

Dear Colleagues,

The criticism of IPCC in the media in recent weeks has provided a challenge that frankly the IPCC leadership and Secretariat were not well-equipped to cope with. The IPCC strengths of taking time to consider all the evidence and subject it to careful review before drawing any conclusions are not well suited to adapt quickly to provide responses on a barrage of questions and criticisms coming from all angles of the Internet and modern media.

As we said in our statement on the CRU emails back in December<sup>1</sup>, IPCC Working Group I firmly stands by the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) and by you, the community of researchers worldwide, whose professional standards and careful scientific work over many years have provided the basis for these conclusions.

If allegations of errors in the WGI contribution to AR4 are made, please be assured that the current WG I Co-Chairs will take responsibility for investigating these. If it is necessary to prepare a response or rebuttal we will do so in full consultation with the CLAs of the respective Chapter, as well as the LAs and REs if necessary. This is the approach also being taken by the other working groups. Some of the resulting statements are available on the IPCC website ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)) and others are available to the media upon request.

Particular concern has been raised about the use of non-published, non-peer-reviewed sources in IPCC Assessment Reports. As was the case in AR4, the Co-Chairs and TSU will strongly encourage author teams to use only sources published in international peer-reviewed journals and will insist on a strict adherence to the IPCC's procedures for using non-published/non-peer-reviewed sources. The IPCC Chair, Vice-Chairs and Co-Chairs are working on a strategy to ensure that work on the AR5 is as effective as possible whilst at the same time emphasising the robustness of the AR4 findings.

It is clear that the media scrutiny will continue for some time. In addition, a number of governments are considering beginning their own investigations or are asking IPCC to conduct a review. IPCC, together with its parent organisations UNEP and WMO, is currently considering various options for how best to address these growing concerns by governments. So it may be that, even without any allegations of errors in the WGI AR4, we may have to ask for your input and we thank you in advance for your help.

Finally, we want to remind you that the call for nominations for the AR5 is open until 12 March 2010. We hope you will consider offering your expertise and experience and encourage your colleagues, hopefully also those who have not yet contributed to IPCC, to join in to help the AR5 achieve its mandate of producing comprehensive, transparent, and credible assessments. You are the heart of WGI – we cannot do it without you.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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Pauline Midgley                      Gian-Kasper Plattner                      Melinda Tignor  
IPCC WGI TSU Head                  Deputy Head, Director of Science      Deputy Head, Director of Administration

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/statement/WGIstatement\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/statement/WGIstatement_Final.pdf)