

Key Messages by Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (@JPvanYpersele)

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Good morning.

The IPCC is 27 year-old, and about to take a new departure and start a new assessment cycle. Before doing that, I think it's useful to go back to some of the final words written by the first Chair of IPCC, Professor Bert Bolin, which I had the honour to know, at the end of his book about IPCC¹.

These quotes are still relevant today, as we should not forget where we start from: Prof Bolin wrote:

*"...A penetrating examination of the **facts** is an absolute necessity when trying to understand and deal with the major societal and political issues that confront us when we try to resolve the global change issue. The analyses need to be accepted as trustworthy by the international scientific community and should therefore be carried out as (...) an **independent and open scientific endeavour**. (...)*

The scope of the climate change issue has been grossly underestimated.

*Building an **awareness** of global climate change remains a major responsibility for the scientific community.*

*The **impacts** of expected changes on people and societies need **to be viewed in terms of the prevailing lack of equity and social justice in the world**.*

*A viable solution of the dilemma as described **urgently** requires joint action.*

*It cannot be achieved unless genuine **cooperation** is fostered in the world."* (end of quote)

I would like to say a few words about some of the key words used in Prof Bolin's conclusion:

- **Facts**: It is essential that the IPCC focus remains based on solid, factual information, and the understanding of the scientific, technical, and socio-economic framework in which those facts take place

- **Urgency**: as all IPCC reports have shown, the climate system does not wait for us: climate changes faster than the speed at which climate policy measures are implemented, unfortunately.

- **independent and open scientific endeavour**: The IPCC has polished its procedures over the years... The IPCC reports have succeeded to heed the mandate of the IPCC: to be policy-relevant, while staying policy-neutral. We need to keep that, and **keep honesty and rigour at the core of our work**.

- **Awareness (and communication)**: A very important role of IPCC is to raise awareness, not only about the problem, but also, most importantly, about the solutions. I helped to develop and implement the IPCC communication strategy, and I know how much all our outreach efforts have been appreciated. But we can still do better, and as IPCC Chair, I would be a good communicator.

- Lack of **equity and social justice**, other problems: important context to understand the impacts, but also the solutions. The **Sustainable Development Goals** just approved in New York will constitute a very important framework for much of the analysis and action around climate change in the future.

- **Cooperation**: This was emphasized in AR5, and is particularly important ahead of COP21

¹ Bolin, B. (2007) *A History of the Science and Politics of Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press.

How I can help the IPCC if I become Chair:

For the last 36 years, I have been working as a climate scientist on the issues raised by climate change. My collaboration with the IPCC started 20 years ago and as Vice-Chair since 2008, I have helped the IPCC go through some rough turbulence. I have also attended to nearly every “COPs”, the Conferences of the Parties of the Convention on Climate Change: this helped me to understand deeply the kind of information policy-makers really need.

For an IPCC that plays its full part

I am convinced that the IPCC has an increasingly important part to play in these coming years: it will have to provide worldwide policy-makers with the best scientific data, the most objective and most rigorous information concerning all aspects of climate change.

For an IPCC that communicates better

IPCC will have to better communicate, explain better in every language of the United Nations, with words understandable by everybody in its Summaries for Policymakers.

For a more open and collaborative IPCC

To best proceed as such and remain policy-relevant but neutral concerning political choices (chosen amongst numerous options), I am convinced we need a more open and collaborative IPCC. This means an IPCC where collaboration between people and between working groups is intensified, for the benefit of team spirit and our common interests. I will also seek to develop new partnerships, to do together what the IPCC cannot do by itself.

For an inclusive IPCC

As Chair of the IPCC I would like to further enhance inclusiveness: I will work on ways to increase and facilitate the participation of scientists from developing countries in the IPCC process. My dream is to build an IPCC where everybody feels acknowledged and respected, really respected. An IPCC in which women have a larger role to play, a dynamic IPCC, with young people who benefit from more experienced and rigorous authors.

We all agree on the principle of **involving more scientists from developing countries and economies in transition** scientists, but how can we do it in practice, better than in the past? Let me give you a **concrete example**: We need to work much more with regional and sub-regional scientific organisations, which know the terrain and the local scientific communities, so that we facilitate the nomination of many more excellent scientists from developing and economy in transition countries.

For an IPCC that listens more

Remaining at your disposal to **listen** to any of your suggestions or difficulties that the IPCC can help solve is also one of my priorities. I will be a **full-time** IPCC Chair, thanks to the generosity of my university. If I am elected, I am committed to serve all Members of the IPCC.

I am ready! Thank you for your trust.