Undermining the IPCC puts global climate action at risk

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As world leaders prepare for COP31 in Antalya, they need the best and most up-to-date science to guide their efforts to tackle the climate crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been the bedrock of global climate monitoring, diagnosis, and action for decades. Yet the world's leading climate science authority is being starved of resources and its scientific reports pushed off schedule – putting its future at risk.

The world cannot afford to lose the IPCC. Governments must come together to reaffirm its value and safeguard its work – or risk severely harming the collective response to climate change.

The Elders believe that government action must continue to draw on the best and most recent scientific evidence. For over three decades, the IPCC has provided this through one of the world's most inclusive and comprehensive scientific processes. Its authority is unparalleled.

As the IPCC talks resume in December, all countries must work with Chair Jim Skea to resolve the outstanding differences over funding and the timeline.

As many governments are increasing military spending, the modest funding the IPCC needs to sustain its vital work on human security must be protected. Otherwise, we risk losing a rigorous, authoritative scientific body that would be extremely difficult to rebuild.

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About The Elders

The Elders are independent global leaders working for peace, justice, human rights and a sustainable planet. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are Gro Harlem Brundtland, Helen Clark, Elbegdorj Tsakhia, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, Hina Jilani, Denis Mukwege, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Graça Machel (Deputy Chair), Juan Manuel Santos (Chair), Mary Robinson and Ernesto Zedillo.

Ban Ki-moon, Lakhdar Brahimi, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Ricardo Lagos and Muhammad Yunus are Elders Emeritus.

Desmond Tutu (1931-2021) and Kofi Annan (1938-2018) were founding members of The Elders and served as Chairs from 2007 to 2013 and 2013 to 2018 respectively. Ela Bhatt (1933-2022) and Martti Ahtisaari (1937-2023) were members of The Elders from 2007 to 2016 and 2009 to 2018 respectively. Jimmy Carter (1924-2024) was also a founding member of The Elders.

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