

Our ref.: 5137-20/IPCC/AR6

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

COPY

Geneva, 22 February 2020

Subject: IPCC Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of addressing you on the matter of the Government and Expert Review of the Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*.

At the 41st Session of the IPCC (Nairobi, Kenya, 24-27 February 2015), the Panel agreed to prepare a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Following a Scoping meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2017, the [outline](#) of the Working Group I (WGI) contribution to the AR6 was approved at the 13th Session of Working Group I and adopted at the 46th Session of the IPCC, both meetings took place in Montreal, Canada, in September 2017. The Panel also decided that the Working Group I contribution to the AR6 would be completed in April 2021, with the completion of the Working Group II and Working Group III contribution to the AR6 and the Synthesis Report following in the course of 2022.

The Working Group I contribution to the AR6 First Order Draft (FOD) was available for expert review from 29 April to 23 June 2019. The report has now been revised by the authors in response to comments received and the Second Order Draft (SOD) will undergo simultaneous review by governments and experts.

The Government and Expert Review of the Working Group I contribution to the AR6 SOD is a key element of the IPCC assessment process. The purpose of this 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 expert 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 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.

The review process will follow standard IPCC procedures¹. These procedures advise that governments should send one integrated set of comments for each report to the appropriate Working Group Bureau Co-Chairs through their Government Focal Points. For your information, all experts who contributed comments on the FOD will be notified directly about the review of the SOD and invited to submit a review. 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.

The Government and Expert Review of the Working Group I AR6 SOD will take place from 2 March 2020 to 26 April 2020, 23:59 (GMT+1).

Expert Review

An online registration process is open for prospective expert reviewers via the SOD Review webpage:

<https://apps.ipcc.ch/comments/ar6wg1/sod/register.php>

Please note that IPCC Focal Points do not need to register. Registration is open and will close on **19 April 2020, 23:59 (GMT+1)**, one week before the end of the review period.

Government Review

I kindly invite you to submit your government comments by **26 April 2020, 23:59 (GMT+1)**. Given the tight timeline for the preparation of Working Group I contribution to the AR6, we regret that delays to the schedule cannot be accommodated. The review comments will be compiled immediately and thus it will not be possible to submit comments after the deadline.

The draft report is accessible to governments from 2 March 2020 via the link:

[Part of the text removed here]

Please note that this is a confidential document which must not be distributed, cited or quoted. We therefore kindly request you not to share the access details to the draft report.

This review webpage contains 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.

Please use your unique credentials that you have already received for previous government review. Please contact the IPCC Working Group I TSU at <tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr> if you don't have the credentials, or if you have any questions about the process.

¹ <http://www.ipcc-ch/>

The Lead Authors will consider the review comments on their chapters at a meeting to be held on 1–5 June 2020 and 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 in December 2020 and a Working Group I Session to approve the SPM and accept the underlying report will take place in April 2021.

Please note that **all government comments will be attributable by country and made publicly available from the IPCC website** following the final approval and publication of the report.

All review comments must be submitted by means of the SOD review site by **Sunday, 26 April 2020, 23:59 (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, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC