

How can the IPCC better serve the needs of policymakers and stakeholders?

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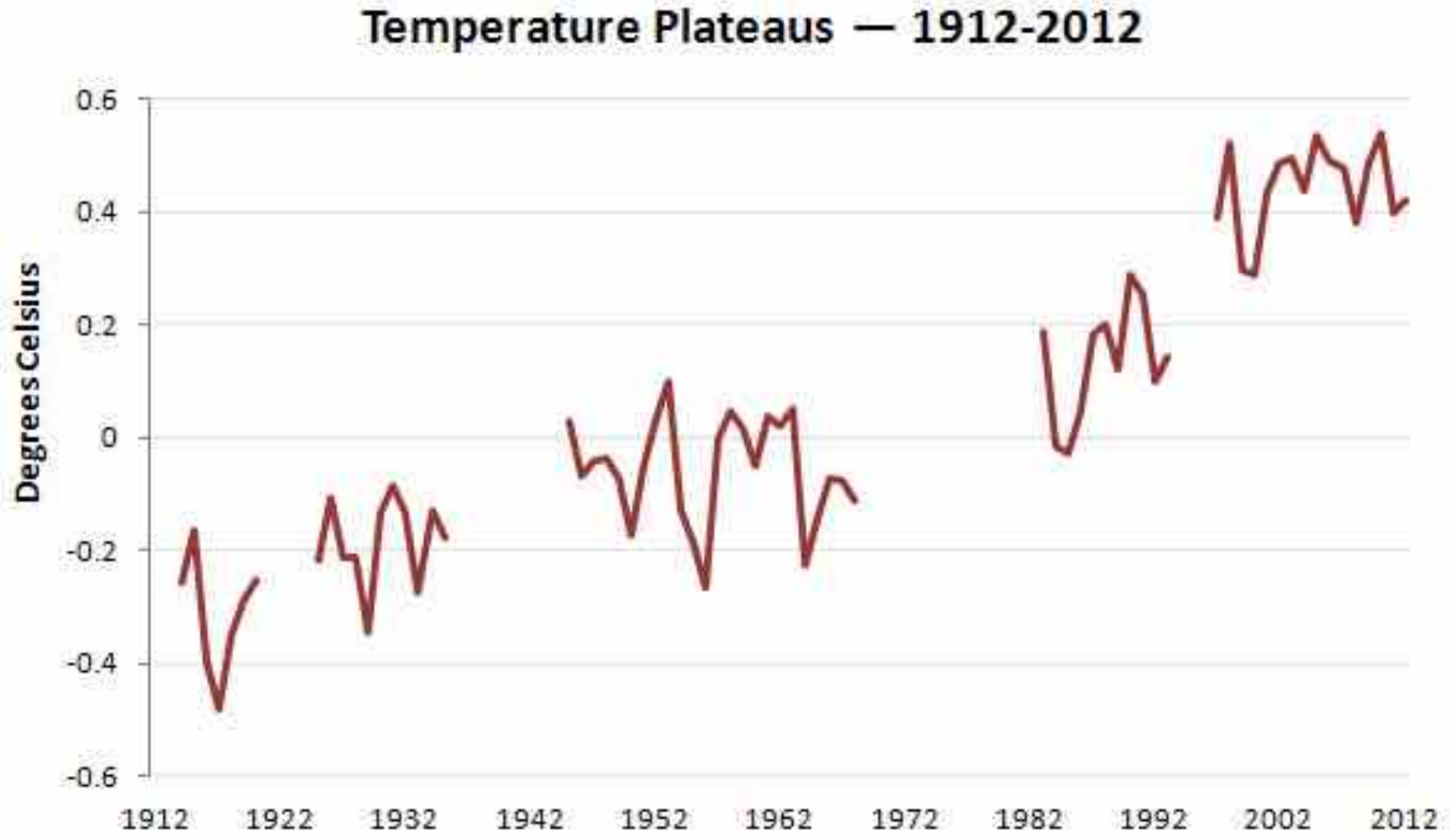
Zagreb Climate Forum, 3 October 2015

