



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- Established by WMO and UNEP in 1988
- Assesses scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation - provides an assessment of the state of knowledge on climate change
- Prepares Special Reports and Technical Papers on topics where independent scientific information and advice is needed
- Supports the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change through work on methodologies for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Does not conduct new research, monitor climate-related data or recommend policies; instead synthesizes new and existing information and gives 'policy relevant' information.

IPCC Working Groups

Working Group I: assesses the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change.

Working Group II: assesses the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, negative and positive consequences of climate change, and options for adapting to it.

Working Group III: assesses options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise mitigating climate change.

IPCC Assessment Reports

First Assessment Report – 1990

- played a role in formation of the International Negotiating Committee by UNGA that led to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Second Assessment Report – 1995

- stabilisation of the concentration of carbon dioxide at its present level could only be achieved through an immediate reduction in its emissions of 50-70% and further reductions thereafter'
- report led to the negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol

Third Assessment Report – 2001

- most of the warming over the last 50 years attributable to human activities.
- predicted a rise of 1.4–5.8 °C over next 100 years, in global mean surface temperature
- GHGs need to be reduced 'to a very small fraction of current emissions'

Fourth Assessment Report – 2007

- 90% chance global warming linked to human activity
 - mitigation targets (25-40% by 2020 and 80-90% by 2050)



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IPCC Assessment Reports *(cont.)*

Fifth Assessment Report – 2014

- identifies a GHG emissions budget of 840Gt of CO₂, and we've used up over half of that (531Gt of CO₂)
- four emissions scenarios – with projections of 4C+ by 2100 in some
- greater rates and magnitude of climate change increase the likelihood of exceeding adaptation limits

Sixth Assessment Report – 2022

- global GHG emissions must peak before 2025 in 1.5 degrees C-aligned pathways
- GHGs in all sectors must be halved by 2030 to remain 1.5 degrees C-aligned
- adaptation measures can effectively build resilience, but more finance is needed to scale solutions
- some climate impacts are already so severe they cannot be adapted to, leading to losses and damages

IPCC Special Reports

- The Regional Impacts of Climate Change: An Assessment of Vulnerability, March 1997
- Aviation and the Global Atmosphere, March 1999
- Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry, March 2000
- Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage, March 2005
- Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation, April 2011
- Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, March 2012
- Global Warming of 1.5°C, October 2018
- Climate Change and Land, August 2019
- The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, September 2019

This factsheet on **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 34–39.