

# IPCC: The Best Way to Assess Climate Science

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IPCC Vice-Chair, nominated by Belgium as a candidate to the position of  
Chair of the IPCC

The elections will be held at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Plenary session of the IPCC in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 5 to 8 October 2015

Platform, 1 February 2015

The role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is: *“to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.”*<sup>1</sup>

If elected as Chair of IPCC from October 2015, I am committed **to serve full time the Members** of IPCC in a manner that best respects and furthers IPCC’s mandate. Specifically, after having carefully listened to the Members views and concerns and the decisions taken at the February 2015 IPCC 41<sup>st</sup> Plenary, I would work to:

- **Sustain and further develop** what the IPCC does best: rigorous, science-driven assessments of the state of knowledge about all dimensions of the climate change issue, in a transparent process involving top-level scientists from the entire world and a fruitful dialogue with policy makers;
- **Keep robust and independent science** at the core of the IPCC work, respecting the highest scientific standards while maintaining a bearable workload for the authors, and working to assure a Summary for Policy Makers which best reflects their findings.
- Favour a process that **contributes to capacity development of the next generation** of IPCC authors;
- Lead the IPCC in a **dynamic** way, so that it provides the best response to the continuously evolving need for policy-relevant, and at the same time policy-neutral, information;
- **Stimulate real collaboration and knowledge sharing across as many interfaces as possible**: science-policy; IPCC-government Members of IPCC, IPCC-other institutions (in particular WMO, UNEP, and UNFCCC); IPCC-stakeholders, discipline-discipline; people-people, in order to maximize synergies, mutual understanding, respect, and team spirit;
- Lead the **efficient preparation of the next round** of IPCC products, as decided by the Panel at its 41<sup>st</sup> session;
- Further work with the Panel, Bureau, Secretariat, Co-Chairs, TSUs (Technical Support Units of the Working Groups and Task Force) and authors to ensure that decision making, **procedures**, and work methods of the IPCC are inclusive, clear, efficient, and adequate for its mandate;
- Further develop the **inclusive characteristics** of the IPCC, so that the **perspectives of all regions** of the world are reflected and the “sense of ownership” of IPCC Reports is enhanced;
- Strive towards having all relevant scientific literature assessed, including **non-English literature**;
- Assure that **all components** of the organization, in particular the TSUs work in **full coordination** with the IPCC Secretariat, and have a **composition that is truly inclusive** (in terms of country of origin, culture, gender, etc.), in line with the **UN spirit**;
- Develop, including through greater **transparency of the IPCC assessment processes a better understanding - by both the media and the public** - of the IPCC’s mandate, structure, processes, and scientific products.
- Make the IPCC **products more accessible in (at least) all UN languages**;
- Consider ways to develop the IPCC **funding** and the appropriate **partnerships** so that 1) adequate support and access to literature can be offered to the authors who need it to do their IPCC work; 2) the IPCC Ph.D. scholarship programme for Developing Countries and in particular for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can be expanded; 3) outreach and communication efforts related to the dissemination of IPCC products can be increased; and 4) the IPCC Chair position can become a full-time position.

**Let’s assess the science of climate change together, in the most balanced, policy-relevant way, in the interest of all!**

Your comments and suggestions are welcome: my e-mail is [vanyp@climate.be](mailto:vanyp@climate.be) or [jean-pascal.vanyp@uclouvain.be](mailto:jean-pascal.vanyp@uclouvain.be);  
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<sup>1</sup> Principles governing IPCC work, as amended at the IPCC Thirty-Seventh Session (Batumi, 14-18 October 2013), see: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles.pdf>