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Institute of Political Science - Center for Comparative and International Studies

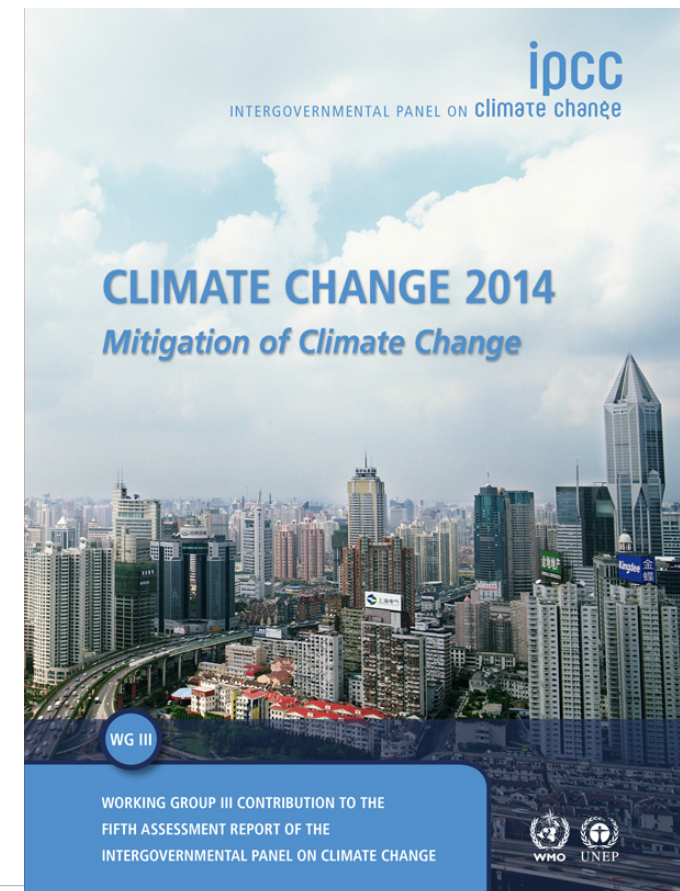
Performance of international and national climate policies to date

