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. Khashoggi, 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.

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1 Richard Heede, "Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and
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,

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350.org
Acción Ecológica
Acción por la Biodiversidad, Argentina
Aclimatando - Movimiento de Jóvenes Frente al Cambio Climático, Argentina
Action 24
ActionAID
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation
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   


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