

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



ohnthescone

The IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5)

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Why the IPCC ?

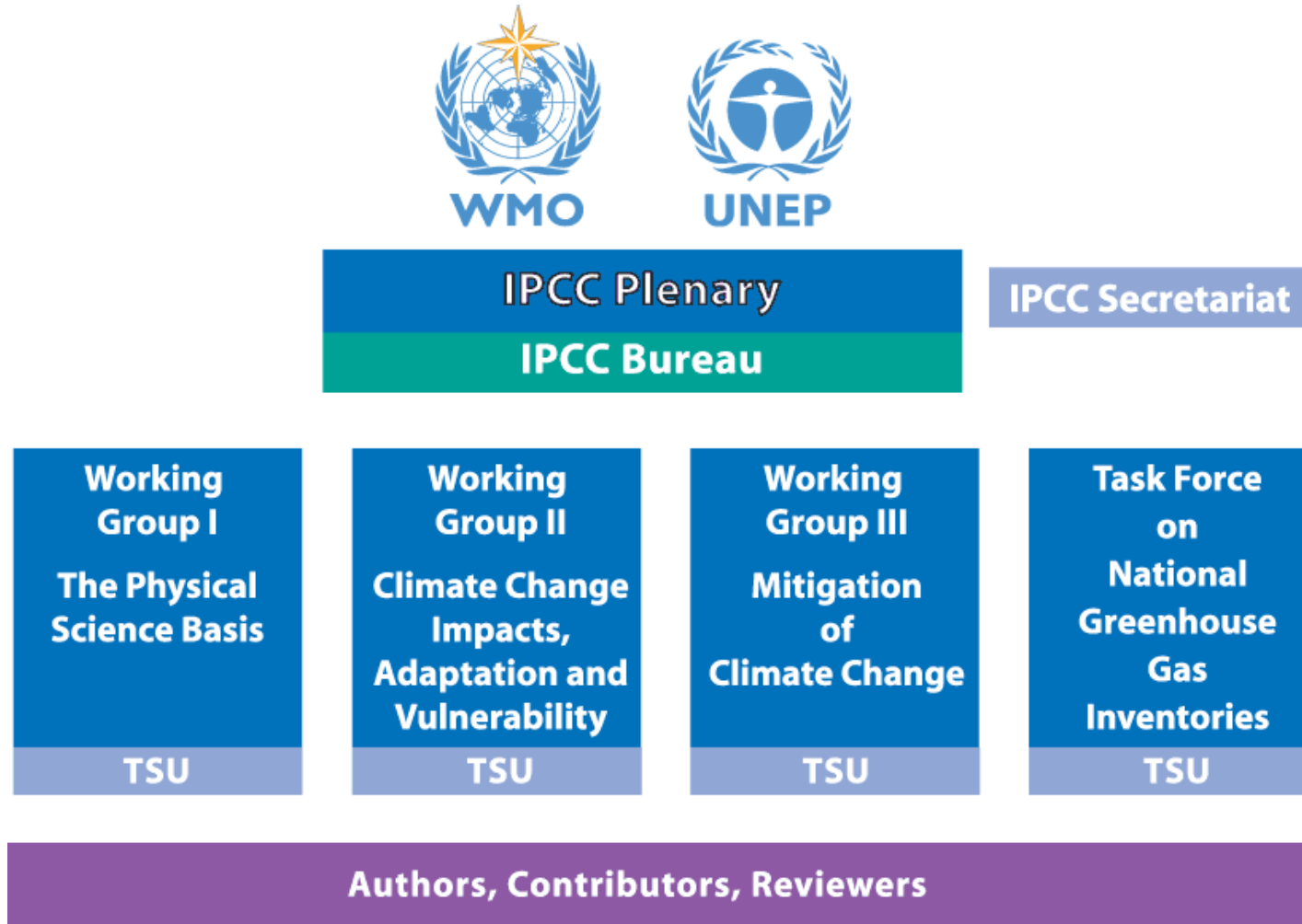
Established by WMO and UNEP in 1988

to provide **policy-makers** with an **objective source of information** about

- z causes of climate change,
- z potential environmental and socio-economic impacts,
- z possible response options.