Thanks to the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to my team at the Université catholique de Louvain for their support

Temperature Change From 1961-1990 Average

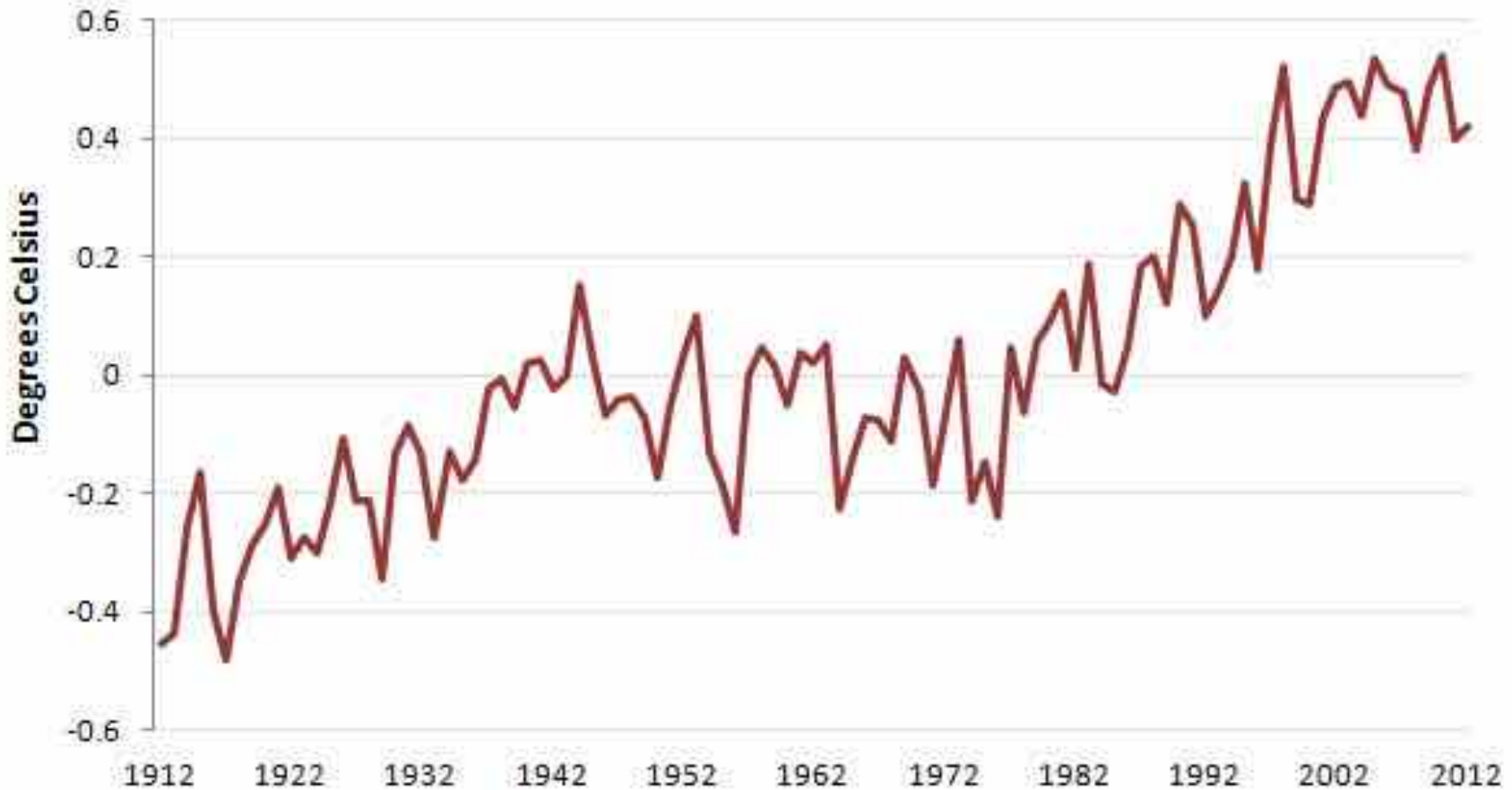


Lying With Statistics, Global Warming Edition



Lying With Statistics, Global Warming Edition

Temperature Change From 1961-1990 Average



Why the IPCC ?

