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HOW MIGHT OFFICIAL STATISTICS ASSIST WITH THE FIFTH ASSESSMENT ROUND OF THE IPCC?

The climate projections of the IPCC are largely shaped by a range of scenarios for the future. The key variables describing these scenarios are used in climate change models to estimate projected changes in temperature, etc. These variables include items where official statistics can inform such as population projections, economic growth, the extent of convergence between the relative size of economies on a per capita basis, and the level of intensity of use of fossil based fuels. A new set of scenarios is likely to be developed in the Fifth Assessment Round.

The paper will describe the availability of relevant official statistics. It will suggest that a baseline scenario be based on the best estimates from authoritative data sources and the use of the application of sound statistical methods.