Structure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



IPCC writing cycle (4 years, 831 Lead authors)

- **Plenary decides table of content of reports**
- **Bureau appoints world-class scientists as authors, based on publication record**
- **Authors assess all scientific literature**
- ***Draft* – Expert review (+ Review editors)**
- ***Draft 2 (+ Draft 1 Summary for Policy Makers (SPM))* – Combined expert/government review**
- ***Draft 3 (+ Draft 2 SPM)* – Government review of SPM**
- **Approval Plenary (interaction authors – governments) – *SPM and full report***
- ***NB: the scientists have the last word!***

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Completed IPCC Reports

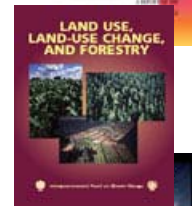
4 Assessment Reports (1990, 1995, 2001, 2007)

1992 Supplementary Report and 1994 Special Report

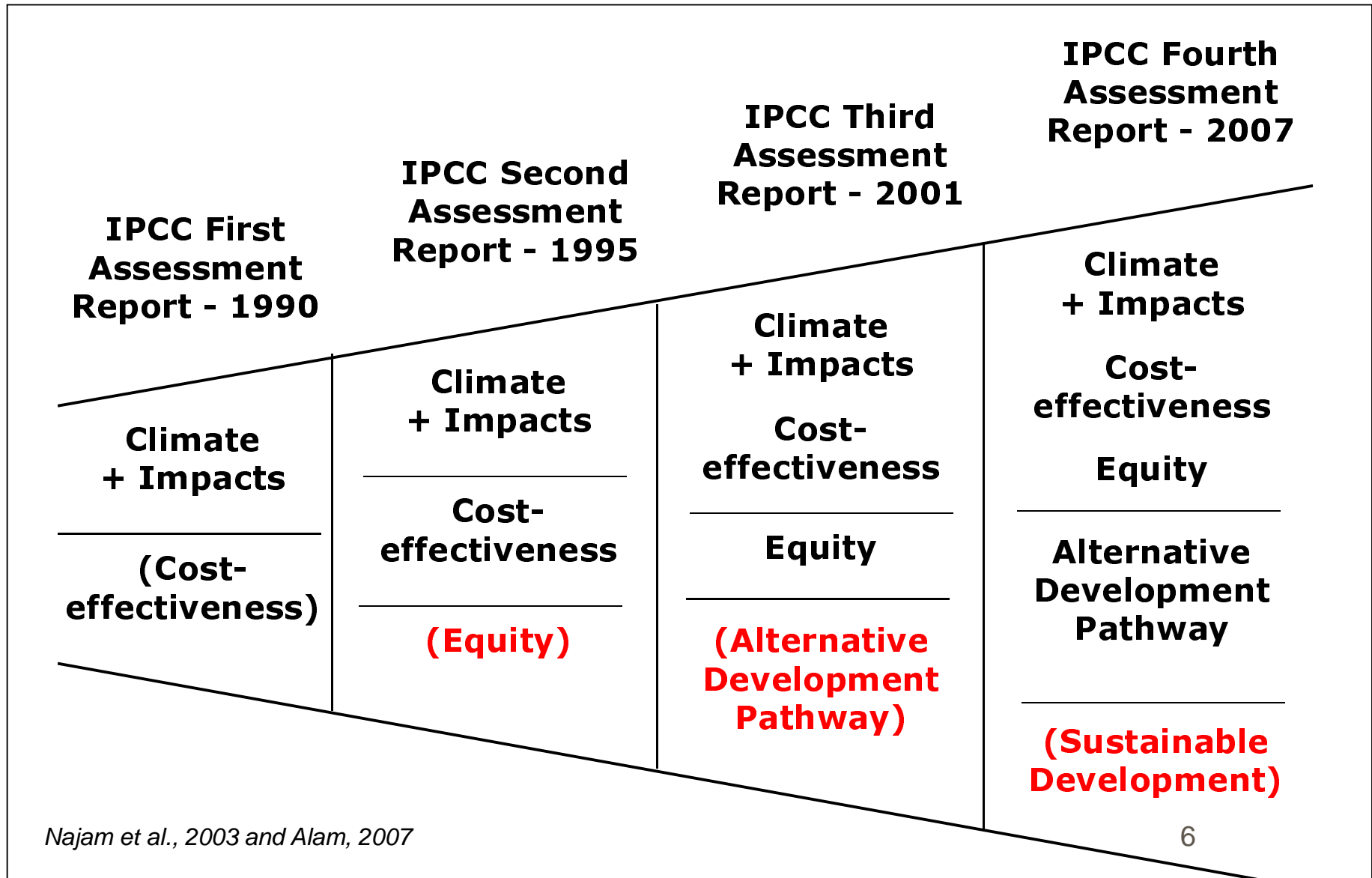
8 Special Reports (1997, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2011)

