

UN climate panel to explore 1.5-degree warming goal

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This is a Monday, Dec. 8, 2014 file photo of birds as they fly past at sun set as smoke emits from a chimney at a factory in Ahmadabad, India. The U.N.'s scientific panel on climate change will write a special report on how to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times. Temperatures have already risen almost 1 degree C (1.8 F) since humans started burning fossil fuels—the biggest source of greenhouse gases—on an industrial scale in the 19th century. (AP Photo/Ajit Solanki, File)

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change agreed Thursday to explore the issue after a request by world governments in Paris last December.

Many scientists say it will be virtually impossible to keep warming below that level without removing vast quantities of heat-trapping greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

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Meeting in Nairobi, the IPCC also said it will release its sixth assessment of global warming in 2020-2022.

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