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Subject - Environment

Date - 29th March 2023

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IPCC

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988.

2007 Nobel Peace Prize



- In 2007, the IPCC and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change”.

VERY IMPORTANT



- IPCC does not engage in scientific research.
- Instead, it asks scientists from around the world to go through all the relevant scientific literature related to climate change and draw up logical conclusions.
- The assessments are policy-relevant but not policy prescriptive:
- they may present projections of future climate change based on different scenarios and the risks that climate change poses and discuss the implications of response options, *but they do not tell policymakers what actions to take.*

Assessment Reports

- So far, six assessment reports have been produced, the first one being released in 1990.
- Six to eight years for an assessment report.



Synthesis Report

- Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Cycle (8500+ pages summarized)
- The Synthesis Report is *based* on the content of the three Working Groups Assessment Reports:
 - WGI - The Physical Science Basis,
 - WGII - Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability,

- WGIII – Mitigation of Climate Change,
- Three Special Reports:
 - Global Warming of 1.5°C,
 - Climate Change and Land,
 - The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Important Takeaways

- The global surface temperature has already warmed by 1.1 C over pre-industrial levels
- Has led to extreme and/or unpredictable weather events
- Such events have made people much more susceptible to food insecurity, water shortages with vulnerable populations disproportionately facing the brunt of climate change.
- Adaptation planning and implementation have progressed.
- Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist, and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation.
- Hard and soft limits to adaptation have been reached in some ecosystems and regions.
- Maladaptation is happening in some sectors and regions.
- Current global financial flows for adaptation are insufficient for, and constrain implementation of, adaptation

options, especially in developing countries

- Exceeding a Warming Level and Returning - If warming exceeds a specified level such as 1.5°C, it could gradually be reduced again by achieving and sustaining net negative global CO₂ emissions.
- This would require the additional deployment of carbon dioxide removal, compared to pathways without overshoot, leading to greater feasibility and sustainability concerns.
- Overshoot entails adverse impacts, some irreversible, and additional risks for human and natural systems, all growing with the magnitude and duration of overshoot.

Way Ahead

- Reduce emissions sharply and give up fossil fuels through investments in renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies, increase energy efficiency, rethink agriculture and restore forests and degraded natural landscapes.
- It may also be necessary to develop technologies that suck carbon dioxide from the air, called “direct air capture”, or explore other means of “climate repair”.
- Requirement of climate-resilient development.
- Focus on diverse values, world views and knowledge around the globe including Indigenous knowledge.

