

Assessments of climate change by the IPCC, drawing on the work of hundreds of scientists from all over the world, enable policymakers at all levels of government to take sound, evidence-based decisions. They represent extraordinary value as the authors volunteer their time and expertise. The running costs of the Secretariat, including the organization of meetings and travel costs of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, are covered through the IPCC Trust Fund.

Why Support the IPCC?

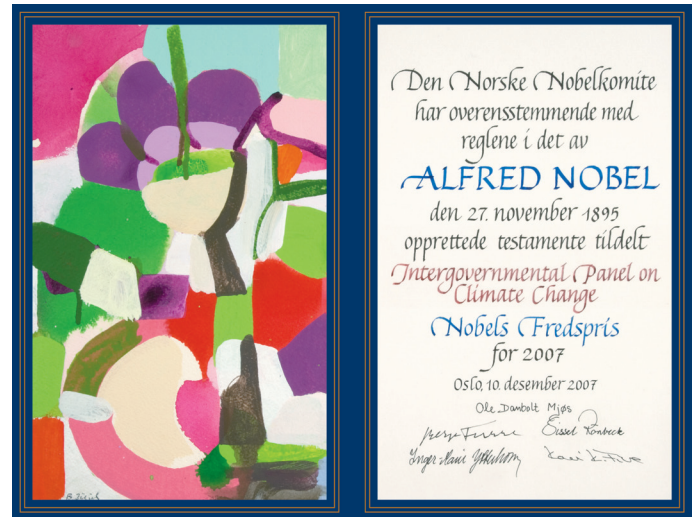
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading body for the assessment of climate change, established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988, with a mandate to "provide internationally coordinated scientific assessments of the magnitude, timing and potential environmental and socio-economic impact of climate change and realistic response strategies" (Resolution 43/53). Its main activity is to prepare comprehensive assessment reports about climate change at regular intervals. 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.

For over 25 years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has provided five Assessment Reports each of which covered three major aspects:

- Physical science basis
- Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability
- Mitigation of climate change

The IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2007 for its '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'.

Global commitments to limit climate change – In December 2015, at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, 196 parties adopted the Paris Agreement. The Agreement's objective is to limit global temperature rise below 2 °C and to aim for 1.5 °C.



On 22 April 2016, the Paris Agreement was signed by 175 parties at a ceremony at the UN headquarters in New York. The Paris Agreement provides a specific role for the IPCC regarding the development of common methodologies and the assessment of implementation progress.

IPCC commitment – On 13 April 2016, at its 43rd Session held in Nairobi, the IPCC Panel agreed to take the outcomes of COP-21 into consideration when determining the IPCC programme of work and products. It also accepted the invitation of UNFCCC COP-21 to provide a Special Report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. In addition, the Panel also agreed to prepare two other special reports on (a) climate change and oceans and the cryosphere and (b) climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The Panel further agreed to produce a methodology report for the IPCC 2016 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

Preparations for the three special reports and the methodology report are already underway.

The 2030 Agenda: How IPCC supports the Sustainable Development Goals – The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in New York. The 17 goals cover the three main pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



© The Global Goals Campaign for Sustainable Development - www.globalgoals.org

The work of the IPCC during the AR6 cycle and beyond will contribute to the SDGs. In its efforts to support the SDGs the IPCC will continue to work with its members, partners and stakeholders.

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Cycle

The main AR6 report, comprising three working group contributions, is expected to be released in 2021 and a Synthesis Report in 2022 – in time for the “global stocktake”, one year later, that countries will conduct on progress on the Paris Agreement. Preparations for AR6 starts in 2016.

The IPCC is currently organized in 3 Working Groups and a Task Force. Working Group I deals with “The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change”, Working Group II with “Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” and Working Group III with “Mitigation of Climate Change”. The main objective of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is to develop and refine a methodology for the calculation and reporting of national greenhouse gas emissions

and removals. The Task Force will produce an update to these methodologies in 2019.

