

Our ref.: 5131-26/IPCC/AR7

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

Geneva, 2 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

The IPCC Bureau is giving careful consideration to the way in which scenarios will be assessed in the Seventh Assessment Cycle. The co-chairs would like to inform Focal Points of current plans, as these differ from the approach taken in previous cycles.

In April 2023, the IPCC held a Workshop on the Use of Scenarios in the Sixth Assessment Report and Subsequent Assessments.¹ This Workshop identified recommendations for the IPCC, for research funders, for scientific communities not involved in modeling, for the communication of scenarios, and suggestions for scientific communities involved in modeling. Many of the recommendations and suggestions focused on increasing the diversity of models and scenarios assessed.

The Bureau wants to ensure a broad and diverse set of scenarios are available for assessment in AR7. The agreed outlines of AR7 specifically indicate information on global, national and sectoral scenarios, pathways, and futures, including information on physical science, impacts and adaptation, and mitigation.²

Following the Workshop recommendations and the commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the current cycle, the IPCC Bureau will not be relying on a single “scenarios database” to support the Seventh Assessment. The Bureau recognizes the importance of assessing information contained in databases held by research communities external to IPCC, in addition to the broader peer reviewed literature, to allow for differences in approaches, variables, granularity, or scope.

Community databases³ facilitate assessment by ensuring common reporting standards (e.g., consistent variables definitions, units, and data formats), allowing authors to effectively assess information from multiple models and studies. The Bureau therefore wishes to highlight the benefits, in terms of a rigorous and comprehensive assessment, of submitting scenarios to a community database and invites Focal Points to communicate this to research communities within their countries.

For scenarios, pathways, and futures data that are not submitted to a community database, we encourage developers of these scenarios, pathways, and futures to ensure the underlying data is archived in a manner that enables assessment (e.g., in online supplementary material or data repositories, with metadata and units clearly specified).

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2023/07/IPCC_2023_Workshop_Report_Scenarios.pdf

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2025/03/Decision-8-Working-Group-Outlines.pdf>

³ Examples of community databases include: the Earth System Grid Federation (which includes CMIP model output), Scenario Compass Initiative, the IAMC Scientific Working Group on National Scenarios, International Transport Energy Modeling (ITEM), Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP), etc.

We appreciate your support in the AR7 cycle.

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

(on behalf of the Working Group Co-Chairs)