013, the Final Draft of the WGI AR5 was completed with 14 Chapters, 3 Annexes, a Technical Summary and a Summary for Policymakers being submitted to the WGI TSU for compilation and distribution to the governments in preparation of the Twelfth Session of Working Group I.

The Final Government Distribution of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Final Draft was held from 7 June to 2 August 2013. The eight-week distribution period provided the governments with an opportunity to submit written comments on the Final Draft Summary for Policymakers in advance of the Twelfth Session of Working Group I. Thirty-two Governments submitted a total of 1855 comments on the WGI AR5 Final Draft Summary for Policymakers.

- In September 2013, the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis* was accepted at the Twelfth Session of Working Group I. For more information, please see Section 3 below.

A complete listing of all activities in support of the development of the WGI AR5 is available from the WGI website: <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/AR5/AR5.html>.

## 3. Meetings in Support of the WGI AR5

Meetings that have been completed or are under preparation in support of the WGI AR5 since IPCC-XXXV:

- The *Working Group I Fourth Lead Author Meeting* was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 13–19 January 2013. The support of the Government of Australia and the assistance of the Australian Focal Point, Benedikte Jensen are kindly acknowledged.

Following on the positive experience of previous WGI Lead Author Meetings, a WGI Media Briefing was held prior to the Opening Ceremony to provide the local and national media with background information on the IPCC, the role of

WGI, the AR5 process, and the purpose of LA4. The WGI Media Briefing also provided an opportunity for a question and answer session for members of the press to the WGI Co-Chairs and the Coordinating Lead Authors from Australia. The WGI Media Briefing and Opening Ceremony, as well as individual interviews, were the subject of a variety of media coverage including local and national television, radio, and newspaper reports.

LA4 was a critical meeting in the preparation of the WGI contribution to the AR5. This was the final opportunity for the chapter teams to meet. Chapter teams met for five days to discuss the comments received during the Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft and how to respond to these in preparing the Final Draft. In addition to the individual chapter meetings, cross-chapter sessions were held to further develop three of the Annexes to the WGI AR5: Annex I: Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections, Annex II: Climate System Scenario Tables, and Annex III: Glossary. Additional breakout groups were held in support of a number of cross-chapter topics. In the two days immediately following LA4, additional meetings were held in support of the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policymakers.

- The *Twelfth Session of Working Group I* (WGI-12) was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 23–26 September 2013. The support of the Government of Sweden and the assistance of the Swedish Focal Point, Marianne Lilliesköld, are kindly acknowledged. In advance of the approval session, a preparatory meeting of CLAs and SPM Drafting Authors was held from 20–21 September 2013.

During the WGI Session, the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) underwent a line-by-line approval by 110 Governments. Following the approval of the WGI SPM on 27 September, the underlying scientific and technical assessment was accepted. The actions taken at WGI-12 were then accepted at the 36th Session of the IPCC on 27 September 2013.

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>.

#### **4. WGI AR5 Communications and Outreach**

Starting in the summer of 2012, the WGI Co-Chairs and TSU developed a comprehensive plan for communications and outreach on the WGI contribution to AR5 in consultation with the WGI Bureau and also with the national IPCC Focal Point for specific activities in Switzerland. The outline of this plan was approved by the WGI Bureau in September 2012. Consultations with the IPCC Secretary and Senior Communication Manager, including a dedicated meeting in November 2012, were held as well as discussions in the IPCC Executive Committee and with the other WGs in order to ensure consistency between this and the overall communications and outreach plans under development for the AR5 as a whole. Many of the ideas in the WGI plan were subsequently adopted in the communications and outreach AR5 plan that was presented to the 46th meeting of the IPCC Bureau in February 2013.

##### **4.1 WGI AR5 Communication and Outreach Plan**

The WGI plan encompasses communication on WGI AR5 in a number of phases: pre-approval media briefings, activities at the time of the SPM approval session in Stockholm in September 2013, presentations at COP-19 (11–22 November 2013), and activities around the launch of the Chapters (January 2014). Other international activities include a presentation to the policy community in Brussels in cooperation with the EC (4 November 2013). Post-launch outreach on WGI AR5 in various locations around the world will be concentrated in the period from the WGI SPM approval session until just before the approval session for WGII (March 2014). Outreach activities thereafter will be carried out in coordination with and in support of the other two WGs and eventually the Synthesis Report. WGI AR5 outreach events will include presentations or special sessions at major scientific meetings and presentations to science academies, side events at regional meetings, and national outreach events in cooperation with the national IPCC Focal Points.

##### **4.2 WGI AR5 Communication and Outreach Materials**

The WGI Bureau as well as the WGI AR5 authors are involved in communications and outreach activities and a standardised set of materials has been developed and made available by the WGI TSU. The WGI Co-Chairs are responsible for its content, in consultation with the WGI Bureau, and the WGI TSU has worked closely with the IPCC Secretariat to ensure a consistent appearance of material.

### 4.3 WGI AR5 Website

In an effort led by WGII, in coordination with WGI and WGIII, and in consultation with the Secretariat, microsites for each of the three WG contributions were developed. The dedicated WGI AR5 website, [www.climatechange2013.org](http://www.climatechange2013.org), was launched on 30 August 2013. The website provides a single access point for the WGI AR5 and is being updated as materials become available. The website includes extensive background information, communication materials, and a listing of outreach events organised by Working Group I. On 27 September, the approved SPM was posted and within the first seven days had been downloaded 291,897 times. On 30 September, the 07 June 2013 Final Draft Technical Summary, Chapters and Annexes I-III were posted in the approved but unedited form. The full WGI AR5 report launch will take place at the time of the completion of the layout of the report in its publication ready format. This phase will see the addition to the website of the final report, including Technical Summary, Chapter and Annex Supplementary Material, as well as the individual graphic files, and the First and Second Order Drafts and the review comments and responses from the expert and government reviews of those drafts.

### 4.4 WGI AR5 Communication and Outreach Activities

A list of some of the activities organised by or with the participation of Working Group I between August and October 2013 is given below. The model of media background briefings introduced by WGI and held in Switzerland on 29 August was also successfully used in other countries including France, Germany, New Zealand and Sweden.

Special mention is made of the Symposium *Climate Change: Bert Bolin and Beyond* on 27 September. It was organised by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Bolin Centre for Climate Research and IPCC WGI to honour the significant achievements of Prof. Bert Bolin as one of the founding fathers of the IPCC and its first chairman from 1988 to 1997, and to dedicate the WGI AR5 to him.

29 August 2013	Media workshop on background to IPCC AR5	Bern, Switzerland
27 September 2013	IPCC press conference to present WGI AR5 SPM (webcast)	Stockholm, Sweden
27 September 2013	Symposium Climate Change: Bert Bolin and Beyond	Stockholm, Sweden
28 September 2013	Public event on Climate Change 2013	Stockholm, Sweden
30 September 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 to Swiss stakeholders	Bern, Switzerland
30 September 2013	Presentation at Asahi World Environmental Forum	Tokyo; Japan
01 October 2013	Two events presenting WGI AR5 to UK civil servants and to business leaders and NGOs	London, UK
02-03 October 2013	Royal Society Discussion Meeting	London, UK
04 October 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 at TU Wien	Vienna, Austria
08 October 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 to Geneva Environment Network	Geneva, Switzerland
08 October 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 to WBCSD	Geneva, Switzerland
08 October 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 at <i>Greenhouse 2013</i>	Adelaide Australia
11 October 2013	Presentation of WGI AR5 at Royal Society of New Zealand	Wellington, New Zealand

Activities planned for the period immediately following P-37 include a series of scientific presentations in Beijing by both Co-Chairs at the end of October, presentation of WGI AR5 to the policy community in Brussels at a high level event on 4 November that is organised in cooperation with the EC, presentations at various events during the 19th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Warsaw in November 2013 and a Town Hall meeting and Union Session at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco in December 2013. WGI is also supporting regional events that are being planned together with the IPCC Senior Communication Manager (see also IPCC-XXXVII/Doc.13).

## 5. Synthesis Report

Working Group I is actively involved in the development of the Synthesis Report (SyR). In support of the physical science basis, the Synthesis Report Core Writing Team includes nine authors and three review editors from the WGI AR5 author team, as well as the WGI Co-Chairs and TSU Director of Science. WGI participated in the First and Second Core Writing Team Meetings of the Synthesis Report and has provided support to the WGI authors in the writing of the Zero Order Draft and First Order Draft.