Application Procedures for TOAR-III Working Groups

Authored by the TOAR-III Steering Committee, October 27, 2026

Summary

The third phase of IGAC's Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR-III) was initiated on January 1, 2026 (https://igacproject.org/activities/TOAR/TOAR-III). The scope of the Activity and its publication procedures are defined in the *TOAR-III Scope and Roadmap* document on the TOAR-III website. The TOAR-III assessment will be based on the results from Focus Working Groups and other contributions to an open Community Special Issue. TOAR-III working groups (WGs) shall be established by the scientific community and will form the backbone of TOAR-III data analyses and the synthesis of scientific discoveries. WGs operate under the guidelines described in the *TOAR-III Working Group Guidelines* document (available on the TOAR-III website). This document describes the procedures for establishing new TOAR-III WGs, including the application and review process.

Definition

TOAR-III working groups (WGs) consist of at least six scientists from a minimum of three countries, and their primary goal is to synthesize, conduct, and/or support the science that will be in the TOAR-III assessment (referred to as Focus Working Groups). As TOAR-III evolves, the TOAR-III SC may invite individual WGs to prepare specific parts of the assessment, e.g., one of the core assessment papers. This may involve a re-organization of the WG in close coordination with the TOAR-III SC. After this transition, the Focus WG will be called an Assessment WG. It is also possible that WGs can be merged or re-focused during this procedure. For details, see the *TOAR-III Working Group Guidelines* document (available on the TOAR-III website).

Procedure for establishing new TOAR-II WGs

Applications for a TOAR-III WG can be sent by email and should contain:

- Names and contact information of 1-3 WG co-leads
- (if available) Name(s) and contact information of at least one SC member to act as liaison between the WG and the SC
- Objectives of the WG (approximately 10 lines)
- Expected outcomes of the WG (bullet list)
- Proposed timeline with contributions to the assessment
- Confirmation that WG participation is voluntary and that no funding is provided by TOAR-III

Proposals should be sent to the TOAR-III co-chairs (see https://igacproject.org/activities/TOAR/TOAR-III).

The SC will review proposals. WG leads may be invited to participate in an SC meeting to discuss the proposal. SC voting on the WG proposal will occur during the meeting or via online poll.

Once a WG is approved by the SC, a WG description will be published on the TOAR-III website. The WG is then expected to operate in accordance with the *TOAR-III Working Group Guidelines* (available on the TOAR-III website).