

**To: IPCC Chair, Dr. Hoesung Lee
IPCC Bureau**

Re: Conflicts of interest of authors on the IPCC *Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels*

April 27, 2017

Dear IPCC Chair and IPCC Bureau Members,

We, the undersigned organizations, are active in the international climate negotiations and climate discussions at national, regional and/or international levels. We are writing to express our deepest concern that senior employees of two major oil companies (ExxonMobil and Saudi Aramco) are included among the authors for the IPCC *Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty*.

As you well know, the role of the IPCC, as stated in paragraph 2 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work, is to assess, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Despite the important work the IPCC does to inform policy makers of the now-overwhelming scientific evidence of human-induced climate change, the climate crisis is deepening.

The delayed and inadequate responses to this crisis can be attributed in part to lobbying by businesses with vested interests in the fossil-fuel-driven economy. Disturbingly, the role of business has gone beyond mere lobbying: to delay urgently-needed climate action, several companies have financed climate change skepticism and denial. This is well documented and the subject of multiple judicial investigations.

The two aforementioned companies are the second- and third-largest corporate emitters of greenhouse gases worldwide.¹ They bear a large part of the responsibility for causing climate change, along with 88 other major oil, energy and cement companies, which together are responsible for two thirds of the cumulative historical CO₂ and CH₄ emissions since 1854. Moreover, the Exxon staff member selected, Dr. Haroon S. Kheshgi, has been a leading proponent of controversial climate geoengineering proposals since 1995, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) strategies. Exxon holds the most patents related to CCS and other sequestration methods of any company, and on its website, publicly declares an interest in one quarter of existing global CCS facilities. This creates a strong financial interest for this author to favourably promote certain technological pathways to 1.5°C.

¹ Richard Heede, "Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010," *Climatic Change*, November 2013.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y>

In 2010, the integrity and credibility of the IPCC was called into question, resulting in a thorough review by the InterAcademy Council. As a response, IPCC adopted, in its own words, “a rigorous conflict of interest policy” with the aim “to protect the legitimacy, integrity, trust, and credibility of the IPCC.” It is evident that conflicts of interest exist or can be implied in this case. This would constitute a violation of your conflict of interest policy.

The IPCC *Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels* was requested by the UNFCCC to address the particular concern of countries already impacted by global warming such as the small island states. The lives of peoples and in some cases the future existence of these states, depends upon drastic reductions in global emissions, including specifically a shift away from fossil fuel dependency.

It is therefore difficult to understand that the IPCC could include authors from the industries that have caused the most damage, and for whom private profits would be affected if the necessary reductions are carried out. Similarly, it is also worrying that industry representatives are precisely those with interests in promoting unacceptable pathways and high-risk technologies, such as climate geoengineering, which distract from the real emissions reductions that are required to avoid catastrophic warming.

Furthermore, in the list of authors to this Special Report there are other representatives of industry-sponsored associations and institutions, yet there are no researchers from independent NGOs selected for participation, despite several nominations. This is a crucial report that must maintain high standards of scientific independence. The world cannot afford for this report to be converted into an alibi for the industries that caused climate change to continue business as usual, or a platform to promote high-risk technologies such as geoengineering.

The IPCC needs to maintain a broad and balanced approach to highlighting the necessary conditions to enhance real pathways to stay below 1.5°C, including: peasant and agro-ecological food systems; public transportation; ecologically-sound and locally-controlled renewable energy sources; and ecosystem protection and restoration, among many other proven and effective solutions. We therefore request the IPCC to reconsider the selection of authors, both for this and all upcoming reports, to ensure that no conflict of interest exists, and that multiple disciplines, regions and viewpoints are included.

Sincerely,

11.11.11	Asia/ international
350.org	International
Acción Ecológica	Ecuador
Acción por la Biodiversidad, Argentina	Argentina
Aclimatando - Movimiento de Jóvenes Frente al Cambio Climático, Argentina	Argentina
Action 24	International
ActionAid	International
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation	Pakistan

Amigos de la Tierra de América Latina y el Caribe - ATALC	Latin America /International
Aniban Ng Manggagawa Sa Agrikultura (AMA)	Philippines
ARA	Germany
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Asia/ International
Asia-Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty (APNFS)	Philippines
Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)	Asia/ International
Asociación Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad, Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Association des Femmes Peules et Peuples Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT)	Tchad
Association for promotion sustainable development. Hisar. India	India
Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (MNNRC)	Bangladesh
Beyond Copenhagen Collective	Asia/ International
Beyond Copenhagen, India	India
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha - India People's Science Campaign	India
Biofuelwatch	International
Bolivian Platform on Climate Change	Bolivia
BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany	Germany
Campaign for a Life of Dignity (KAMP)	Philippines
CCN Nigeria	Nigeria
CECOEDECON (Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society)	India
CENSAT, Colombia	Colombia
Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC)	Philippines
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	USA
Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st),	Nigeria
Centre for Human Rights and Development	Mongolia
CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador	El Salvador
Chulachuli UNESCO Club-Kathmandu	Nepal
Climate Justice Programme	Australia
CNCD	Belgium
Coast/ Equity	Bangladesh
Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan (CIDP)	Pakistan
Community Science Center	India
Comorian Platform for Climate and Sustainable Development	Comoros
Consumers Association of Penang - FoE Malaysia	Malaysia
Corporate Accountability International	International
Corporate Europe Observatory	Europe/ International
Ecological Society of the Philippines	Philippines

Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
Empower India	India
Empower Sankhar	India
Energy Watch Group	Germany
ETC group	International
Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Nepal
Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)	Nepal
Fern	Germany
Focus on the Global South	Asia/ International
Food & Water Europe	Europe/ International
Food & Water Watch	International
Friends of the Earth Australia	Australia
Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland	UK
Friends of the Earth International	International
Friends of the Earth US	US
Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia	Russia
Gitib Inc. Philippines	Philippines
Global Forest Coalition	International
Global Justice Ecology Project	North America/ International
Global Witness	UK
Greenpeace International	International
Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Nigeria	Nigeria
Heinrich Boell Foundation	Germany
Heinrich Boell Foundation	North America
Huvadhoo Aid	Maldives
India Climate Justice	India
IT for Change	India
Kirat Kulung Mimchha Guskham	Nepal
Kirat Welfare Society	Nepal
Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)	International
Mattole Salmon Group	USA
Misereor	Germany
Mom Loves Taiwan Association	Taiwan
Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático	Peru
Nepal Kirat Kulung Bhasa Sanskrit Utthan Sangh	Nepal
Observatorio Petrolero Sur	Argentina

Oil Change International	USA
Oilwatch Latinoamérica	Latin America/ International
Our rivers, Our life (OROL)	Philippines
PAIRVI (Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values In India)	India
Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) Inc.	Philippines
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ)	Philippines
Plataforma de Jóvenes Climaticos, Ecuador	Ecuador
Positive Change for Cambodia	Cambodia
Reacción Climática - Bolivia	Bolivia
Roots for Equity	Pakistan
Salvadorean Ecological Unit (UNES)	El Salvador
SANLAKAS	Philippines
School of Democratic Economics	Indonesia
SONIA for a Just New World	Italy
South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy	India
Sustainable Development Foundation	Thailand
The Corner House	UK
The Council of Canadians	Canada
Third World Network	International
TierrActiva	Peru
Transparency International-Korea (TI-Korea)	South Korea
UDYAMA	Pakistan
Umweltinstitut München e.V.	Germany
World Rainforest Movement	International
Youth Advocacy Network	Sri Lanka
Youth Advocacy Network, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Youth for Climate Justice (Y4CJ)	Philippines