

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele

UCLouvain, former IPCC Vice-Chair

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Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Brussels, 1957, Ph.D. Physics), Vice-chair of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) from 2008 to 2015 is climatologist and full professor at the “Université catholique de Louvain” (UCLouvain, Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research, Earth and Life Institute, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium). After his Ph. D. work at NCAR (Boulder, Colorado), he specialized in the numerical simulation of climate change in an interdisciplinary perspective, and has worked at global and regional scales. He is particularly interested in the effect of human activities on climate, the impact of climate variability and change on ecosystems and human activities, and what can be done about it (adaptation and mitigation). He is collaborating and has published articles with scientists from several disciplines (physics, applied sciences, agronomy, economics, demographics, and philosophy), in an attempt to develop an integrated view of environmental issues and sustainable development. At UCLouvain, he teaches courses in climatology, environmental sciences, sustainable development, climate modelling, climate change, and mathematical geography. He has been involved heavily in the work of IPCC since 1995, has been a co-author of two of its reports, and member of its Bureau from 2002 to 2015.

He is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy since 2009, in the new “Technology and Society” class. In 2010, he was appointed Honorary Member of the Club of Rome-EU Chapter. He has been a member of the Federal Council for Sustainable Development or its predecessors since 1991 and Chairman of its Working Group on "Energy and climate" since 1998 and Co-Chair of its Working Group on “Funding the transition”. He stimulates there a constructive dialogue between stakeholders with sometimes very divergent opinions: industrialists, trade unionists, energy producers, NGO representatives, policy-makers, experts and scientists. Keen on improving the science-policy interface, he has been scientific advisor to the Belgian delegation to more than 25 United Nations conferences since Rio (1992). He personally briefed several Heads of State, many Ministers and CEOs about climate issues, and has been or is member of a number of international scientific advisory or editorial boards (EU FP7 Research programme, Dutch Climate Research Programme, Météo-France, EU JPI-Climate TAB, Royal Meteorological Institute (Belgium), “Climatic Change” journal). He has given hundreds of lectures and thousands of interviews to international media, and has almost 10000 followers on Twitter, which puts him among the 50 top world climate scientists on Twitter. He is the holder of numerous awards.

In 2016, he was appointed by UNESCO to be part of a group of experts tasked with drafting a Declaration on Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change (approved by the UNESCO assembly in November 2017). The UN Secretary General appointed him in 2016 as a member of a 15-member group of scientists tasked with the preparation of the first quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report (due in 2019). In 2017, he was appointed as a member of the high-level Advisory Group for the COP23 Presidency by the Fiji Prime Minister.

See also: www.linkedin.com/in/JPvanYpersele

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