



**Bearing bad news:** senior IPCC figures Susan Solomon and Rajendra Pachauri unveil the panel's report.

adding that as the emphasis shifts from talk to action, IPCC reports will need to come in regular "digestible chunks" for policymakers.

Climate modellers must also aim to produce information that can inform policy directly, says Kevin Trenberth, a climate researcher at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. That means filling the gap between long-term simulations looking decades ahead and weather forecasts, to provide predictions for the next 20 or so years. "Some of what is in the research domain needs to become operational," argues Trenberth.

Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the IPCC, says he will circulate a document on possible reforms in the next couple of months, adding that he supports the suggestions made by the report's

authors. Any change needs the approval of the political representatives who sit on the IPCC plenary and meet once or twice a year.

But some urge caution. The IPCC already produces reports from across the working groups, such as its 2005 study on carbon capture and storage, points out Halldor Thorgeirsson, a deputy executive secretary at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the body that oversees the Kyoto Protocol. And the IPCC process drives research — because climate modellers pool resources when a report is coming up. That informs all three working groups. "We can't allow the scientific activities that underpin the assessments to dry up," says Thorgeirsson. ■

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## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

**"This may be remembered as the day the question mark was removed from whether human activity has anything to do with climate change."**  
Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Environment Programme

**"Now is not the time for half measures. It is the time for a revolution."**  
French president Jacques Chirac

**"The question is, what can we do now? There's very little we can do about arresting the process."**  
Anote Tong, president of the Pacific island nation of Kiribati

**"This should compel all of us towards action rather than the paralysis of fear."**  
Martin Rees, president of the United Kingdom's Royal Society

**"Now it's time for us — the policymakers — to do our jobs."**  
Bart Gordon, Democratic Congressman from Tennessee and chair of the US House Committee on Science

**"This is a group of climate experts attempting to reach a scientific consensus. It doesn't commit governments to any course of action."**  
Pradipto Ghosh, senior official at India's Ministry of Environment and Forests

**"For sure, humans cause global warming!"**  
Headline from China's Xinhua news agency

**"Let's be realistic. You can only run power stations in a modern Western economy on fossil fuel, or, in time, nuclear power."**

Australian prime minister John Howard, whose country has not ratified the Kyoto protocol

**"Those who continue to ignore the threat will be doing the greatest disservice imaginable to current and future generations."**

Marthinus van Schalkwyk, environmental affairs minister for South Africa