IPCC releases its latest report:

"Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change"

5 April 2022

On 4 April 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest report, *"Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change"*, after being approved and accepted by 195 member countries in a virtual approval session, held between 21 March and 4 April.

This report is the Working Group III (WGIII) contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges. It also examines the sources of global emissions, and explains developments in emission reduction and mitigation efforts, assessing the impact of national climate pledges in relation to long-term emissions goals.

Compared with previous WGIII reports, this report introduces several new components: One is a new chapter on the social aspects of mitigation, which explores the 'demand side', i.e., what drives consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This chapter is a partner to the sectoral chapters in the report, which explore the 'supply side' of climate change – what produces emissions. There is also a cross-sector chapter on mitigation options that cut across sectors, including carbon dioxide removal techniques. And there is a new chapter on innovation, technology development and transfer, which describes how a well-established innovation system at a national level, guided by well-designed policies, can contribute to mitigation, adaptation and achieving the sustainable development goals, while avoiding undesired consequences.

The key messages from the report include:

- In 2010-2019 average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history, but the rate of growth has slowed. Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach.
- Since 2010, there have been sustained decreases of up to 85% in the costs of solar and wind energy, and batteries. An increasing range of policies and laws have enhanced energy efficiency, reduced rates of deforestation and accelerated the deployment of renewable energy.
- Limiting global warming will require major transitions in the energy sector. This will involve a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels (such as hydrogen).
- Cities and other urban areas also offer significant opportunities for emissions reductions. These can be achieved through lower energy consumption (such as by creating compact, walkable cities), electrification of transport in combination with low-emission energy sources,

and enhanced carbon uptake and storage using nature. There are options for established, rapidly growing and new cities.

- Reducing emissions in industry will involve using materials more efficiently, reusing and recycling products and minimising waste. For basic materials, including steel, building materials and chemicals, low- to zero-greenhouse gas production processes are at their pilot to near-commercial stage.
- Agriculture, forestry, and other land use can provide large-scale emissions reductions and also remove and store carbon dioxide at scale. However, land cannot compensate for delayed emissions reductions in other sectors. Response options can benefit biodiversity, help us adapt to climate change, and secure livelihoods, food and water, and wood supplies.
- Limiting warming to around 1.5°C requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43% by 2030; limiting warming to around 2°C still requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by a quarter by 2030.

“Climate change is the result of more than a century of unsustainable energy and land use, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production”, said IPCC WGIII Co-Chair Jim Skea. “This report shows how taking action now can move us towards a fairer, more sustainable world.”

About the IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications, and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. In the same year, the UN General Assembly endorsed the action by the WMO and UNEP in jointly establishing the IPCC. It has 195 member states.

Participation of Belgium in the IPCC

Belgium has been supporting the work of the IPCC since its inception.

In addition to providing financial contributions to the IPCC Fund, BELSPO is also the Belgian Focal Point to the IPCC, which includes coordinating the Belgian position and the preparation and updating of the list of national experts to help implement the IPCC work programme.

The Belgian delegation that participated in the approval session for the report *"Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change"* included members from BELSPO and experts from the *Plateforme wallonne pour le GIEC*/UCLouvain. They ensured that the messages included in the Summary for Policymakers are clear, accessible, and supported by the underlying technical report.

Useful links

IPCC report *"Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change"*

IPCC Press Release

Press release CLIMAT.BE/KLIMAAT.BE (in French and Dutch)