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Experts for Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C selected

GENEVA, Feb 20 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) has selected the team of experts (Coordinating Lead Authors, Authors and Review Editors) who will prepare the 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 (SR1.5)*. The report will be finalized in September 2018 in time for the facilitative dialogue under the Paris Agreement that will take place later that year.

“The selection of the authors for the IPCC’s 1.5°C report is the first step in the critical journey started at COP21. This special report will facilitate this important journey by assessing the available science and highlighting the policy options available to support the achievement of a climate safe, equitable and sustainable world,” said Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of Working Group II.

The members of all three IPCC Working Group carefully considered all nominations and developed the final list of authors and review editors in a detailed and iterative selection process. The selection was undertaken according to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, considering the required scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, geographical representation, gender balance, and the inclusion of experts with and without previous IPCC experience.

86 experts from 39 countries will undertake the assessment, selected from over 560 nominations received from national focal points and IPCC observer organizations. 38% of the experts are women, 51% come from developing countries and economies in transition (statistic based on experts' citizenship), 26% are new to the IPCC process.

“There is great interest in the scientific community to contribute to this IPCC Special Report, as evidenced by a constant flow of new peer-review publications related to various dimensions of global warming of 1.5°C, and also by the large number of high profile nominations for participants to the scoping meeting, last August, and now for Lead Authors and Review Editors of the report,” said Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of Working Group I. “The selection process was challenging, as we could on average only retain one expert out of 6-7. We will bring together a strong team to the first Lead Author meeting, on 6-10 March in Brazil.”

The continued interest and support for the IPCC assessment is solicited, for example contributing as an Expert Reviewer during the review this special report. A call will be opened for experts to register for the Expert Review of the First Order Draft that will take place in August-September.

Click here for the detailed list of the members of the author team:
http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/pdf/SR1.5_Final_Author_Teams.pdf

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What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a snapshot of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the Panel are its 195 member governments. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. The word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this. It is not a United Nations agency, but is sponsored by two UN organizations – WMO and UNEP.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes, although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something.

Sixth Assessment Cycle

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 43rd Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and AR6.

The first of these special reports is *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* (SR1.5). This report, which is being prepared in response to an invitation from the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC in December 2015, will be delivered in September 2018. A scoping meeting to draft the outline of the report took place in August 2016 and the Panel approved the outline the following October.

The Methodology Report to refine the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* will be delivered in 2019.

In 2019 the IPCC will also finalize two Special Reports: on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere; and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The AR6 Synthesis Report will be finalized in the first half of 2022.