

# **An introduction to the IPCC**

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# What's the IPCC?

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a **scientific intergovernmental** body belonging to the United Nations
- It is the leading body for the assessment of climate change

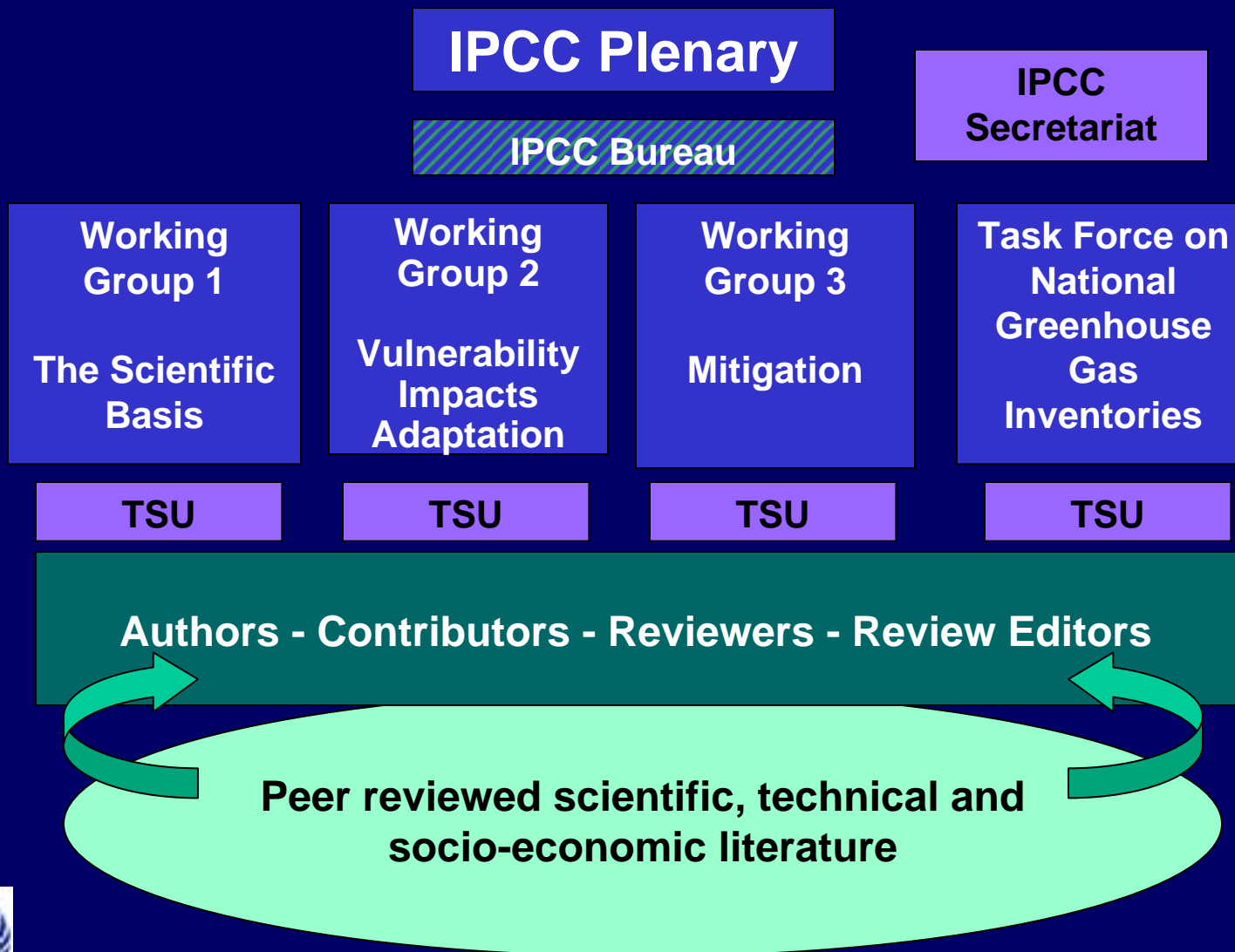
# The organization

The IPCC is open to all member countries of WMO and UNEP.

Government delegations of all member countries are invited to attend the Plenary sessions of the Panel during which all main decisions are taken.

The IPCC reports are also accepted, adopted and approved during the Plenary sessions.

# IPCC structure



# The IPCC Bureau



Mr. Rajendra Pachauri  
IPCC Chairman

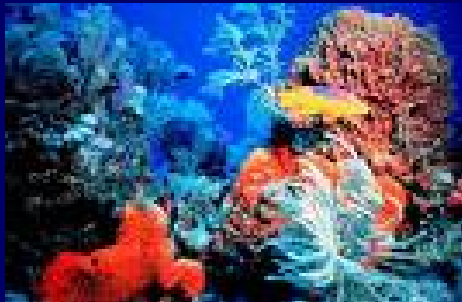
- The IPCC Chairperson and the bureau are elected by the Plenary
- It is at present composed by 30 members, experts on climate representing all regions
- Nominations for the position of the IPCC Chair, the IPCC Bureau and any Task Force Bureau are to be made by the government of a Member of the IPCC.

