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Reinhard Mechler is Deputy Director of IIASA's Risk, Policy & Vulnerability Program and a senior lecturer at the University for Economics and Business in Vienna. His research focuses on the economics of risk management and climate change. Specific interests of his include catastrophe risk modeling, the socio-economic impacts of extreme events and climate change on development, the use of novel risk financing mechanisms for sharing disaster risks, and the assessment of the efficiency and equity of climate change response measures.

Dr. Mechler is a lead author on IPCC's special report on adaptation to extreme events, and IPCC's upcoming Fifth Assessment Report (Working Group II). He has been leading and contributing to various projects for organizations including the European Commission, DFID, the UN, ProVention Consortium, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and GTZ.

Dr. Mechler studied economics, mathematics, and English literature and linguistics in Tuebingen, Heidelberg, Amherst and Karlsruhe. He holds a diploma in economics from the University of Heidelberg and a doctorate in economics from the University of Karlsruhe.