

qualifications would improve the credibility and independence of the Executive Committee. These individuals should be widely respected in their fields and should be drawn from academia, nongovernmental organizations outside of the UN system, and/or the private sector. To ensure that a substantial pool of well-qualified individuals is identified for the Executive Committee, the IPCC should consult a broader group of organizations beyond those that currently submit nominations for the Bureau and other positions.

The IPCC Chair

Because the IPCC Chair is both **the leader and the face** of the organization, he or she must have strong credentials (including high professional standing in an area covered by IPCC assessments), international stature, a broad vision, strong leadership skills, considerable management experience at a senior level, and experience relevant to the assessment task.

In line with UN practice for panels and working groups, member countries elect the IPCC Chair for a fixed period of time, in this case for the period of an assessment. Current IPCC procedures limit the Chair to two terms. The Chair receives no salary from the IPCC, but is supported by his or her home nation and/or institution. Although a significant proportion of their time has been devoted to their chairmanship role, each of the three Chairs to date has had significant professional responsibilities outside of the IPCC.

The fixed length of service and part-time nature of the chairmanship hold many advantages. A fixed term is important because over time it allows for a greater variety of perspectives and approaches to the assessment, and turnover in leadership is one key to maintaining the ongoing vitality of assessments. A 12-year appointment (two terms), however, is too long for a field as dynamic and contested as climate change.

Recommendation

- ▶ The term of the IPCC Chair should be limited to the time frame of one assessment.