Guidelines for National GHG Inventories, Good Practice Guidance (1995-2006)

6 Technical Papers (1996-2008)



Background



AR5 is/will be the best ever

- **Better integration of Mitigation and Adaptation**
- **Improved risk-management approach**
- **Evolving away from the non-mitigation SRES scenarios** (SRES= Special Report on Emission Scenarios, 2000)
- **Special effort to provide regional information when available**
- **Sustainable development & equity aspects**
- **More comprehensive treatment of economic aspects, and of cross-cutting issues**
- **Emerging issues handled (geo-engineering, ...)**
- **Better handling & communication of uncertainties**

The IPCC assessments have influenced global action on an unprecedented scale

- 1. The First Assessment Report (FAR, 1990) had a major impact in defining the content of the **UNFCCC****
- 2. The Second Assessment Report (SAR, 1996) was largely influential in defining the provisions of the **Kyoto Protocol****
- 3. The Third Assessment Report (TAR, 2001) focused attention on the **impacts** of climate change and the need for **adaptation****
- 4. The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4, 2007) informed the decision on the ultimate objective (**2° C**) and is creating a strong basis for a **post Kyoto Protocol** agreement**
- 5. The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2013-14) will inform the **review of the 2° C objective**, and be the context for preparing the **Paris Paris 2015 agreement****

Recent/Coming IPCC Products

- ***2011: Special report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation***
- ***2011: Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation***
- ***2013: AR5 WGI report (physical science)***
- ***2014: AR5 WGII (Impacts & Adaptation); WGIII (Mitigation), Synthesis Report***
- ***All available on www.ipcc.ch***

