



Multi-stakeholder dialogue: an essential tool to promote access to justice and intergenerational equity

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Adverse impacts from human-caused climate change will continue to intensify

a) Observed widespread and substantial impacts and related losses and damages attributed to climate change

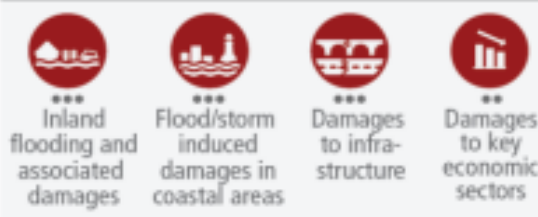
Water availability and food production



Health and well-being



Cities, settlements and infrastructure



Biodiversity and ecosystems



Key

Observed increase in climate impacts to human systems and ecosystems assessed at global level

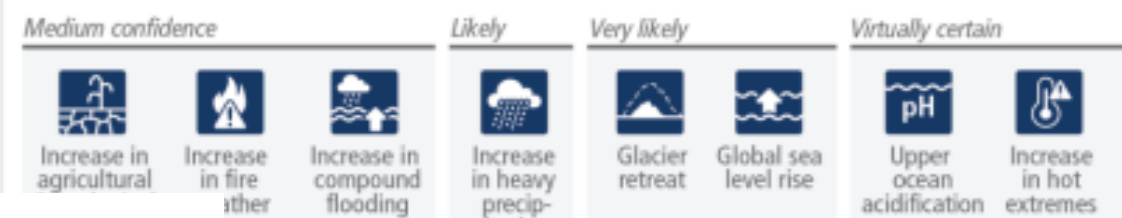
- Adverse impacts
- Adverse and positive impacts
- Climate-driven changes observed, no global assessment of impact direction

Confidence in attribution to climate change

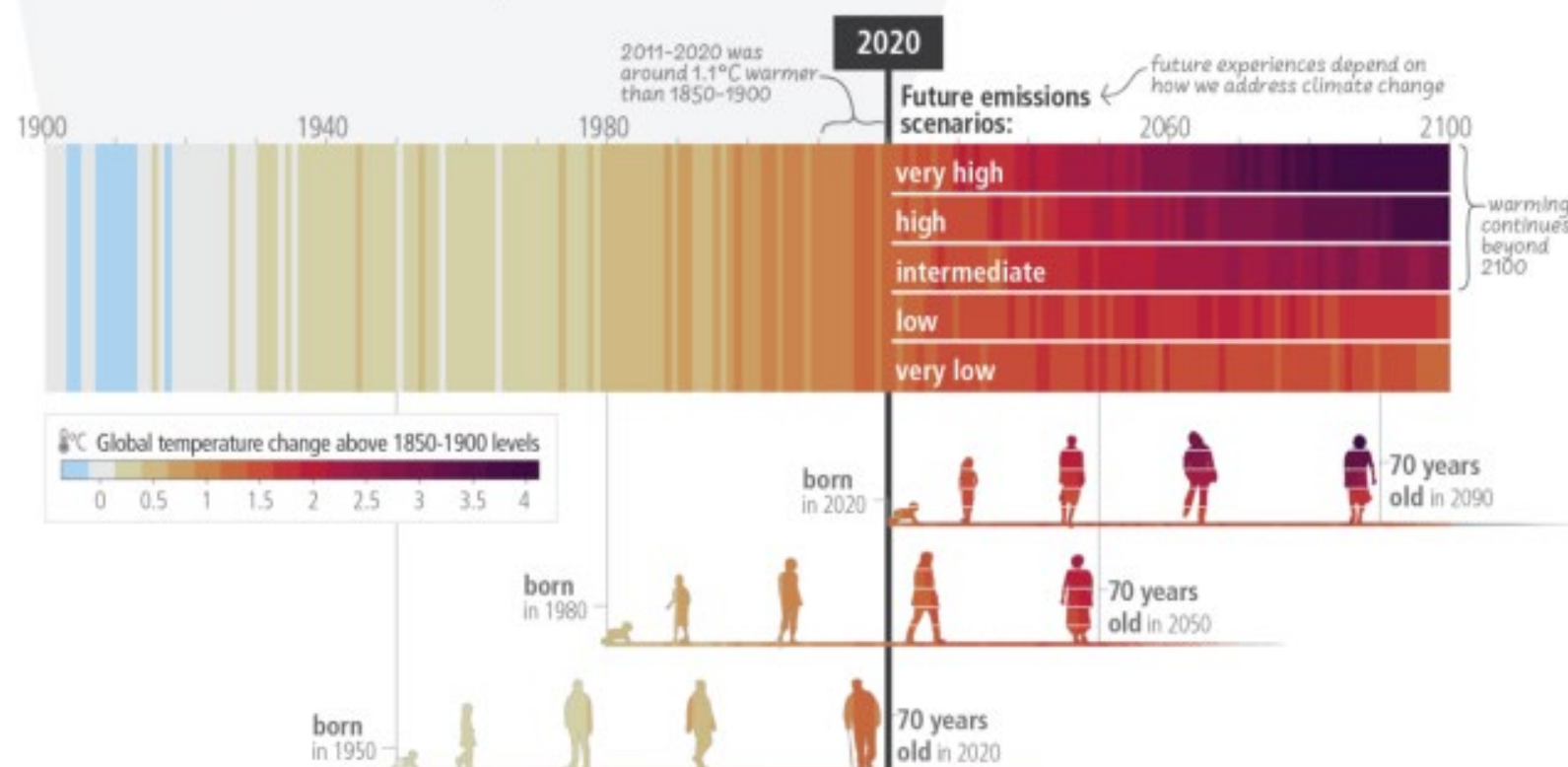
- High or very high confidence
- Medium confidence
- Low confidence

