

Guidance Note of the Role of Review Editors of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

The role of Review Editor

Review Editors (REs) are critical for achieving the IPCC mandate of producing comprehensive and objective assessments. Two to three REs have been selected per chapter of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15), reflecting the cross-Working Group aspects covered in the chapters, in order to provide a balanced representation of scientific, technical and socio-economic views. Their role is to ensure that the chapter authors address the comments provided by expert reviewers on the chapter drafts, and in particular, to assist the authors in tackling contentious or controversial issues where there might be disagreement between reviewers.

The role of RE is distinct from the role of Author. The role and responsibilities of REs are described in Annex 1 of the IPCC Procedures (Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work¹).

Authors have responsibility for the chapter text, and REs should not be involved as authors (or expert reviewers) for material for which they are a RE. They may, however, serve voluntarily as expert reviewers for other chapters, the Technical Summary or the Summary for Policymakers of the SR15, as well as of the AR6 Synthesis Report, and may be involved in the preparation of the report Glossary, Technical Summary and Summary for Policy Makers.

REs should read all comments on their chapter to identify critical issues that will likely require discussion with the chapter author team. The focus should be on sections where the review comments are inconsistent or contradictory, where considerable rewriting may be needed, and where scientific controversies exist. The REs should come prepared to the Lead Author Meetings (LAMs) to ensure that the author team fully and appropriately addresses the review comments, and that the author team fairly represents the full range of scientific perspectives.

It is not expected that REs submit input to their chapter teams before the LAM3. Any direct follow-up communication with Expert Reviewers can only be done through the WGI TSU, not by authors nor REs. The exact mode of working, both within the group of REs on a chapter and for the REs with the chapter authors, will be defined together as an outcome of the LAM3.

The SR15 REs are encouraged to inform the WG Co-Chairs if they identify issues that are potentially contentious or controversial. REs may also suggest that the TSU contact additional reviewers for their entire chapter or for individual sections therein for the expert review of the Second Order Draft.

¹ <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a.pdf>

Review Editor tasks

REs are expected to attend both of the Lead Author Meetings (LAM) where the writing teams consider the results of the two formal review rounds (LAM3 and LAM4). In addition, where appropriate, REs may also be requested to attend Sessions of the Working Groups and of the IPCC in order to communicate their findings from the review process and to assist in finalising the Summary for Policymakers.

When the review comments on the First Order Draft (FOD) and the Second Order Draft (SOD) are received, they will be prepared by the TSU and sent to the chapter Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and the REs.

The SR15 REs will be asked to provide three written reports: two interim (internal) reports and one final report. The first interim report will be requested after LAM3 and the second one after LAM4 (exact dates to be confirmed at LAM3). Each of the interim reports is provided by the REs to the chapter CLAs and the WGI TSU and should describe how the authors have addressed the review comments.

Reporting

The first interim report should summarise:

- (i) the *main areas of concern* arising from the review comments;
- (ii) the *contentious or controversial issues* that need to be addressed in the next draft and how to handle them;
- (iii) areas or sections of the chapter that appear to be *under-reviewed* or where there may be gaps;
- (iv) suggestion of names of *targeted reviewers* who could provide a review of the areas and sections identified in (iii) for the SOD.

The second interim report should summarise:

- (i) the *main areas of concern* arising from the review comments;
- (ii) the *contentious or controversial issues* that need to be addressed in the next draft and how to handle them;
- (iii) feedback on whether the substantive comments received during the FOD review had been afforded appropriate consideration in the author responses;
- (iv) feedback on whether the revisions of the text adequately reflected any controversies and contentious issues arising from those comments.

The final report is required from each RE prior to the Joint-WG Session. In this report REs are invited to comment on any significant differences of perspectives on scientific issues, how these were reconciled during the drafting and review processes and covered in a balanced way in the text. In the preparation of the Final Draft Report, interaction between the CLAs and REs is encouraged to ensure that proposed text changes are fully responsive to the SOD review comments.

Schedule:

The SR15 schedule, including delivery dates for the SR15 RE Reports is as follows:

2017	
29 September	First Order Draft Review Comments sent to CLAs and REs
23-29 October	SR15 LAM3
01 December (tbc)	First RE Interim Report due to WGI TSU
01 December (tbc)	FOD Review Responses due to WGI TSU
17 December	SOD submitted to WGI TSU
2018	
08 January - 25 February	Expert/Government Review of the Second Order Draft
04 March (tbc)	SOD Review Comments sent to CLAs and REs
09-15 April	SR15 LAM4
15 May (tbc)	Second RE Interim Report due to WGI TSU
15 May (tbc)	SOD Review Responses to due WGI TSU
04 June - 29 July	Final Government Review of SR15 SPM
01 July (tbc)	Final RE Report due to WGI TSU
1-7 October	48th Session of IPCC Plenary