A Progression of Understanding: Greater and Greater Certainty in Attribution

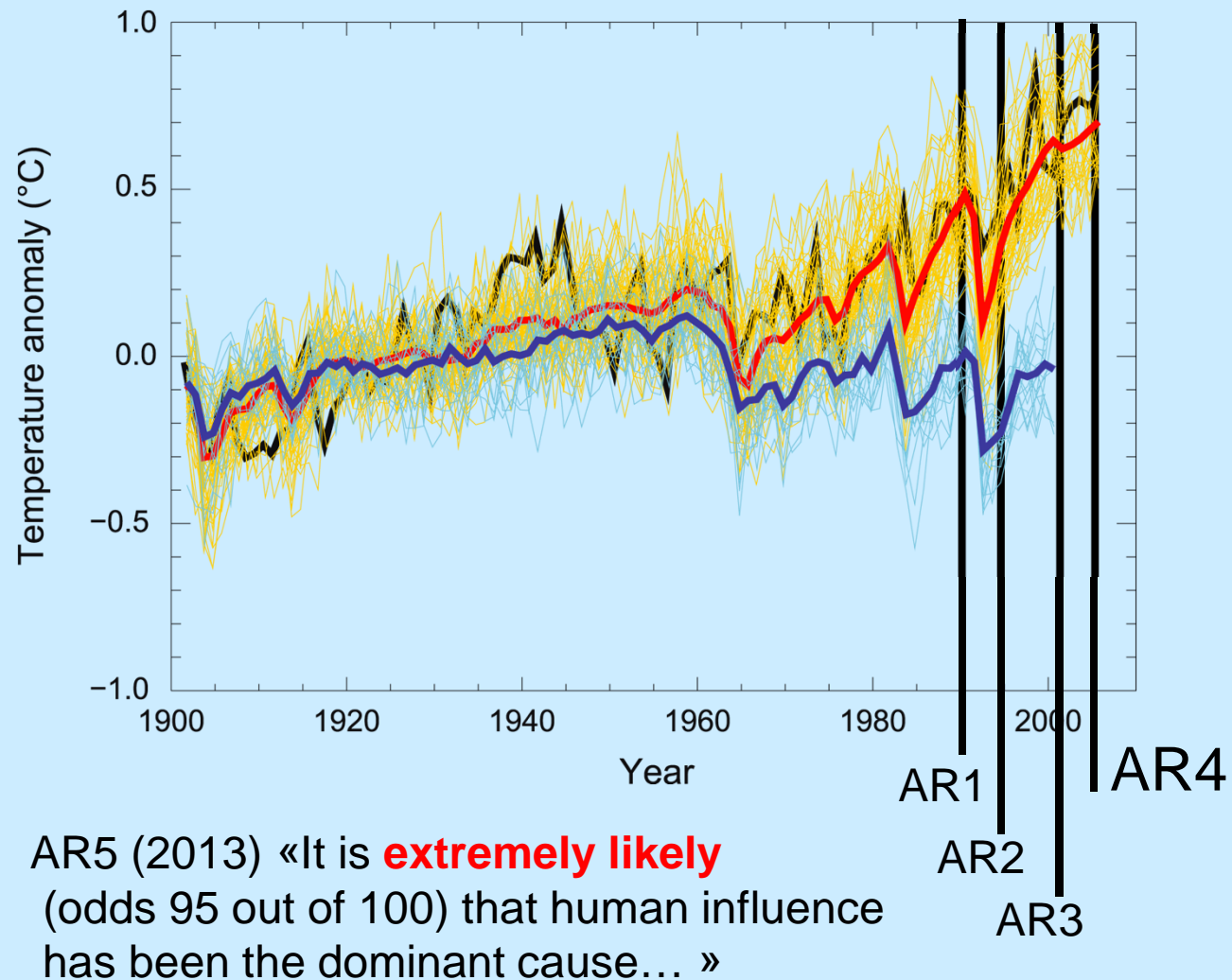
AR1 (1990):

“unequivocal detection not likely for a decade”