Established by WMO and UNEP in 1988

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

- causes of climate change,
- potential environmental and socio-economic impacts,
- possible response options (adaptation & mitigation).

WMO=World Meteorological Organization

UNEP= United Nations Environment Programme



Mandate of the IPCC

“The General Assembly [...] endorses action of the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme in jointly establishing an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to provide **international coordinated scientific assessments** of the magnitude, timing and potential environmental and socio-economic impact of climate change and realistic response strategies [...].”

United Nations General Assembly
43rd session resolution, 6th December 1988


Role of IPCC



"The IPCC does not carry out research nor does it monitor climate related data or other relevant parameters. It bases its assessment mainly on peer reviewed and published scientific/technical literature."

(source: www.ipcc.ch)

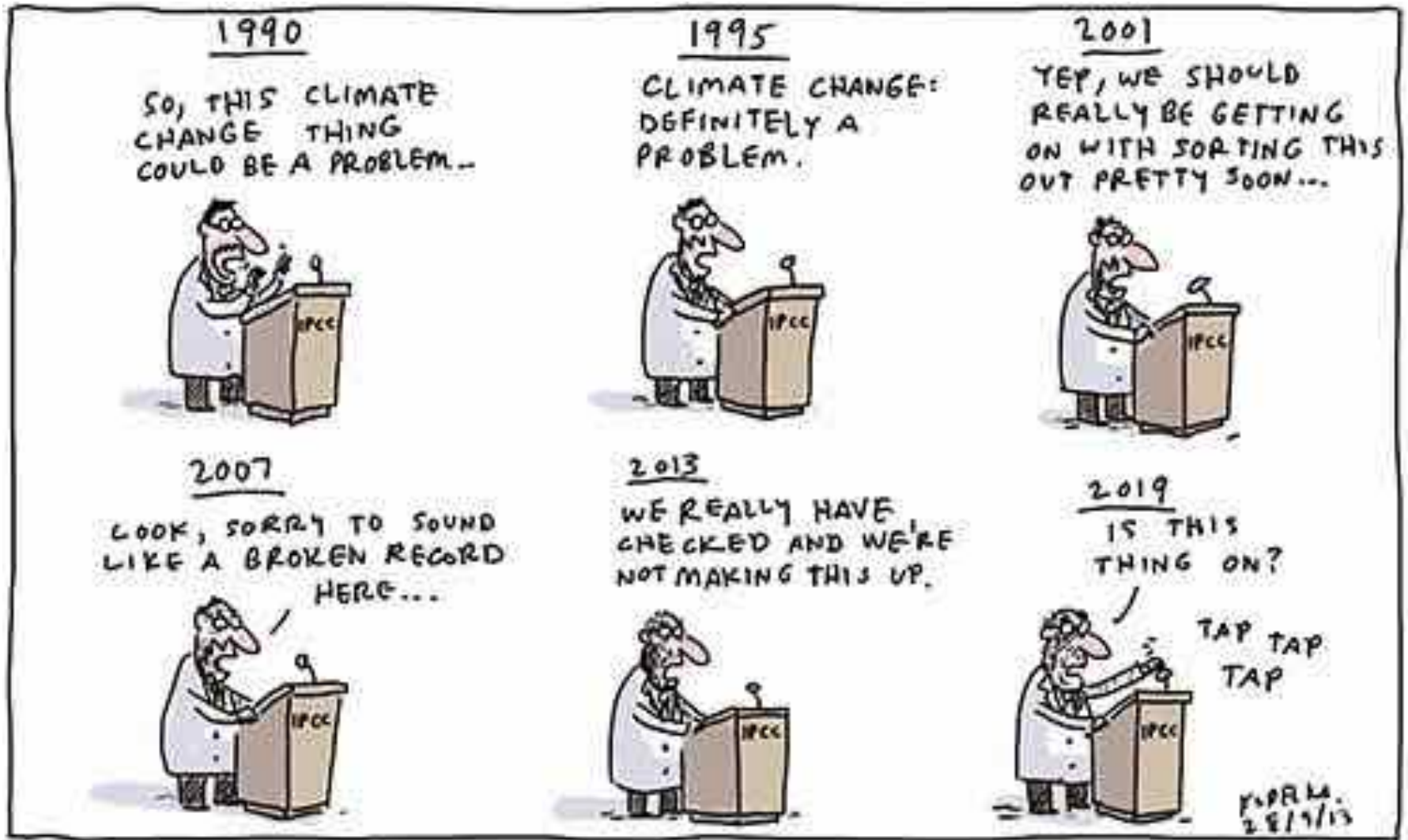
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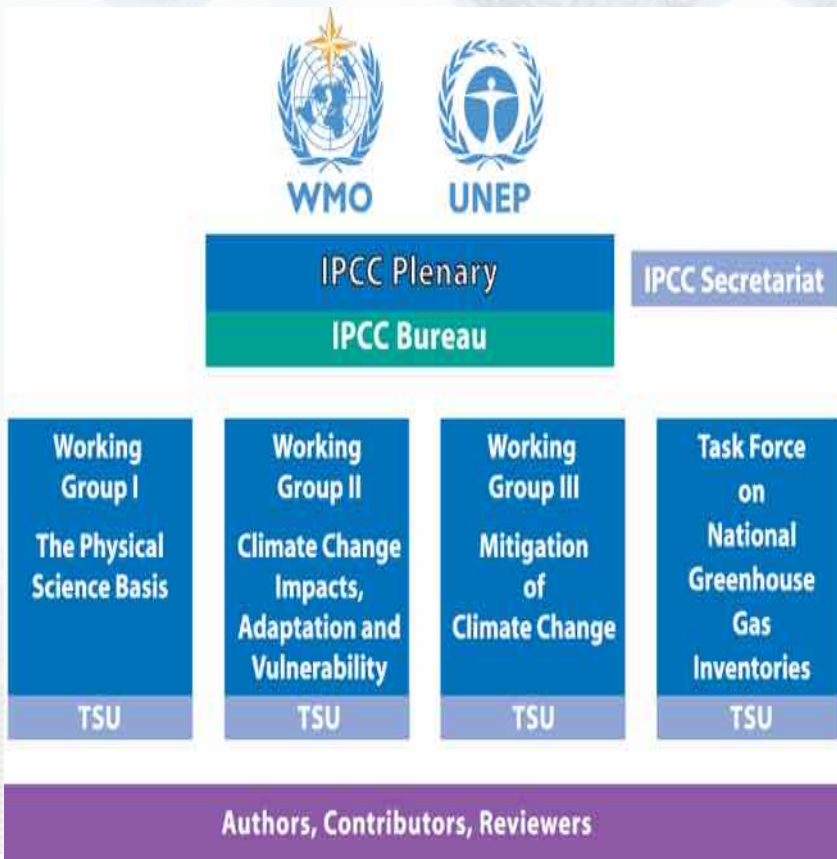
IPCC Reports are
policy-relevant,
NOT
policy-prescriptive

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None So Deaf



Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): Organization Structure

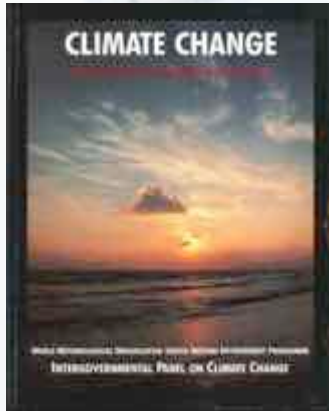


- IPCC plenary comprises of all countries in the world
- IPCC Bureau comprises of 34 elected members; IPCC elects its Bureau every 6-7 years
- 3 Working Groups & a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Authors, Contributors, Reviewers, Review Editors

