



AUTHOR AND REVIEWER TRAINING PROGRAMME *Enhancing Developing Country Participation in Climate Assessment and the IPCC*

Note to IPCC-44 delegates and Observers

The knowledge support of decision-makers in developing countries for dealing with climate change involves an ecosystem of institutions, at international, national and local levels. At the global level, institutions such as the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have provided relatively generic climate knowledge, which has been very effective for international political dialogue. However, IPCC assessments have long been dominated by developed countries and criticised for not sufficiently reflecting the various ranges of developing country perspectives and for not generating user-focused scientific assessments that can facilitate climate action^[1]. The IPCC has recognized this and has put the issue of enhancing developing country participation high on its agenda^[2].

This summer, as the sixth IPCC assessment cycle is getting started, UCL's Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy (UCL STEaPP), with support from the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), has organised a network-connecting workshop to forge collaboration on specific ways to enhance developing country participation in climate assessment and the IPCC. The workshop, held in London on 12th - 13th October 2016, brought together a small set of crucial networks, including the IPCC, CDKN, Future Climate for Africa, the African Future Earth Committee, START, and others. Specifically, the workshop reflected contributing to the proposal from UCL STEaPP to create – and seek funding for – an **author and reviewer training and support programme** for enhancing developing country participation in climate assessment and the IPCC. This would enhance local capability to mobilise scientific knowledge into climate action.



PROPOSAL

The following three elements are proposed for a training programme in climate assessment and the IPCC:

1. Summer school course for potential IPCC Lead Authors from developing countries. In this course, potential IPCC contributors will be trained in performing climate assessment. In addition, communication skills will be improved. Participants that successfully follow the course can be nominated, through their national Focal Points or through IPCC Observer Organisations including UCL, as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, or Review Editors. The IPCC Working Group Bureaus will of course decide on their selection. The following elements will be included in the course:

[1] Petersen et al.(2015), 'New leadership for a user-friendly IPCC', Nature Climate Change 5: 909–911.

[2] IPCC-44, Participation of developing countries in IPCC activities



- **Participating in the IPCC:** how the IPCC works; how the IPCC interacts with UNFCCC and other stakeholders; the outlines of AR6 WG I, II and III; procedures on handling peer-reviewed and grey literature; using IPCC uncertainty language;
- **Mobilising knowledge** (across all areas of expertise, from natural-scientific and engineering to economic, social, and development disciplines) **into climate action:** the role of scientists;
- **Performing scientific assessments:** how to frame the question; how to evaluate evidence; how to characterise uncertainty; how to write policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive messages; staying true to science; preventing errors;
- **How to make successful interventions in a writing team:** work effectively with fellow authors from other regions; presentation and debating skills; making compromises; simulating a chapter meeting with controversies, and presentation of results.

It is envisaged that the course will be developed and have its first run in Africa in September 2017. If the course proves successful it can be repeated elsewhere.



2. E-learning for potential Expert Reviewers from developing countries. Developing country experts can gain some climate assessment skills through participating in the IPCC Expert Review process. An e-learning module will be built and made available globally throughout the AR6 cycle. Use will be made of earlier successful exercises of the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency in engaging PhD students from many developing countries across the globe in IPCC Government Reviews[3]. In practice, all experts, including those who were initially nominated as an author but not selected, can become an IPCC Expert Reviewer, which is a critical function in the IPCC process.

3. Providing a network for catalysing research collaboration and a platform for post-course support. The programme will provide as of 2018 a (moderated) online platform for those who in fact participate in the AR6. Through this platform participants may share experiences during the assessment, provide mutual support for solving problems. At the same time, the platform should contribute to bringing scientists together for research collaboration.

PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

The programme will be jointly directed by Dr Leo Meyer (ClimateContact Consultancy and UCL, former Head of TSUs AR5 Synthesis Report and AR4 WG III report) and Professor Arthur Petersen (UCL). Contributors to the programme that have already been identified include Professor Yacob Mulugetta (member Core Writing Team AR5 Synthesis Report and Lead Author AR5 WG III) Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti, Dr Jason Blackstock, Professor Youba Sokona (IPCC Vice-Chair). UCL STEaPP will support project management and communications pertaining to the educational programme. Based on the network-connecting workshop, strategic partners and potential funders will be identified and approached.

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[3] van der Veer et al. (2014), 'Innovating the IPCC review process: The potential of young talent'