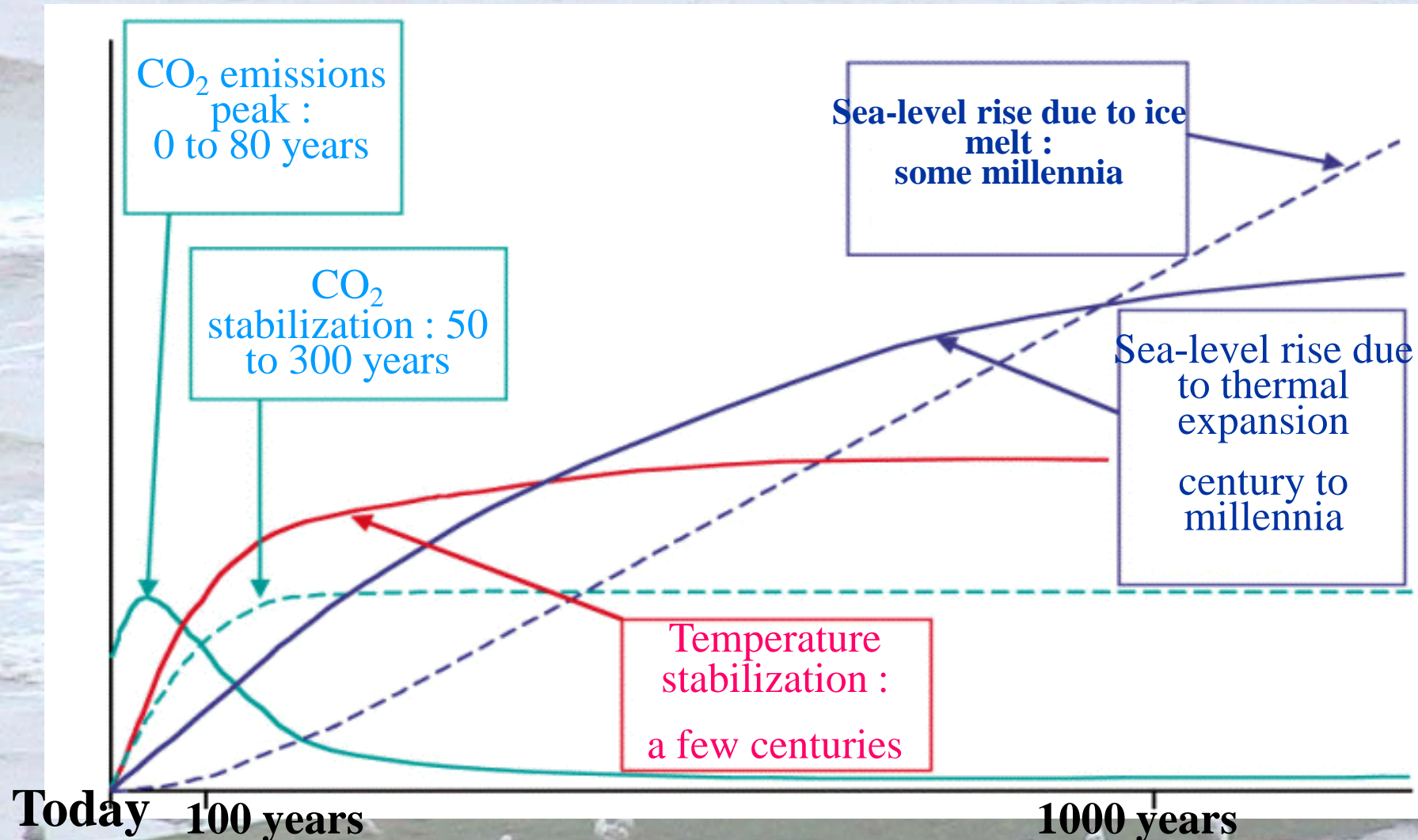
AR2 (1995): “balance of evidence suggests **discernible** human influence”

AR3 (2001): “most of the warming of the past 50 years is **likely** (odds 2 out of 3) due to human activities”

AR4 (2007): “most of the warming is **very likely** (odds 9 out of 10) due to greenhouse gases”



Significant inertia exists in the climate system



Source: IPCC (2001)

Conclusion (1):

Science has a lot to offer to understand better this un-named “Party” of UNFCCC, with whom one *cannot* negotiate:

The Climate System, governed by the laws of Nature

Conclusion (2):
**IPCC is eager to continue
serving the climate and
sustainable development
process, with policy relevance,
without being policy-
prescriptive**

Useful links:

- **IPCC:** www.ipcc.ch
- **IPCC WGI contribution to AR5:**
www.climatechange2013.org
- **On Twitter:**
- **@IPCC_CH**
- **@JPvanYpersele**