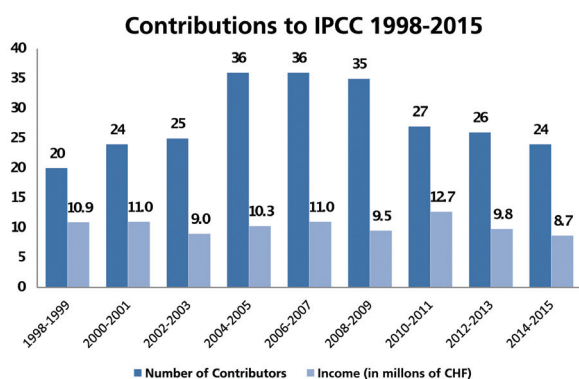
They are assisted by Technical Support Units (TSUs), which are hosted and financially supported by the government of the developed country Co-Chair of that Working Group/Task Force. A TSU may also be established to support the IPCC Chair in preparing the Synthesis Report for an assessment report.

Support to experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition –

The IPCC Trust Fund supports the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in lead author meetings and expert meetings as well as the participation of their country representatives in plenary sessions. The proportion of developing country experts involved in the IPCC process has grown considerably from the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) cycle to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) cycle; from 27% to 38%.

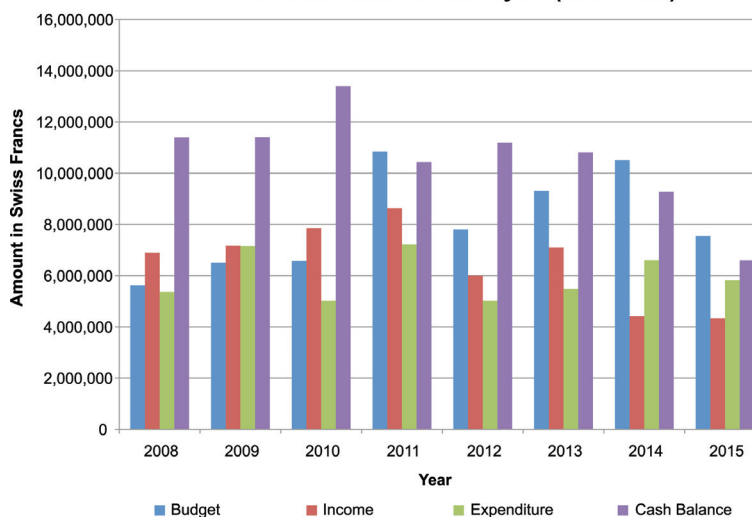
Financial situation

Since its inception in 1988, the activities of IPCC have been funded mainly through voluntary contributions from member countries. In the last five years the level of contributions and the number of contributors have declined. The IPCC is looking to reverse this trend and broaden its contributions base.

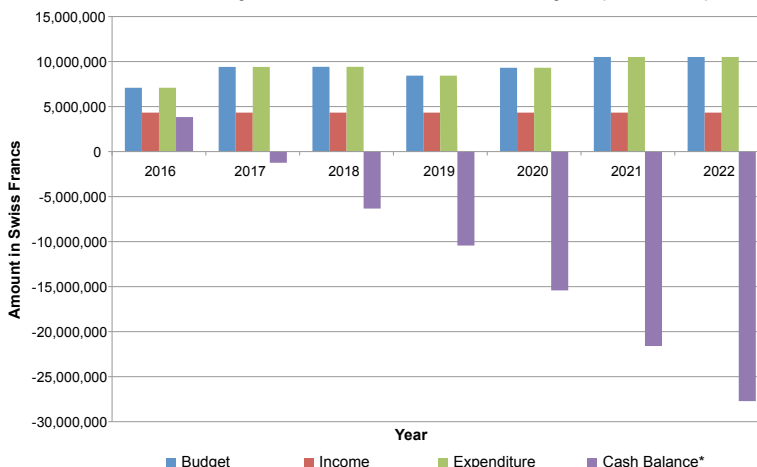


A good level of financial resources in the IPCC Trust Fund is crucial to ensure satisfactory completion of activities and products planned for the AR6 cycle. The IPCC is seeking to raise CHF 58 million over the entire AR6 cycle. The Executive Council of WMO, at its 68th Session held in Geneva in June 2016, urged the members to maintain, and where possible, to increase their financial support for IPCC activities through contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund. The 2nd meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in May 2016, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to strengthen UNEP's support to the IPCC.

IPCC Financial Status in AR5 Cycle (2008-2015)



IPCC Projected Financial Status in AR6 Cycle (2016-2022)



* The negative cash balance means we have used up our reserves.

For further information please contact:
 Judith EWA
 Programme Officer
 Tel: +41 (22) 730 8087
 E-mail: IPCC-ResMob@wmo.int