

Nomination of IPCC authors for the Sixth Assessment Report



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produces comprehensive, objective, open and transparent Assessment Reports on the science related to climate change. IPCC reports are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive: they provide governments at all levels with a scientific basis to develop climate-related policies. They are prepared by teams of leading experts who volunteer their time and expertise and are published in three instalments: The Physical Science Basis (Working Group I), Adaptation, Impacts and Vulnerability (Working Group II) and Mitigation of Climate Change (Working Group III)¹. The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment Cycle.

At the start of each cycle, IPCC scientists and member governments work together to produce outlines for each Working Group report. This includes indicative bullet points reflecting topics to be considered within each chapter. Once the

outline is approved, the IPCC issues a call for nominations of experts to governments and IPCC observer organisations. Experts can be nominated for the role of Coordinating Lead Author, Lead Author or Review Editor for each chapter². This call is publicized on the IPCC website, within member countries and on social media.

The outlines for the Sixth Assessment Report were agreed in September 2017³ and nominations of experts are sought until 27 October 2017⁴. To be considered for a role in the Sixth Assessment Report, interested experts should contact their national focal point⁵ or an IPCC observer organisation⁶ and provide information on:

- (1) their professional background (including education, areas of expertise and IPCC experience);
- (2) which chapter(s) they wish to contribute to (maximum of 3);
- (3) which role they are volunteering for.

¹ A Synthesis Report is also produced at the end of each cycle to bring together the main conclusions of each Working Group and any Special Reports produced during the cycle.

² https://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization_structure.shtml#fp

³ http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/PR17-IPCC46_Press.shtml

⁴ http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/PR-AR6_nominations.shtml

⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/apps/contact/interface/focalpoints.php>

⁶ <https://www.ipcc.ch/apps/contact/interface/organizationall.php>

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They must also provide an up-to-date CV (4 pages maximum) and a list of up to three relevant scientific publications. For the Fifth Assessment Report, 831 experts were selected from 3,598 nominations across the three Working Groups.

It is important to note that nominations can only be made by national focal points or observer organizations, not the interested experts themselves.

The relevant Working Group Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs⁷ will then review the nominations and select expert teams, with support from the Technical Support Units. The selection follows the Principles Governing IPCC Work: in addition to providing expertise, teams must reflect a balance of gender and geographic location and include scientists without prior IPCC experience.⁸ If gaps are identified in the list of nominations, IPCC Bureau members may nominate additional experts.

Anyone with relevant experience is encouraged to apply. It is worth noting that the IPCC receives large numbers of nominations and the resulting pressure on each chapter team is large. However, this is not the only way to contribute to IPCC reports. Once author teams produce draft reports, the IPCC will seek Expert Reviewers to comment on these drafts.

⁷ <https://www.ipcc.ch/nominations/results.shtml>

⁸ <https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

The Working Group Technical Support Units can provide further information if required:

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