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IPCC publishes full report *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*

GENEVA, 30 January - **Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, human influence on the climate system is clear, and limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.** These are the key conclusions from an assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that is released today in its full and finalized form.

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group I assessment report, *Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis*, was approved in September 2013 by the member governments of the IPCC meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, who also accepted the underlying report, after which the Summary for Policymakers was immediately made public.

The full report released today¹ is the basis for the key conclusions presented in the Summary for Policymakers. This Working Group I contribution to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report offers a comprehensive understanding of the physical science basis of climate change. Policymakers, stakeholders and the scientific community are now able to use and apply the detailed information on which IPCC Working Group I bases its assessment. Additional material documents the IPCC assessment process with its multiple rounds of drafting and review.

"The Working Group I Fifth Assessment Report, which has over 1500 printed pages of text and includes more than 600 printed diagrams, provides a comprehensive assessment of the physical science basis of climate change, citing more than 9000 scientific publications. The report provides information about what has changed in the climate system, why it has changed, and how it will change in the future," said Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I.

The full report consists of the Summary for Policymakers, a longer Technical Summary, 14 chapters and six annexes including an Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections. The Atlas is an innovation in this Working Group I assessment, containing time series and maps of temperature and precipitation projections for 35 regions of the world, which enhance accessibility for stakeholders and users. As well as the printed Atlas, there are four sets of Atlas Supplementary Material with 155 figures each, and the data underlying the Atlas figures will also be made available as part of the launch.

¹ The finalized report and additional materials are made available online on 30 January 2014. The print edition is due to be published by the end of March 2014. The report's Summary for Policymakers was released on 27 September 2013 and the Final Drafts of the chapters in their accepted but unedited form on 30 September 2013.

Another innovative feature of this report is the presentation of Thematic Focus Elements in the Technical Summary that provide end-to-end assessments of important cross-cutting issues for understanding the physical science basis of climate change, such as water cycle change, irreversibility and abrupt change, climate sensitivity and feedbacks, climate targets and stabilization.

All chapters contain Frequently Asked Questions in which the authors provide scientific answers to a range of general questions in an accessible form.

In order to document the drafting and review process, the IPCC is making public the earlier drafts of the report that were subject to formal review, all 54,677 written review comments by expert and government reviewers on those drafts and the responses by the authors to the comments. All figures from the Summary for Policymakers, the Technical Summary, and from the 14 Chapters of the report are also being made available electronically in order to facilitate outreach and communications activities that wish to highlight IPCC findings. Extensive Supplementary Material can be accessed online and includes description of datasets, models, or methodologies used in some chapters of the assessment. Background information on all the figures in the Summary for Policymakers is provided in the Supplementary Material to the Technical Summary.

“I would like to thank the hundreds of scientists and experts around the world who served as authors and review editors for producing a comprehensive and scientifically robust assessment. I also express my thanks to the more than one thousand expert reviewers for contributing their expertise in the preparation of this assessment,” said Qin Dahe, the other Co-Chair of WGI, from Beijing, China.

The Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report is available at www.climatechange2013.org or www.ipcc.ch.

Key Findings

See Factsheet of Headline Statements from the WGI AR5 Summary for Policymakers, available at www.climatechange2013.org or www.ipcc.ch.

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Notes for editors

Working Group I is co-chaired by Qin Dahe of the China Meteorological Administration, Beijing, China, and Thomas Stocker of the University of Bern, Switzerland. The Technical Support Unit of Working Group I is hosted by the University of Bern and funded by the Government of Switzerland.

At the 28th Session of the IPCC held in April 2008, the members of the IPCC decided to prepare a Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). A Scoping Meeting was convened in July 2009 to develop the scope and outline of the AR5. The resulting outlines for the three Working Group contributions to the AR5 were approved at the 31st Session of the IPCC in October 2009.

The Working Group I assessment comprises 1535 printed pages of text and more than 600 diagrams. It draws on millions of observations and over 2 million gigabytes of numerical data from climate model simulations. Over 9,000 scientific publications are cited, more than three quarters of which have been published since the last IPCC assessment in 2007.

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC WGI AR5 was approved at the Twelfth Session of IPCC Working Group I meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 23 to 26 September 2013 and was released on 27 September 2013.

Headline statements are the overarching highlighted conclusions of the Summary for Policymakers which, taken together, provide a concise narrative in language that is based on the scientific assessment and approved by the member governments of the IPCC. The 19 headline statements provide easy access to the findings of the Working Group I assessment for stakeholders and a wide readership.

The Final Draft of the Working Group I report (version distributed to governments on 7 June 2013), including the Technical Summary, 14 chapters and an Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections, was released online in accepted but unedited form on 30 September 2013.

Following copy-editing, layout, error correction and adjustments for consistency with the approved Summary for Policymakers, the full report of Working Group I is published online on **Thursday 30 January 2014** and will be published in book form by Cambridge University Press several weeks later.

Additional documents provided online by IPCC Working Group I on 30 January 2014 include the First Order Draft, Second Order Draft, the expert and government review comments on those drafts and the authors' responses to the comments, which document the IPCC assessment process with its multiple rounds of drafting and review.