# The three WGs



• **WG1** ▶ The physical science basis of climate system and change, attribution of CC, observation of CC parameters etc

• **WG2** ▶ sc-tech, env socio-ec aspects of vulnerability of ecological and socio-ec systems; observed and projected impacts and human responses to actual and expected CC



• **WG3** ▶ sc-tech, env, socio-ec aspects of mitigation options, human responses to reduce sources or enhance sinks of GHGs

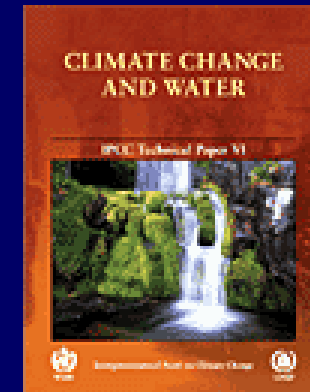
# Authors, contributors, reviewers and other experts

- They are selected by the Working Group Bureaus from nominations received from governments and participating organizations or identified directly because of their special expertise reflected in their publications and works
- The composition of lead author teams for chapters of IPCC reports shall reflect a range of views, expertise and geographical representation
- They work on a voluntary basis




# IPCC products

- **Assessment reports** are the main product, they provide a comprehensive picture of the present state of understanding of climate change (1990 – 1995 – 2001 – 2007).
- **Special reports** address and assess a specific issue (e.g. Ozone layer, Land use, Technology transfer)
- **Methodology reports** describe methodologies and practices for national greenhouse gas inventories and are used by Parties to the UNFCCC to prepare their national communication
- **Technical papers** focus on a specific topic drawing material from other IPCC reports



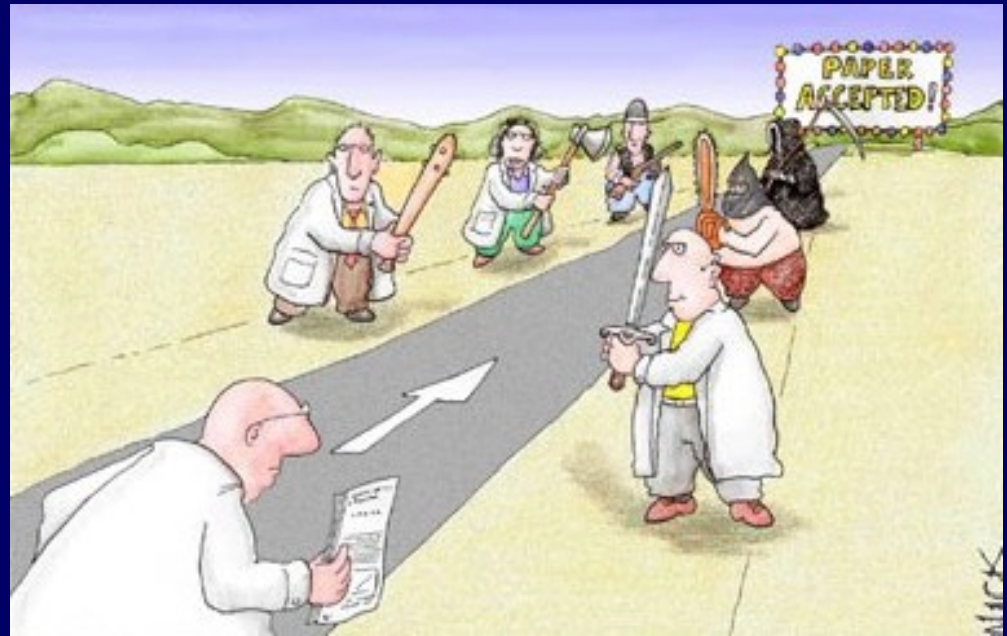


# Key « rules » for the IPCC work:

- **COMPREHENSIVE** – all the latest relevant scientific literature published worldwide is assessed
  - **BALANCED** – differing views are reflected in the reports
  - **OPEN** – wide circulation process among experts from all regions and relevant disciplines
  - **TRANSPARENT** – strict clear procedures + observer organizations
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# The review process

- Review is an essential part of the IPCC process to ensure objective and complete assessment of the current information.
- In the course of the multi-stage review process, both expert reviewers and governments are invited to comment **on the accuracy and completeness** of the scientific/technical/socio-economic content **and the overall balance** of the drafts.



PLENARY  
approves outline

PLENARY  
Accepts/approves  
report

Authors  
selection

Government  
distribution

1st  
DRAFT

2nd  
DRAFT

FINAL  
DRAFT

Expert  
review

Expert +  
government  
review

Peer reviewed scientific technical literature

# What is an SPM?



The **S**ummary for **P**olicy **M**akers is a key document of the report.

- ✓ It is approved line by line by the governments during the Plenary session. It is the “lowest common denominator” resulted by the discussions in the Plenary Session
- ✓ It represents the highest synthesis of the double nature of the IPCC: the core scientific findings are reflected and endorsed by governments
- ✓ It’s a sort of “digest” of the Assessment Report, containing the key scientific findings, to convey the key messages of the report to a broader audience than the scientific community

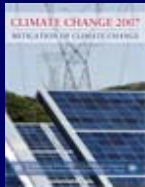
# “Climate Change 2007” - the IPCC 4th Assessment Report -



- February 2007 - WG1 “The Physical Science Basis”



- April 2007 - WG 2 “Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability”



- May 2007 - WG3 “Mitigation of CC”



- November 2007 « The Synthesis Report »

The new Assessment Report will be ready in 2013/14



# The Nobel Peace Prize

In December 2007, the IPCC was awarded  
the Nobel Peace Prize together with Mr Gore

« for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge  
about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the  
measures that are needed to counteract such change"»

# The IPCC outreach mandate

The main targeted audience for the dissemination of the reports are the decision makers, not the general public

## What the IPCC can do

- **YES!**

- Facilitate liaison with experts, arrange their active involvement in outreach activities and interviews with the press
- Develop and review communication products; facilitate search of information in the reports

- **NO!**

- “Translate” the technical/scientific language into a popular one
- Advocate and nor comment on government decisions and policies

# The IPCC and the media



« 'Cause we have to...  
for IPCC neutrality's sake! »