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IPCC PRESS RELEASE

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IPCC reschedules Working Group I approval session

GENEVA, March 5 – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has rescheduled the approval session for the Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) to 26-30 July 2021 from April.

The location and modalities of the 54th Session are still under consideration.

The Panel also postponed the review of the Final Government Draft of the Working Group I report to 3 May-20 June 2021 and agreed on a one-week reduction in the length of the Final Government Draft (FGD) review, starting the review on 3 May instead of 26 April 2021 to relieve pressure on the drafting process.

"I would like to pay tribute to the authors, contributors and reviewers of this report, whose commitment in the challenging conditions of the pandemic around the world allows us to provide a timely, comprehensive and rigorous assessment of the state of climate science, with many novel aspects," said Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I.

Working Group I assesses the physical science basis of climate change, and will be the first of the IPCC working groups to release its AR6 contribution, which will be considered by the 54th Session of the IPCC. On this timetable, the Working Group I report would be released in early August.

The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed scientific work, including the preparation of scientific literature to be assessed in AR6. The work of the IPCC authors has also been disrupted. As a result the IPCC has made several changes to the timing of milestones in the preparation of the AR6 reports.

The timing of the approval sessions for the other two IPCC working group reports and for the AR6 Synthesis Report is still under consideration.

For more information, please contact:

IPCC Press Office, Email: ipcc-media@wmo.int

Jonathan Lynn, +41 22 730 8066, Werani Zabula, +41 22 730 8120

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About the IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. In the same year the UN General Assembly endorsed the action by the WMO and UNEP in jointly establishing the IPCC. It has 195 member states.

Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC. For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks.

The IPCC has three working groups: Working Group I, dealing with the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II, dealing with impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and Working Group III, dealing with the mitigation of climate change. It also has a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories that develops methodologies for estimating emissions and removals of greenhouse gases.

IPCC assessments provide governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC assessments are a key input into the international negotiations to tackle climate change. IPCC reports are drafted and reviewed in several stages, thus guaranteeing objectivity and transparency.

About the Sixth Assessment Cycle

Comprehensive scientific assessment reports are published every 6 to 7 years; the latest, the Fifth Assessment Report, was completed in 2014 and provided the main scientific input to the Paris Agreement.

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 43rd Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and AR6.

The IPCC also publishes special reports on more specific issues between assessment reports.

Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty was launched in October 2018.

Climate Change and Land, an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems was launched in August 2019.

The *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* was released in September 2019.

In May 2019 the IPCC released the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, an update to the methodology used by governments to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

The contributions of the three IPCC Working Groups to the Sixth Assessment Report are currently under preparation. The concluding Synthesis Report is due in 2022.

For more information please visit www.ipcc.ch.

The website includes [outreach materials](#) including videos about the IPCC and video recordings from [outreach events](#) conducted as webinars or live-streamed events.

Most videos published by the IPCC can be found on the IPCC [YouTube channel](#).