The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC does not conduct its own research. It identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion and where further research is needed. It is a partnership between scientists and policymakers and it is this that makes its work a credible source of information for policymakers. IPCC assessments are produced according to procedures that ensure integrity, in line with the IPCC’s overarching principles of objectivity, openness and transparency. IPCC reports are policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive.

Since 1988 the IPCC has produced five comprehensive Assessment Reports and several Special Reports on specific topics. IPCC has also produced Methodology Reports, which provide practical guidelines on the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories for the inventory reporting requirements of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was finalized between 2013 and 2014. Its key findings are:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear
- The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts
- We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future

The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment cycle, during which it will produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and the Sixth Assessment Report.

During its 43rd Session (Nairobi, April 2016), the Panel accepted the invitation from the UNFCCC to produce a Special Report by 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and to prepare it in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

At the same Session, the Panel decided to produce two other Special Reports, namely one on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere, and one on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

The Panel also decided to refine the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in order to update and provide a sound scientific basis for future international climate action especially under the Paris Agreement. The Methodology Report on this will be finalized in May 2019.

The Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C will be ready for the facilitative dialogue of the UNFCCC at the end of 2018. The Sixth Assessment Report will be ready for the first UNFCCC global stocktake to take place in 2023.
The Sixth Assessment cycle*

**Special Reports**
- **October 2018**: Global warming of 1.5°C
  An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.
- **August 2019**: Climate Change and Land:
  An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

**Methodology Report**

**Sixth Assessment Report**
- **April 2021**: Working Group I contribution
  The physical science basis.
- **July 2021**: Working Group III contribution
  Mitigation of climate change.
- **October 2021**: Working Group II contribution
  Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.
- **April 2022**: Synthesis Report.

**Others**
- **Cities**: A conference on cities and special attention to cities in the Sixth Assessment Report with the intention of a Special Report on climate change and cities in the Seventh Assessment Cycle.
- **Expert Meetings**: Several Expert Meetings and workshops are held to support the preparation of the Sixth Assessment Report. Reports of these meetings are published as supporting materials.
- **Outreach**: Communication and outreach of the IPCC process and its findings.

* Dates are subject to a change.
Abbreviations

FAR: First Assessment Report
SAR: Second Assessment Report
TAR: Third Assessment Report
AR4: Fourth Assessment Report
AR5: Fifth Assessment Report
AR6: Sixth Assessment Report
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WMO: World Meteorological Organization

SR15: Global Warming of 1.5° C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty
SRCCL: Climate Change and Land: An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems
SROCC: Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

For more information please contact: [Contact Information]

* Dates are subject to change.
**How the IPCC prepares its reports**

- **Scoping**
  - The outline is drafted and developed by experts nominated by governments and observer organizations.

- **Approval of Outline**
  - The Panel then approves the outline.

- **Nomination of authors**
  - Governments and observer organizations nominate experts as authors.

- **Government and Expert Review - 2nd Order Draft**
  - The 2nd draft of the report and 1st draft of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) is reviewed by governments and experts.

- **Expert Review - 1st Order Draft**
  - Authors prepare a 1st draft which is reviewed by experts.

- **Selection of authors**
  - Bureaus select authors.

- **Final draft report and SPM**
  - Authors prepare final drafts of the report and SPM which are sent to governments.

- **Government review of final draft SPM**
  - Governments review the final draft SPM in preparation for its approval.

- **Approval & acceptance of report**
  - Working Group/Panel approves SPMs and accepts reports.

- **Publication of report**
  - Peer reviewed and internationally available scientific, technical and socio-economic literature, manuscripts made available for IPCC review and selected non-peer reviewed literature produced by other relevant institutions including industry.

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