

Our ref.: 5101-21/IPCC/AR6

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

COPY

Geneva, 4 January 2021

Subject: IPCC Working Group III 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 III Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: Mitigation of Climate Change*.

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 III (WGIII) contribution to the AR6 was approved at the 13th Session of Working Group III and adopted at the 46th Session of the IPCC, both meetings taking place in Montreal, Canada, in September 2017. The Panel at the 46th Session of the IPCC also decided that the Working Group III contribution to the AR6 would be completed in July 2021, with the completion of the Working Group I and Working Group II contribution to the AR6 in 2021 as well, and the Synthesis Report following in the course of 2022. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic these timelines are under review.

The Working Group III contribution to the AR6 First Order Draft (FOD) was available for expert review from 13 January 2020 to 8 March 2020. 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 III contribution to the AR6 SOD is a key element of the IPCC assessment process. The purpose of this review is to help ensure that the report provides a balanced and comprehensive assessment of the latest scientific findings. The review process will follow standard IPCC procedures¹. 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.

¹ <http://www.ipcc-ch/>

- Recognize the specific mandates of IPCC and of Working Group III 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 IPCC 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. Please also see here an information note explaining the Expert Review process:

https://apps.ipcc.ch/comments/ar6wg3/sod/template/AR6_WGIII_SOD_Government_Expert_Review_Note.pdf

The Government and Expert Review of the Working Group III AR6 SOD will take place from 18 January 2021 to 14 March 2021, 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/ar6wg3/sod/register.php>

Please note that IPCC Focal Points do not need to register. Registration will close on **7 March 2021, 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 **14 March 2021, 23:59 (GMT+1)**. Given the tight timeline for the preparation of Working Group III's 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 18 January 2021 via the link:

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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 III TSU at <tsu@ipcc-wg3.ac.uk> if you don't have the credentials, or if you have any questions about the process.

The Lead Authors will consider the review comments on their chapters at a meeting to be held between 12 and 30 April 2021 and Review Editors for each chapter will ensure that all substantive comments receive appropriate consideration. A final draft of the report is expected to be sent to Governments in August 2021 (to be confirmed) and a Working Group III Session to approve the SPM and accept the underlying report is provisionally scheduled to take place in December 2021 (to be confirmed).

Please note that **all government comments will be attributable by country and made available to the public 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, 14 March 2021, 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, appearing to be 'A. Mokssit', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC