Lessons from Madrid for next climate talks

Objective
• To summarize some of the scientific “lessons learned” in the 20 years since publication of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

• Focus is on advances in the area of climate change detection and attribution (“D&A”)

Impact
• The 1995 Second Assessment Report reached the historic finding that: “The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate”

• DOE-funded ‘climate fingerprint’ research made a significant contribution to this finding

• After publication of the 1995 IPCC report, the “discernible human influence” conclusion was subject to criticism

• This criticism was addressed in many subsequent fingerprint studies

• The “discernible human influence” has consistently been affirmed – and confirmed – by subsequent fingerprint research, and by post-1995 IPCC, NAS, and CCSP assessments