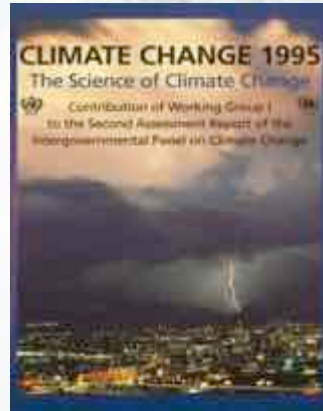
IPCC writing cycle (4 years, 831 Lead authors)

- 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!***

IPCC Assessment Reports



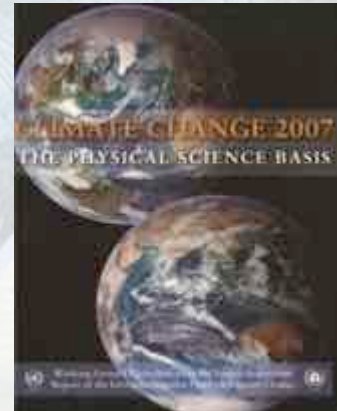
FAR 1990



SAR 1995



TAR 2001



AR4 2007



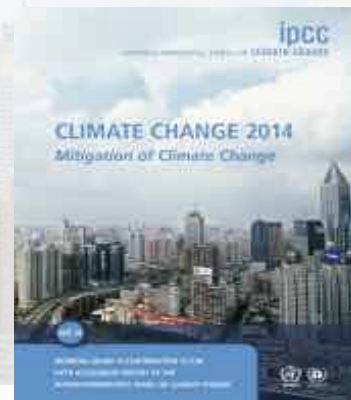
Nobel Peace Prize 2007



AR5 WGI 2013



AR5 WGII 2014

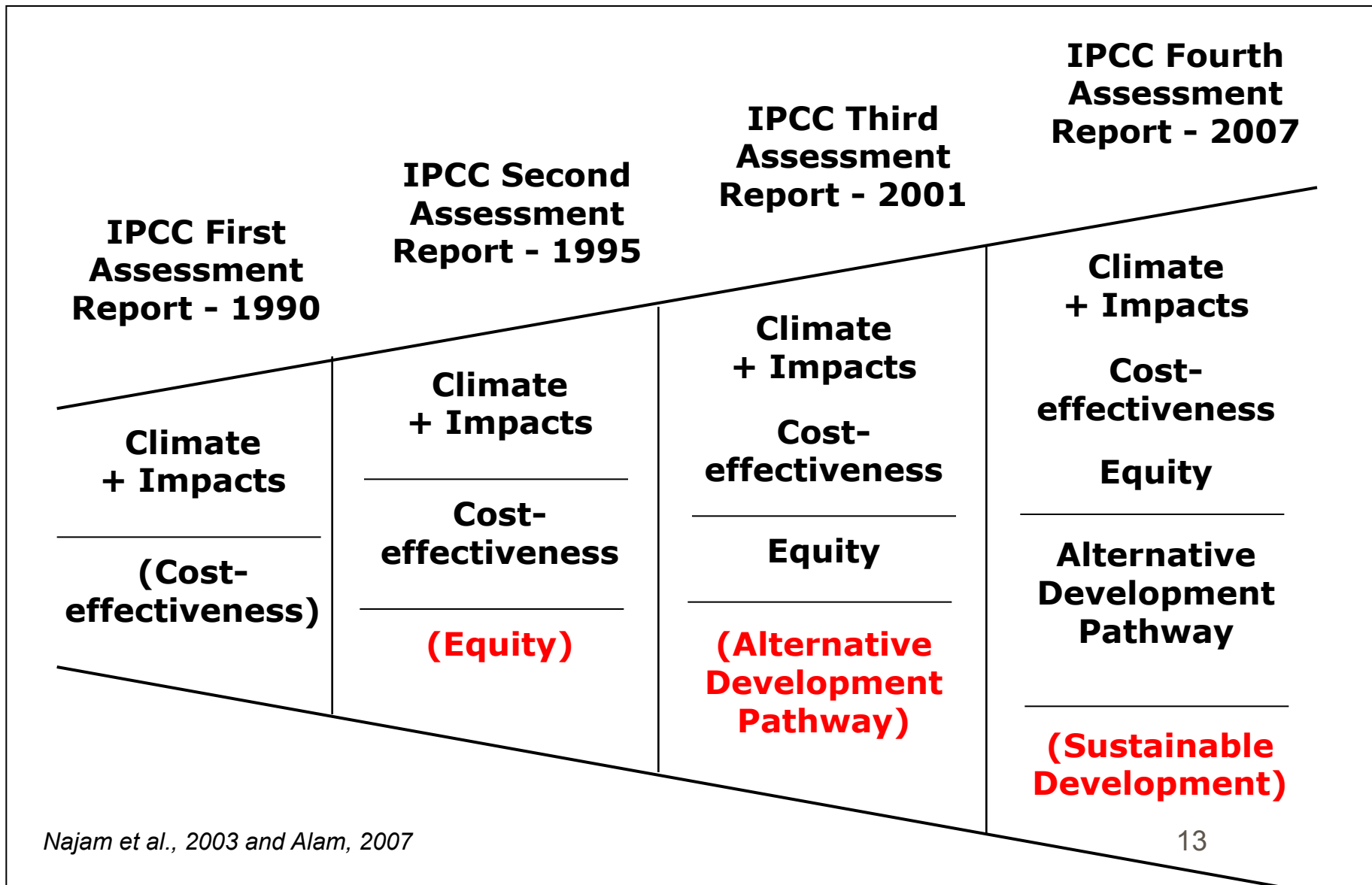


AR5 WGIII 2014



IPCC AR5 Synthesis Report

Background



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) is informing the **review of the 2°C objective**, and the **preparation of the Paris 2015 agreement**

AR5 is 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 (acidification, ...)**
- **Better handling & communication of uncertainties**

A few words about my platform

See details at:

www.climate.be/vanyp/IPCC

Keep the IPCC mandate

“When manoeuvring a vehicle in limited space, one **must be very well informed** about both the surrounding **risks and the available options**.

This is what the IPCC must do, and continue to do, in a scientifically rigorous, but policy-neutral, way: assess the risks, the options and the processes for reaching decisions.”

@JPvanYpersele for The Guardian, 16 March 2015

Inclusiveness & Team Spirit

“But the IPCC must do so in a manner even **more inclusive** than in the past, involving more scientists from developing countries in particular. It must encourage all authors to **work better across disciplinary boundaries**. The next assessment by the IPCC must ensure the best **team spirit**, with a **sense of accountability and ownership** that is shared by all.”

@JPvanYpersele for The Guardian, 16 March 2015

Improve Communication

For the IPCC to be relevant, it must also continue to improve its communication with policymakers and with the public. The IPCC products need to be **more accessible, more readable,...**

... reach out to **different audiences**, seek greater **transparency** in how it works and show more responsiveness on **social media**.

@JPvanYpersele for The Guardian, 16 March 2015

Full Time IPCC Chair needed

“To make sure all of this happens during the next assessment cycle, the IPCC needs a strong **leader, a team builder**, who dedicates herself or himself **full time** as IPCC Chair.”

@JPvanYpersele for The Guardian, 16 March 2015

Useful links:



- www.ipcc.ch : IPCC (reports and videos)
- www.climate.be/vanyp : my slides and candidature to become IPCC Chair
- www.skepticalscience.com: excellent responses to contrarians arguments
- **On Twitter: @JPvanYpersele
and @IPCC_CH**