



27 November 2018. Global CO₂ emissions increased in 2017 after three years of stagnation. If this tendency continues global mean temperature will rise 3.2°C by 2100.

The gap is widening between the previsions for 2030 based on current tendencies and what is necessary to limit temperature rise to 2 °C. In its annual so-called “Gap Report », which is published today, UN Environment estimates that our efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions have to be quintupled to achieve the 1.5 degree goal- set in the 2015 Paris Agreement. It would require three times more effort to keep the increase below 2 degrees.

This Report is based on national plans of CO₂ emission reduction by individual states as well as the commitments made according to the Paris Agreement. “It is still possible to keep global warming below 2°C, but the technical feasibility of bridging the 1.5°C gap is dwindling, ” the Report says.

“If the IPCC report represented a global fire alarm, this report is the arson investigation,” said UN Environment Deputy Executive Director Joyce Msuya. “The science is clear; for all the ambitious climate action we’ve seen – governments need to move faster and with greater

urgency. We're feeding this fire while the means to extinguish it are within reach. ”

“The urgent and wide-ranging actions that we need are not yet a reality », according to the Report which proposes fiscal reforms to subsidise low-carbon alternatives and taxes on fossil-fuels.

The Gap Report is published within days of the [publication of a report](#) by the International Meteorological Organization (WMO) which indicated that greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere have reached a new record.

Carbon dioxide concentrations reached 405.5 ppm in 2017 or 146% of the pre-industrial era (before 1750) and has increased in the last three years.

“The science is clear. Without rapid cuts in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on life on earth. The window of opportunity for action is almost closed,” said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

“The last time the earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3°C warmer and sea level was 10-20 meters higher than now,” said Mr Taalas.