Key results of the IPCC report

Axel Michaelowa

IPCC Climate Change 2014

Fribourg, 12 May 2014

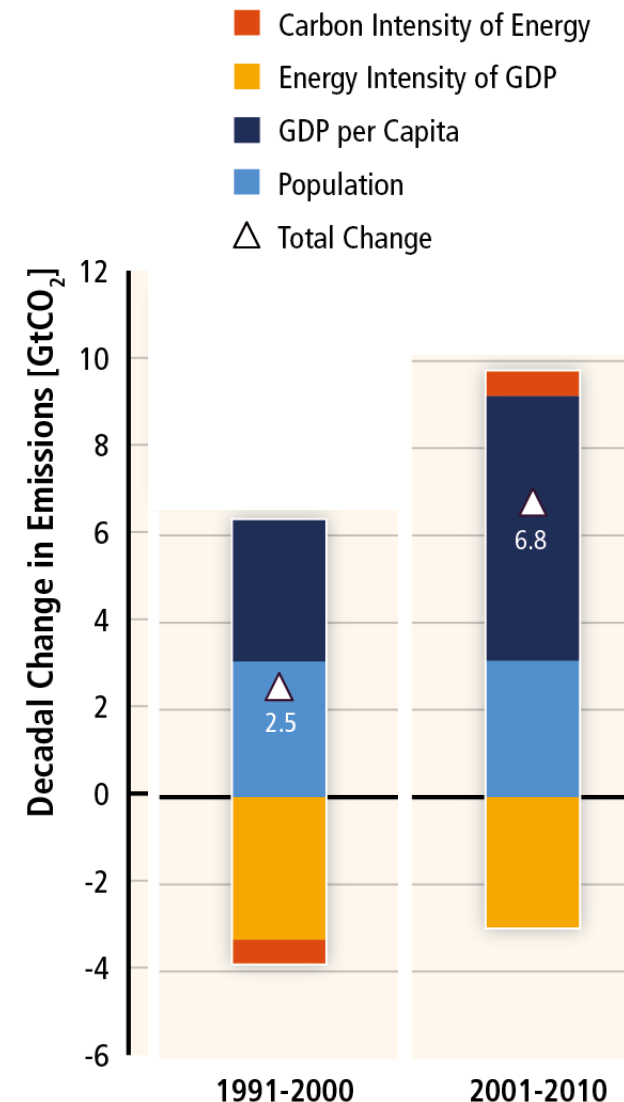




The climate policy challenge

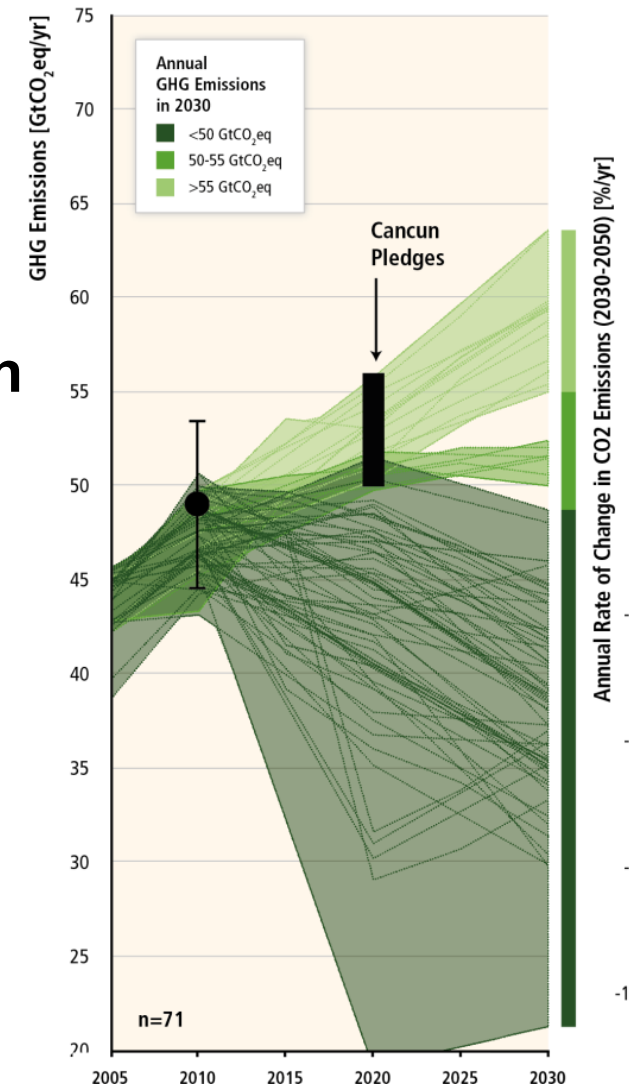
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- Climate change mitigation is a **global public good** and thus requires **international cooperation**
- The **global increase of greenhouse gas emissions** has **accelerated** in the last decade
- From 2007 to 2012 the share of **global emissions in countries with national climate policies** has risen from 45% to 67%
- So far, these policies have **not significantly influenced** the emissions trend





- The **UN climate policy regime** is the only platform with **broad legitimacy**
- Cooperation **outside the UN** so far has **not** led to proven emissions reduction
- The **Kyoto Protocol** was **less successful** than envisaged
 - The **emissions commitments were reached**, albeit with a strong component of “hot air”
 - The **market mechanisms** have mobilized **low-cost mitigation**, whose **additionality is however debated**
- The emissions pledges for 2020 are **inconsistent with the 2°C target** and likely to lead to a warming of **3°C**





National climate policies

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- **Cobenefits** like energy security and decrease of local pollution **increase attractiveness** of emissions reduction
- **Sectoral** policies are **easier to implement** than **economywide** ones
- Some **direct regulation**, especially efficiency standards for buildings and household appliances, are **cost-effective**
- **Emissions trading systems** introduced to date suffer from **too lenient caps** and thus have **experienced price decreases**
- **Emissions taxes** have been **effective** and can be applied in conjunction with other instruments
- The efficiency of **technology policies** is unclear

