

Our ref.: 5180-26/IPCC/AR7

Annex: 1

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

## COPY

Geneva, 22 May 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of addressing you on behalf of the IPCC Chair, Professor Sir Jim Skea, who is inviting you to respond to a survey on **the criteria for assessing scheduling options** for the Programme of Work for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Cycle.

This survey is being conducted in view of the urgency of agreeing on a schedule for the three Working Group contributions to the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) at the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC (IPCC-65) (October 2026). The survey is not concerned with options for the schedule itself; it is concerned only with the criteria for assessing such options.

The survey has only one open question: **What criteria would you recommend taking into account when assessing options for scheduling the Programme of Work for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Cycle?**

You are invited to propose criteria and any justifications you would like to make and share any further observations.

Some possible criteria derive from the “Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of IPCC Reports” contained in [Appendix A](#) to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, or have been proposed during plenary sessions held during the Seventh Cycle. These include:

- a) Avoidance, or minimisation, of overlap between government review periods and Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Subsidiary Bodies (Appendix A, 4.2).
- b) The length of expert and combined government/expert review periods (Appendix A, 4.2).
- c) Allowance of enough time for a full review by experts and governments and for the acceptance of a Working Group report (Appendix A, 4.3).
- d) Timing of report production with respect to UNFCCC processes.
- e) Avoidance of overlaps and/or the establishment of gaps between government reviews of different IPCC reports.
- f) Provision of sufficient time for scientists to generate assessable literature and participate in IPCC processes.

**IPCC member countries may wish to propose additional or related criteria of a similar character. They may also wish to add more specificity to any of the criteria identified above.**

The Secretariat and the Working Group Bureaux are being consulted alongside member countries so that factors such as scientific workflow, administrative workload and budgetary implications can be considered.

The Chair intends to put forward an options paper for the schedule for the Seventh Cycle for consideration by the Panel at this session.

- a) This would provide a complete view of the Seventh Assessment Cycle by encompassing all agreed components of the programme of work, in line with decisions previously taken by the Panel, including those set out in [Decision IPCC-LX-9](#) on Planning for the seventh assessment cycle- Options for the Programme of Work in the seventh assessment cycle.
- b) It would lay out systematically a set of criteria, derived from this survey, against which the merits of different options can be assessed.

Please note that this survey is separate from, but complementary to, the process initiated by the International Peace Institute (IPI). That process has been designed and is being managed by IPI. Its aim is to enhance the quality of IPCC meetings rather than achieve any specific outcomes. The IPI process is endorsed by, but not managed by, the IPCC Chair.

Responses to the survey question should be submitted by the respective Focal Point on the IPCC Dashboard. Please find attached in an Annex to this letter, a form containing the survey question with instructions on how to submit your input. We would appreciate receiving your feedback by **26 June 2026**.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and your support.

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,



(Abdalah Mokssit)  
Secretary of the IPCC

## VIEWS ON THE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SCHEDULING OPTIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE IPCC SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

*This survey is being conducted on the initiative of the IPCC Chair in view of the urgency of agreeing on a schedule for the three Working Group contributions to the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) at the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC (October 2026).*

Please complete this form by **26 June 2026** and submit it on the IPCC Dashboard here: <https://apps.ipcc.ch/dashboard/>. All submissions are to be made by the respective IPCC Focal Point.

- a. Log in to the dashboard and click on the Tools > Uploads menu.
- b. From the dropdown, select the "Timeline Survey" option.
- c. Click the "New" button.
- d. Enter the required information and upload the PDF file (not more than 1 MB).
- e. Enter the country, submitting the comment as the Title.
- f. Select the completed PDF file (not more than 1 MB) and click the Save button.
- g. All submitted surveys are accessible only to all Focal Points from Member Countries.

### Details of Submitting IPCC Focal Point

Full Name, Title and Institution	Member Country

### 1. What criteria would you recommend taking into account when assessing options for scheduling the Programme of Work for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Cycle?

*You are invited to propose criteria and any justifications you would like to provide, and to share any further observations relevant to the criteria for scheduling. Please use separate lines for different criteria. Please ensure that each entry (criterion along with its justification and any other observations, if any), does not exceed 500 words.*

Criteria	Justification	Any other observations