



DSDS 2015 Thematic Track
Roundtable on 'What Next for the IPCC?'

Saturday | February 7, 2015 | 1100 – 1300 hours
Shahjehan Hall, Taj Palace Hotel, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi

Background Note

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sends a stark message to the world that the risk of climate change is increasing, and actions on both mitigation and adaptation are falling short of what is required.

CDKN has an ongoing partnership with the IPCC to support the dissemination and outreach of its work in developing countries across the world. This has included developing an ['AR5 Toolkit'](#) and distilling the key messages for different regions of the world in easy-to-read Summary Reports. In addition, a number of national and sub-national outreach events are underway and planned to ensure the report reaches policy-makers, practitioners and researchers and made accessible and relevant to their priorities. These initiatives have demonstrated that the AR5 has been an important contribution to global, national and local debate and discussion on climate change.

With the Synthesis Report now published, the IPCC is beginning to reflect on what should be the next priority for the intergovernmental panel. There have been a number of lessons learnt from the AR5 process, and discussions taking place on whether the same format should be replicated in the future, or a new approach considered. In a recently organized discussion by the IPCC among the technical experts from different domains and various actors on the lessons, concerns and future role of IPCC some of the issues raised include: how should the IPCC engage with the question of making its larger audience aware of the transparency of the process and accuracy of the content while simultaneously improving on both these dimensions? In this context, the issue of the need to address the lack of peer reviewed research on and from developing countries and associated possibility of underrepresentation of credible scientific knowledge about developing countries

in the IPCC reports is also highlighted. How can the IPCC address such a structural challenge of knowledge production? Can it do so? Should it do something in this direction?

Towards providing input to such discussions, the DSDS is a perfect opportunity to convene a group of highly influential and informed experts to discuss what next for the IPCC. This refers to both what the IPCC should be focusing on, and whether it's ways of working and approach should change. The discussion in Delhi will feed into a meeting of the IPCC taking place a few weeks later in Nairobi to consider the same topic. Some broad questions on which opinions and views will be solicited include:

- Top learning points from the AR5 on exchange between content and process: What worked, what didn't?
- Is the current IPCC format still 'fit for purpose'?
- Does IPCC reflect current and future needs and priorities of Governments and stakeholders?
- What should be top of the agenda for the IPCC for the next decade?
- What should be done to increase the impact of the IPCC's work?
- Should IPCC go prescriptive? If yes, in what areas?
- Should IPCC go beyond identifying gaps in existing research? How?
- Should IPCC be setting future research agenda? Why and how?

Format of the Roundtable:

The purpose of the Roundtable discussion is to generate ideas to enhance the relevance and impact of IPCC. To facilitate generation and refinement of ideas, it will be conducted in an interactive format, with no formal panel and presentations. The set-up will involve first a discussion among an inner roundtable of invited 'expert speakers' who are familiar with the process of the IPCC. This would be followed by engaging wider participants sitting around in the outer circle. These will include those who are the intended 'user' of the IPCC's work, including government.

An expert chair will moderate a discussion among these experts. This will involve posing a number of questions to particular experts and facilitating an informal discussion. The chair will then invite questions and comments from the wider participants, sitting in an outer ring.

The chair will be expected to draw out any points of consensus from the group, or the majority view. These will be written up as recommendations for the Nairobi meeting of the IPCC. Any points of major disagreement will be captured and written as a discussion blog on CDKN's website.

The IPCC's AR5 report, and CDKN's Regional Summary Reports, will also be available for all participants.