

Our ref.: 5154-21/IPCC/AR6

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

COPY

Geneva, 28 April 2021

Subject: IPCC Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report, Final Government Distribution

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of addressing you on the matter of the Government Review of the Final Draft of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. This is the third stage of IPCC mandated reviews prior to the formal approval that will take place at the 14th Session of Working Group I (WGI-14) to be held from 26 July 2021.

Two previous drafts of the Working Group I (WGI) contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) have been subject to scientific and technical review by experts (from 29 April to 23 June 2019) and by Governments and experts (from 2 March 2020 to 26 April 2020), as called for in the IPCC Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports (Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the "IPCC Procedures"). The drafts have been revised by the authors after both of these reviews in response to comments received, and this process has produced the WGI AR6 Final Draft Report. The first review of the SPM took place at the time of the Government and Expert Review.

In accordance with the IPCC Procedures, the Final Draft of the SPM will be submitted for line-by-line approval by WGI-14 and the full Final Draft Report will be submitted for acceptance by the Working Group. The IPCC Procedures stipulate that approval of the SPM by the Working Group signifies that the SPM is consistent with the factual material contained in the full scientific, technical and socio-economic assessment accepted by the Working Group. Coordinating Lead Authors and other selected Lead Authors will be present at the Session to assist in ensuring consistency with the underlying assessment. The approved SPM and the accepted underlying Report will be submitted to the IPCC for formal acceptance at its Fifty-fourth Session immediately following the Working Group I Session.

To facilitate the efficient approval of the SPM at the 14th Session of Working Group I and in accordance with IPCC Procedures, your Government is now invited to submit written comments on the Final Draft SPM in the period **3 May to 20 June 2021**.

The aim of this final round of written comments by the Governments is to help ensure that the SPM is accurate, well-balanced and presents the findings of the underlying Report clearly. To this end, your comments will be most helpful if they:

- Address specific text, tables, or figures in the Final Draft SPM, providing clear suggestions for changes in wording or content where appropriate.
- Recognize the specific mandate of Working Group I, and understand that suggested changes outside that mandate cannot be implemented.
- Ensure that suggested changes to the Final Draft SPM are fully consistent with material in the underlying report, and provide cross-references to that material.
- Advise on ways to ensure brevity and simplicity of SPM messages, and to make them as accessible as possible to the entire array of IPCC stakeholders.
- Acknowledge that the underlying chapters are provided as information, facilitating the generation of specific comments on the SPM.
- Recognize that the entire final draft undergoes a copy edit to correct typographical and grammatical errors, and to ensure consistency across the volume.

Access to the WGI AR6 Final Draft Report:

Focal points can access the review portal to the WGI AR6 Final Draft, indicated below, using their existing IPCC credentials:

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Upon accepting posted terms and conditions, users are immediately redirected to the Final Draft SPM (for comment) and underlying final draft chapters, Annexes, Supplementary Material, Glossary, and the Technical Summary (for information). The password-protected drafts repository also contains detailed instructions, the comments template, and other resources generated by the WGI TSU to facilitate the review of the Final Draft SPM, as well a file upload mechanism. **Bookmark the page** so you can revisit it to upload comments collations and lists of reviewers.

Recipients of credentials are requested not to share them. Should you wish to use the site for your government internal review mechanism and engagement with your network of experts, please send an e-mail to the WGI TSU (tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr) of your intent to use the WGI-maintained site as coordination and dissemination vehicle; otherwise, access will be disabled.

Please note that, in accordance with the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the WGI AR6 Final Draft SPM and the full underlying Final Draft Report are made available solely for the purpose of providing Government comments on the Final Draft SPM. The posted materials must not be cited or quoted, or distributed other than as part of a managed Government comments submission process.

During the Final Government Distribution (FGD) review period, a number of webinars and dialogue sessions are planned between the Government and authors who have been working on the report. To allow further interaction, an online Question and Answer (Q&A) forum has also been developed and embedded into the existing review platform to facilitate the work of the Focal Points. The SPM drafting team will answer clarification questions through these activities with the wish to support the review process. The Secretariat is planning to conduct a series of brief introductory sessions to present these enhancements to you, in order to make better use of the new features. If you would like to participate in these sessions, please submit your preference in the link below:

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Submission of comments

The IPCC procedures stipulate that "Governments should send one integrated set of comments for each Report to the appropriate Working Group/Task Force Bureau Co-Chairs through their Government Focal Points."

IPCC Focal Points, Ministries of Foreign Affairs representatives, and/or their designees must use the Excel sheet available in the portal to submit consolidated comments, following the provided instructions. **All comments must be provided in English.** If either of these requirements is not met, the submission will be returned and a request made to adhere to the posted instructions. Due to the anticipated volume of comments, submissions can only be accepted via the WGI-maintained review web site and using the form provided.

Comments Disposition

Please note that, in accordance with Article 4.1 of the IPCC Procedures, all comments collected as part of the Government Review of the Final Draft SPM will be posted on the WGI web site following the final approval and publication of the assessment. Comments collations will identify the submitting Government.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the above electronic preparation and submission procedures are robust and user-friendly, and that the review website is both easy to navigate and secure; however, if you have any difficulty with access or questions about process, please contact the WGI TSU for assistance at [<tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr>](mailto:tsu@ipcc-wg1.fr).

As a reminder, the Government Review of the Final Draft SPM starts on Monday 3 May 2021, and ends on **Sunday, 20 June 2021, 23:59 (CEST)**.

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

Yours sincerely,



(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC