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Paris, France, 24 – 28 February 2020**

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Agenda Item:  
ENGLISH ONLY

**SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT SYNTHESIS REPORT OUTLINE**

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

## SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT SYNTHESIS REPORT OUTLINE

### Background

The Panel at its 41<sup>st</sup> Session held in Nairobi, Kenya from 24 to 27 February 2015 agreed that it would continue to prepare comprehensive assessment reports every five to seven years and that the scoping of the Synthesis Report – SYR - as well as attention to cross-cutting issues should start at an early stage ([Decision IPCC-XLI/4](#)).

A preliminary Scoping meeting for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report (SYR) was held during the AR6 Scoping Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 1-5 May 2017. The Panel at its 46<sup>th</sup> Session held on 6-10 September 2017 in Montreal, Canada, took note of document [IPCC-XLVI/Doc.6](#) which was produced during the scoping meeting.

A dedicated Scoping meeting for the AR6 Synthesis Report was held in Singapore from 21 to 23 October 2019, the outcome of which is included in the information document IPCC-LII/INF. 12.

### Scope

As defined in the IPCC procedures, the SYR would synthesize and integrate material contained within IPCC Assessment Reports and Special Reports. Its scope would include material contained in the three Working Group contributions to the AR6, and it would draw on information contained in other IPCC Reports as required. It would be written in a non-technical style suitable for policymakers and address a broad range of policy-relevant, but policy-neutral questions approved by the Panel. The SYR should be largely self-contained, but guide readers to the underlying material if they wish to look further.

The primary audience for the SYR would be policymakers, in particular from governments, advisors to policymakers, and experts. However, it is recognized that others will also make use of the report.

The proposed SYR would consist of two parts:

1. Summary for Policymakers (SPM): up to 10 pages
2. Longer Report: up to 50 pages

The SYR publication would also contain annexes such as a glossary, list of authors, reviewers, Review Editors, and an index.

The AR6 SYR would be self contained and published as a stand-alone publication in the six official UN languages. It will also take full benefit from the electronic edition tools, which contains the SYR (SPM and longer report), the contributions of the three IPCC Working Groups to the AR6 in English, and the summaries of these reports (SPM and Technical Summary) in all official UN languages. Automatic hyperlinks to references from the SYR (and its SPM) to the longer Working Group reports will be available in electronic and web-based version of the reports. There will also be full traceability in the referencing for the AR6 in the hard copies of all the reports, including the SPM of the SYR.

## **Content**

The following structure for the AR6 SYR is proposed. It contains agreed topic headings and a list of bullets that are intended as guidance to the authors.

## **Proposed outline of the Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report**

**Title:** AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2022

### **List of Contents**

- Front matter (2 pages)
- Summary for Policy Makers (~10 pages)
- Section 1: Introduction (1/2 page)
- Section 2: Current Status and Trends (10 pages)
- Section 3: Long term Climate and Development Futures (10 pages)
- Section 4: Near Term Action in a Changing Climate (10 pages)

### **Section 1: Introduction (1/2 page)**

- Context
- Setting the stage for the report

### **Section 2: Current Status and Trends (10 pages)**

- Socio-economic development, changing climate, differentiated risks, and climate policy.
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sources and removals by sinks, non-CO<sub>2</sub> forcers, including short-lived climate forcers.
- Socio-economic and technological drivers of emissions.
- Regional/global changes in the climate system, their causes and committed changes.
- Impacts on human, natural and managed systems and sectoral and regional risks and vulnerability
- Status of adaptation and mitigation efforts and implications for sustainable development.

### **Section 3: Long term Climate and Development Futures (10 pages)**

- Climate change at different global warming levels, rate of change, and dependency on forcing characteristics.
- Global and regional risks for natural[, managed] and human systems, and dependence on socio-economic development.
- Adaptation: options and limits, dependence on socio-economic development.
- Mitigation pathways, carbon budgets, net-zero emissions, dependence on socio-economic development, and risks and co-benefits from mitigation.
- Interactions between adaptation, mitigation and development, including economics, equity, ethical and governance dimensions.
- Deep uncertainty, tipping points, irreversibility, compound events, high-impact events, and societal and technological disruptions.
- Near-term and long-term interactions, overshoot, CDR, SRM, and adaptation

#### Section 4: Near Term Action in a Changing Climate (10 pages)

- Near-term climate change and variability, vulnerability, exposure and risks for natural, managed and human systems, across scales.
  - Near term development pathways consistent with limiting warming to different levels and enhancing adaptation.
  - Path dependency, lock-in, and implications of delayed action in a changing climate, including irreversibility.
  - Diverse response options across and within sectors and scales, including policies, co-benefits/synergies and trade-offs (adaptation, risk management, mitigation).
  - Strengthening and initiating system transitions, including for adaptation and mitigation, in the context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and equity; just transitions.
  - Enabling conditions including finance, institutions, capacity, governance, international cooperation, technological innovation and technology transfer, behaviour change.
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The Panel is invited to:

(1) agree to the outline of Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report as contained in this document.

(2) take note that the timetable **(tbc)** for the production of the Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report, is as follows:

- Approval of SYR Scoping Outcome, IPCC-52, 24-28 February 2020
- The nomination of CWT after IPCC-52 SYR Scoping approval
- Selection of CWT, 16 March – 26 April 2020
- CWT 1, 1 - 3 September 2020
- CWT 2, 15 - 18 March 2021
- CWT 3, 26 - 29 July 2021
- Government and Expert Review (FOD), 23 August - 17 October 2021
- CWT 4, 25 - 31 October 2021
- Government and observer organizations' consideration of the final draft SYR, 17 January - 13 March 2022
- CWT 5, 1 - 2 May 2022
- Approval/Adoption Plenary for AR6 SYR, 4 - 10 May 2022

(3) take note that the budget for the production of the Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report is as contained in Decision IPCC-XLIX-8 on the IPCC Trust Fund Programme and Budget.