

Q&A from e-learning course: Webinar 1

No.	Questions	Answers
1	How were reviewers identified and/or selected for the 2017 reports?	Live answered during webinar
2	How can IPCC address issues related to climate change?	Live answered during webinar
3	Who has the mandate to address issues related to climate and migration amongst the UN agencies - UNFCCC or UNHCR or ILO?	Live answered during webinar
4	Does the IPCC have a way of verifying data from countries on emission inventories?	Live answered during webinar
5	What are the connections between IPCC and IPBES?	IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) is like IPCC an intergovernmental body, inspired by the processes of the IPCC, but it is a different organisation. And also the mandates differ - while IPCC only delivers assessments and methodology reports, IPBES also includes capacity building and recommends policies. IPBES has received observer status in IPCC in 2017.
6	How does the IPCC screen politisation of scientific nominations by government and how are these science reports verified for their validity?	There is no direct 'screening' of politisation of government nomination of scientists. The IPCC Bureaux selection of nominated authors takes place based on scientific quality, CVs, adequacy to the needs of each chapter in terms of expertise, and seeks to balance regional distribution, gender, and experience in IPCC versus more junior authors. Author teams (notably in WG II and III are often deliberately composed of people with different views and background who have to work together. This internal interaction should prevent political biases creeping into the assessments. Verifying validity of reports: the IPCC Procedures that were mentioned provide a rule book for this. The way author teams are composed, the strict quality requirements, the thorough review process and approval procedures should assure the policy-relevance and quality of the IPCC assessment reports.
7	As an individual, can I contribute to the review process and send my contribution to the IPCC focal point in my country for submitting it to IPCC?	Will be explained in the Webinar on 7 June. In short: you can register as an Expert Reviewer for a First Order (FOD) or Second Order Draft (SOD) of an IPCC report. Next week the FOD of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land will start, and you can already register now (will provide the link to that later). Focal Points have their own responsibility to send review comments on behalf of their government (not possible on a First Order Draft, that is only for Expert Reviewers, but they can on the Summary of the Final Draft of the Special Report on 1.5 degrees, which is running now). You might contact the focal point of your country and see if he /she would be willing to use your input. Focal Points can ask inputs from as many experts as they want but they are responsible for sending only the government comments to the IPCC. You will receive a doc with links including a link with the contact details of teh IPCC Governmental Focal Points.
8	Is it possible to know how they choose IPCC member?	Only a government can be a member of the IPCC. Almost all United Nations countries (195) are member of the IPCC. Individuals cannot be members. They can be authors (if selected by the IPCC Bureau from the list of experts nominated) and they (like you) can become an Expert Reviewer.
9	How does IPCC deal in the reports with climate change related to natural variability and cc related to anthropogenic forcing?	Working Group I (physical science of climate change) deals with this in all its assessments since 1990. With the help of climate models (huge calculation tools) it is possible to monitor what part of influences on climate are natural (sun, volcanoes, natural variations) and what part is induced by the accumulation of antropogenic greenhouse gases. May I recommend to check for instance the Summary for Policy Makers of WG I fifth Assessment report figure SPM.6 on page 18, http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf
10	How is the IPCC monitoring countries that are complying with the laid down rules especially as it relates to violation of gas flaring?	The IPCC does not monitor emissions of countries, they only provide good practice guidelines to countries on how to monitor these emissions themselves. The IPCC has no task in monitoring or enforcing rules regarding emissions. It is UNFCCC (totally distinct from IPCC) responsibility to do that.
11	Would there be a new call for reviewers, I am expecting to participate in the next review process ?	Not sure which review of which report you are referring to. If you do not get a call from the IPCC you can always register yourself as an Expert Reviewer when a review of a report is going on, through the IPCC website.

12	There are some countries that do not have much data and scientific literature on climate change. How does the IPCC handle such situations in terms of literature reviewing?	Unfortunately, if the IPCC authors cannot find data or if there is no qualified literature, there is nothing to assess for the IPCC, since it does not do research or data generation itself. This is why reviewers are so important - they may be aware of relevant sources that may help to fill the gaps.
13	How can a country become a member of IPCC?	Live answered during webinar
14	How often is the report produced?	Live answered during webinar
15	Could you please elucidate more on UNFCCC and how it relates to IPCC because at times in literature you find the two bodies used interchangeably?	Live answered during webinar
16	What background is requested to be an IPCC expert?	You have to declare yourself that you have some expertise relevant to the report or chapters that you want to review. When registering they ask for publications, but you may describe your expertise in another manner. Will be explained in the webinar on 7 June.
17	How the government team per country are selected to become "qualified authors" of IPCC works? As they have to ensure representativeness of their government	Live answered during webinar
18	Relationship between published IPCC reports (updated every 5 or 7 years) and agendas within international discussions and negotiations during CoP meetings (delivering visions and programs for at least 10 or 15 years) as you said that Executive summary is FOR Policy makers and not BY Policy makers?	The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) is indeed a summary for policymakers. During the approval process of an SPM (line by line approval by governments), contradicting political views may surface but the authors are there to see to it that the SPM remains a balanced and unbiased summary of the underlying assessment, true to the science. The role of governments in approving a scientific report may seem a bit strange but once the SPM is approved, it sends a clear message that 195 countries are taking the messages from this report seriously - which contributes to the scientific foundation of the decisions in the UNFCCC.
19	Another question related to the fact that there are few African scientists who react and show real interests in all these IPCC works (reviews); couldn't be it because of the lack of literature and peer-reviewed in many African countries (such as Madagascar) which scientists should consider and use to argue/to review?	You are probably right - but since African countries are very vulnerable to climate change and will need information about adequate climate response policies (adaptation, low carbon economies), Reviewers are important as they could help to dig up literature and alert the authors - also non-peer reviewed) of sufficient scientific quality.