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REPORT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) COMMITTEE

Report by the Chair of the COI Committee

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

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In the margins of the 37th Session of the IPCC (Batumi, 14-18 October 2013), the Sixth COI Committee meeting was held over two evening sessions on 15 and 16 October 2013. At that meeting the Committee reviewed the annual updates of the COI forms submitted by the Bureau and Task Force Bureau members. The Committee was pleased that all forms were received by the Secretariat.

The Committee agreed to solicit an advisory opinion of the COI Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on the question to what extent IPCC Bureau members, who are supposed to guide and oversee the scientific work and reports of the IPCC, can be considered to have a conflict of interest if at the same time they are part of a government delegation involved in climate change negotiations in other bodies such as the UNFCCC.

The Committee advised its members to distance themselves from their national delegations while at IPCC report approval sessions. The Secretariat was advised to make special seating arrangements at these IPCC sessions for ExCom members so that they would not be seated with their government delegation to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

It was also agreed that the Committee would ask the EAG for advice on how to improve the COI form in order to receive more detailed information from Bureau and TFB members.

The EAG advisory opinion was circulated to the members of the COI Committee on 4 February 2014 to be discussed by the Committee at its Seventh meeting, which should have been conducted as a teleconference in March 2014, but had to be cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Consequently an in-person meeting will take place in the margins of the 39th Session of the IPCC. The Panel will be informed about the outcome of that meeting orally.

At the Seventh meeting the Committee will take note of the annual reports on COI activities for the year 2013 submitted by the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

The Panel is hereby informed that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has appointed an expert to serve on the COI Committee as of 3 February 2014.

The Panel may wish to welcome this report.