

Selection of IPCC authors

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) undertakes the comprehensive, objective, open and transparent assessment of the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

IPCC reports are prepared by chapter teams made of Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors¹, leading experts that volunteer their time and expertise to undertake the assessment.

Once the outline of a report is approved by IPCC member governments, during a plenary session, a call for nominations of experts is issued by the IPCC to governments and IPCC observer organisations, and widely distributed on social media. The report outline consists of chapters with indicative bullets, listing topics to be considered in the assessment. Expertise is sought in the call for nominations to undertake the assessment of these topics.

For the Fifth Assessment Report a total of 831 experts were selected as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from 3,598 nominations across the three Working Groups.

The nomination form asks for information about the candidate (including highest degree, sector, past IPCC experience and areas of expertise). Candidates are requested to select a maximum of three chapters from the report outline that they wish to contribute, and indicate which role they volunteer for (Coordinating Lead Author, Lead Author or Review Editor). Finally, candidates can list a maximum of three most relevant scientific publications. The nomination forms should be accompanied by an up-to-date CV (4 pages maximum).

The relevant Working Group Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs² will undertake the selection of authors in an iterative process to refine a short list of candidates. This process is facilitated by the Working Group's Technical Support Unit. All criteria as stated in Appendix A of Principles Governing IPCC Work³ are considered to ensure a full coverage of the expertise and a diversity of perspectives:

"In selecting scoping meeting participants, consideration should be given to the following criteria: scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, including the range of views; geographical representation; a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC; gender balance; experts with a background from relevant stakeholder and user groups, including governments."

If gaps are identified in the list of nominations from governments and observing organizations, Bureau members may submit additional nominations.

Please be aware that the selection pressure is large (typically, one nomination in ten were selected for the AR6 special reports that are currently underway). There are multiple additional ways to contribute to the IPCC assessments, including volunteering as an Expert Reviewer for the draft reports.

To volunteer for nomination, contact your national focal point⁴. Alternatively, you can also contact an IPCC observer organisation⁵.

The WGI TSU can provide further information if necessary.

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization_structure.shtml#fp

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/nominations/results.shtml>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/apps/contact/interface/focalpoints.php>

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