b) Impacts are driven by changes in multiple physical climate conditions, which are increasingly attributed to human influence

Attribution of observed physical climate changes to human influence:



c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near-term



IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

“The choices and actions implemented in **this decade** will have impacts now and for **thousands of years** (high confidence).”

Intergenerational Equity



- Justice
- “Every generation holds the Earth in common with members of the **present generation and with other generations, past and future.** The principle articulates a concept of fairness among generations in the use and conservation of the environment and its natural resources”
- – *Oxford Public International Law.*

Procedural dimension of the principle of intergenerational equity

A “right” to intergenerational equity does not exist (yet). However, there is a procedural dimension of the principle:

- Effective youth participation can fulfill the principle of intergenerational equity, by ensuring that young people have access to information and to justice and can participate in decision-making processes.
- Effective access to justice from young people ensures strong enforcement mechanisms within environmental laws.

How can access to justice empower youth?

“The right of access to justice provides a powerful mechanism for NGOs and youth CSOs to hold governments accountable in their efforts to tackle challenges such as the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution” (EESC).

It assists NGOs and citizens to be able to enforce the law.



Why we need more young people in the Aarhus Convention Processes?

- To ensure a better alignment between environmental law and scientific evidence: to raise ambition and give environmental laws a long term perspective;
- To ensure that environmental laws do not undermine the rights of future generations. To adopt an intersectional approach that does not leave anyone behind.

Actions to bridge the gap: Aarhus Convention Secretariat

- Ensure the permanent presence of a Youth Envoy to the Aarhus Convention Processes.
- Ensure that pro-bono legal services are available and accessible among its Parties, with special attention to marginalized and vulnerable groups, as well as children and youth.



Actions to bridge the gap Aarhus Convention State Parties



- Include youth representatives at the Aarhus Convention Processes, to solve unmeaningful engagement and ensure democratic representation;
- Adopt legally binding and enforceable environmental laws, with clear provisions dedicated to access to justice;
- Decriminalise youth activists and involve them into decision making processes;
- Support the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders.



Thank you for attention

Any questions?

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