

IPCC Report Response: The Elders urge leaders to act on climate as IPCC assessment lays bare unprecedented crisis

LONDON, 9 August 2021

Responding to the new report from the world's foremost scientific authority on climate change - the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - [Mary Robinson](#), Chair of The Elders said:

"The latest IPCC report identifies that the opportunity to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C is very slim, but still scientifically possible. The exigency of this situation must not lead us to despair, rather it should propel us into action.

"Leaders must show they understand the seriousness of the science and turn in stronger national commitments ahead of the COP26 climate talks this November. The big question leaders must reckon with in Glasgow is whether these plans add up to what is needed – and if not, how they will close the remaining gap.

"To those who seek to argue that it's too hard, or too late, and so not worth trying - the report is a reminder that every fraction of a degree of warming really does matter. The level of climate ambition has never been greater than it is right now and there is still everything to fight for. Governments must do all they can to prevent the 1.5C window shutting."

This, the first of the IPCC's three-part 6th Assessment report, places a greater emphasis on solutions than previous reports and provides invaluable input into government decision-making ahead of COP26.

[Ricardo Lagos](#), former President of Chile and member of The Elders said:

"The science we are hearing today is extremely worrying. But the good news is we know what the solutions are and those solutions are getting cheaper and more accessible. With the right kind of post-pandemic investment, we can tilt the economy towards a green recovery, create jobs, and bring us back to a path of climate safety."

The new report covers the huge advances in scientific knowledge on changes in extreme events and attribution of these events to man-made climate change. In response, [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#), former President of Liberia and member of The Elders said:

“As this week’s IPCC report indicates, attribution science has advanced to the point where we can now look at extreme weather events and know which were intensified by global warming. We see the climate crisis already unfolding before our eyes and for people in the Global South this is an emergency we are already living through. As the scientific evidence mounts, so too does the need to address the concerns vulnerable countries are raising around loss and damage, and adaptation finance. The science is robust, the response to this environmental and human rights emergency needs to be just as solid.”

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Media enquiries

William French, Head of Communications

T: +44 7795 693903

media@theElders.org

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Note to Editors

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) - the UN body responsible for climate science - is today releasing the first of its three-part [6th Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#).

The first report is from Working Group 1, and covers ‘the physical science basis’, detailing how the greenhouse gases (GHG) we emit are causing unprecedented warming. The final two reports will cover ‘impacts, adaptation and vulnerability’ and ‘mitigation of climate change’ (the solutions), and will be finalised for release in 2022.

About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Ban Ki-moon](#) (Deputy Chair), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#), [Zeid Raad Al Hussein](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#), [Ricardo Lagos](#), [Graça Machel](#) (Deputy Chair), [Juan Manuel Santos](#), [Mary Robinson](#) (Chair) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) are Elders Emeritus.

[Kofi Annan](#) (1938-2018) was a founding member of The Elders and served as Chair from 2013 to 2018.

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For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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