

Confidentiality Guidance for WG II CLAs, LAs, and REs for the AR5

Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs), and Review Editors (REs) should follow these Working Group II (WG II) confidentiality requirements for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). IPCC places a priority on openness, and provided WG II CLAs, LAs, and REs follow the requirements outlined below, they should not feel constrained in publicly discussing individual perspectives relevant to their own scientific expertise.

The assessment process depends on confidential internal deliberations in which all opinions can be aired openly. Author deliberations at Lead Author Meetings and in other forums (e.g., email discussions and conference calls) are confidential and should not be cited, quoted, distributed, or described. In particular, deliberations should not be discussed with reporters or in forums such as blogs, social media, or other public outlets.

The assessment process cannot be effective if draft materials are released or discussed publicly during the preparation of the AR5. All draft materials (e.g., chapter drafts, figure drafts, notes, and outlines) are confidential and should not be cited, quoted, or distributed outside AR5 author teams during the preparation of the AR5. Any draft materials received from other Working Groups are also confidential and subject to these confidentiality requirements. The confidentiality of chapter drafts is communicated to expert and government reviewers, and confidentiality requirements apply to reviewer comments and the responses of author teams during the preparation of the AR5. Upon completion of the AR5, WG II report drafts, reviewer comments, and author team responses will be made available in a public archive; all other draft materials will remain confidential after the completion of the AR5.

For the preparation of the AR5, WG II is committed to upholding these confidentiality requirements to facilitate an assessment product of the highest quality.