

Our ref.: 5106-18/IPCC/SR15

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs)
(if no focal point has been designated)

COPY

Geneva, 8 January 2018

Subject: *IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of addressing you on the matter of the Government and Expert Review of the IPCC *“Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C 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”*.

You may recall that at the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties (COP-21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in its decision on the adoption of the Paris Agreement, explicitly invited the IPCC to provide a Special Report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. At the 43rd Session of the IPCC (11 to 13 April 2016, Nairobi, Kenya), the Panel accepted the UNFCCC's invitation to provide the Special Report on 1.5°C in 2018 in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. Following a Scoping Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2016, the outline of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was approved at the 44th Session of the IPCC in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2016.

Following an IPCC call for nominations in October 2016 to member governments and observer organizations for experts to participate in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors were selected by the Working Group I, II and III Bureau in February 2017 from the large number of nominations received. The First Order Draft (FOD) of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was available for expert review from 31 July 2017 to 24 September 2017. The report has now been revised by the authors in response to comments received and the Second Order Draft (SOD) is available for simultaneous review by governments and experts from **8 January 2018 to 25 February 2018 midnight (GMT +1)**. I kindly invite you to submit your government comments within this time. Given the tight timeline for the preparation of the special report, we regret that delays to the schedule cannot be accommodated. The review comments will be compiled immediately on the 26 February so late submissions cannot be included.

The government and expert review of the SOD is a key element of the IPCC assessment process. The purpose of this government and expert review is to help ensure that the report provides a balanced and comprehensive assessment of the latest scientific findings. The IPCC Procedures

state that the review process shall be objective, open and transparent, with a wide circulation that aims to involve as many independent experts as possible in the IPCC process, seeking a range of views, expertise, and geographical representation. To this end your review comments will be most helpful if they:

- Address specific text, tables or figures in the draft and provide clear suggestions for changes in wording or content where appropriate. Please provide full references for any additional literature cited in a review comment.
- Recognize the specific mandates of IPCC and of Working Group I, II and III together with the approved outline of the report and do not require the authors to go beyond that scope.
- Ensure that any suggested changes to the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the report are fully consistent with material in the chapters of the report and provide cross references to that material.
- Recognize that the authors are required to work within strict length constraints and must present a concise assessment of current knowledge, not a scientific review of how that knowledge was derived.
- Give attention to ways of shortening the chapters and the SPM of the report where possible.
- Editorial comments can be provided, but please note that text styles including standardized spelling, use of units, etc., will be corrected as necessary in subsequent proof reading steps. Detailed comments on typographical errors are not generally of use at this stage.

The review process will follow standard IPCC procedures¹. These procedures advise that “governments should send one integrated set of comments for each Working Group report to the appropriate Working Group through their Government Focal Points”. Governments may wish to organize their own mechanisms for consulting experts in preparing their responses. In this connection, I request that the name(s) of the person(s) organizing the government review and the names of the individual experts involved be submitted along with your comments. For your information, this draft is also being distributed directly to the experts who contributed comments on the first order draft. An expert reviewer may also be asked to participate in the government review organized within his or her own country. In such a case, he/she should submit comments either as an individual or as part of the government review, but not both.

An e-mail providing your unique credentials to access the password-protected SOD repository will be sent to you today (Monday) 8 January 2018. These web pages will contain the drafts themselves, supporting materials, the comments spreadsheet, and instructions. You will be asked to upload the completed government review onto this system using the comments spreadsheet. Instructions will be provided with your credentials.

Please note that this draft report is made available solely for the purposes of the IPCC review process. It must not be cited, quoted or distributed other than as part of a managed government review process.

The Lead Authors will consider the review comments on their chapters at a meeting to be held on 9-13 April 2018 and independent Review Editors for each chapter will ensure that all substantive comments receive appropriate consideration. A final draft of the report will be sent to Governments on the 4th June 2018 and a First Joint Working Group I, II and III Session to approve the SPM and accept the underlying report will take place in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 1-5 October 2018.

¹ <http://www.ipcc-ch/>

Please note that **all comments will be published attributable by country** following the final approval and publication of the report.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the IPCC Working Group I TSU at [<tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr>](mailto:tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr).

Please note that all review comments must be submitted by means of the SOD repository site by **25 February 2018 midnight (GMT +1)**.

A copy of this letter is being sent for information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Permanent Representatives from your country to the World Meteorological Organization and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Mokssit', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC