

What is an Expert Reviewer of IPCC reports?

Review in the IPCC process

“**Review** is an essential part of the **IPCC process**. Since the IPCC is an intergovernmental body, review of **IPCC documents** should involve both peer review by **experts** and review by **governments**.”¹

Every **IPCC report** goes through several drafts and reviews to ensure it is as robust, comprehensive and balanced as possible.

The review process is critical for ensuring the assessment is scientifically rigorous, exhaustive, objective and transparent; broad participation in the **IPCC review process** is one of the core strengths of **IPCC assessments**.

The **First-Order Draft** is open to review by experts; the **Second-Order Draft** is reviewed by governments and experts; and governments send comments on the **Summary for Policymakers**, and the **Overview Chapter** in the case of a Methodology Report, during the Final Government Distribution. In the case of a **Synthesis Report** draft, it undergoes a single simultaneous government and expert review; followed by a government review of the final draft through the Final Government Distribution.

All review comments submitted by experts or governments are addressed by the authors. The comments and the author responses, together with the drafts, are published after the report is finalized.

How do experts become reviewers of IPCC reports?

Experts are invited to register for the review through the website of the **IPCC Working Group** or **Task Force** responsible for the report.

Because the aim of the expert review is to get the widest possible participation and broadest possible expertise, those who register are accepted unless they fail to demonstrate any relevant qualification.

Sometimes the Working Group or Task Force Bureau concerned will also invite specific individuals to register to take part in the expert review, for instance if they have a particular area of expertise to contribute. This does not give them more legitimacy than any other expert reviewer.

¹ [Principles Governing IPCC Work](#), paragraph 3





The role of expert reviewers of IPCC reports

Expert reviewers may submit comments on one sentence or section of a report, or a whole chapter of the full report. They may consider scientific substance or the structure of the report. Often they will point out a published paper that the report authors may not have included in their assessment, but which could be relevant.

Expert reviewers agree not to cite, quote or distribute the draft, because at this stage the report is still a work in progress and has not yet been formally considered by the IPCC. They must submit their comments through the IPCC website.

Expert reviewers who submit comments are credited by name in the final report for their contribution. Such comments are a vital contribution to the quality of the assessment. But because the review is essentially open to all through a self-declaration of expertise, it follows that having been a registered expert reviewer does not by itself serve as a qualification of the expert or support their credibility in a different context.

For more information on this topic, please see our [Factsheet](#) on the IPCC review process.

Follow the IPCC on  @ipcc ,  @ipcc_ch ,  @ipcc ,  @ipcc and send questions to ipcc-media@wmo.int

For information and activities specific to a Working Group or Task Force:

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