# INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON Climate change

#### FORTIETH SESSION OF THE IPCC Copenhagen, Denmark, 27-31 October 2014

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#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) POLICY

#### Report by the Chair of the COI Committee

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)



#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) POLICY Report by the Chair of the COI Committee

In the margins of the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC Bureau (Geneva, 18 September 2014), the Eighth COI Committee meeting was held on 18 September 2014 (8-10 am). At that meeting the Committee reviewed the annual updates of the COI forms submitted by the Bureau and Task Force Bureau members. The Committee reviewed the 44 forms, while appreciating that 100% compliance was achieved. All forms were found in order and no conflict of interest was found.

The COI Committee also discussed the possibility to amend the COI Form, as attached in Annex B to the Conflict of Interest Policy. In order to make the COI process more effective and to increase the information provided in the COI disclosure forms, it is proposed to delete the following text after the three questions "if yes, give details below" and to insert an input box after them. Annexed to this document is the slightly amended form for approval by the Panel.

Paragraph 7 of the Implementation Procedures of the IPCC Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy states that: "Candidates for the professional staff of TSUs should, prior to their appointment, submit a COI Form to the relevant Working Group or Task Force Co-Chairs for evaluation by the relevant Working Group or Task Force Bureaux. In the case of the professional staff of the TSU for the Synthesis Report, the COI Form should be submitted to the IPCC Chair and evaluated by the IPCC Bureau." Accordingly the COI forms of the four professional staff members of the Technical Support Unit of the Synthesis Report were submitted to the IPCC Chair, and subsequently distributed in person to the IPCC Bureau members for their in-camera evaluation at the 47<sup>th</sup> Bureau Session. All forms were found in order and no conflict of interest was found.

The Panel may wish to welcome this report and approve the amended COI Form (Annex 1).

#### **ANNEX 1**

## Revision of Annex B to the Conflict of Interest Policy: Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form ("COI Form")

#### CONFIDENTIAL

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

NAME:

TELEPHONE:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CURRENT EMPLOYER:

FUNCTION/ROLE IN IPCC:

Please **sign** and **date** this form on the last page, and return the form to the Secretary of the IPCC. **Retain a copy for your records**.

#### **IPCC** Disclosure of Relevant Interests Form

**NOTE:** You have been invited to serve on the IPCC because of your professional standing and expertise. As outlined in the IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy, the role of the IPCC demands that it pay special attention to issues of independence and bias in order to maintain the integrity of, and public confidence in, its products and processes. It is essential that the work of the IPCC is not compromised by any conflict of interest for those who execute it. In view of this, disclosure of certain circumstances is necessary to ensure that the work of IPCC is not compromised by conflicts of interest. In filling out this form, we rely on your professionalism, common sense, and honesty.

The IPCC is not asking for comprehensive lists of activities under each heading below, only current interests that are significant and relevant to your role within the IPCC. You should disclose interests that could: i) significantly impair your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the IPCC, or ii) create an unfair advantage for you or any person or organization; and which could result in your securing a direct and material gain through outcomes in an IPCC product. For the purposes of this policy, circumstances that could lead a reasonable person to question your objectivity, or whether an unfair advantage has been created, constitute a potential conflict of interest and should be disclosed in this form. Disclosure of an interest on this form does not automatically mean that a conflict is present or that you will be unable to perform your designated role with the IPCC. If in doubt about whether an interest should be disclosed, individuals are encouraged to disclose that information.

Name:

#### Role in IPCC:

### Do you have any significant and relevant professional activities that might be considered conflicts of interest? Yes No

(Please list current, significant, and relevant professional and other non-financial interests which could be interpreted as i) significantly impairing your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the IPCC, or ii) creating an unfair advantage for you or any person or organisation. This might include, but is not limited to, membership on the boards of advocacy groups.

Details:

# Do you have any significant and relevant financial interests in the subject matter of the work in which you will be involved, which might be considered conflicts of interest?

(Please list current, significant, and relevant financial interests which could be interpreted as i) significantly impairing your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the IPCC, or ii) creating an unfair advantage for you or any person or organization. These may include employment relationships, consulting relationships, financial investments, intellectual property interests and commercial interests and sources of private-sector research support. *Nota bene*: typically, financial interests under US\$10,000 would not be considered significant).

Details:

Is there anything else that could affect your objectivity or independence in the work in which you will be involved?  $\Box$  Yes  $\Box$  No

Details:

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that the disclosed information is complete and correct. During the course of work on the AR5, I will inform you immediately of any change in my circumstances.

I understand that information about my interests will be held by the IPCC for a period of five years after the end of the assessment cycle during which I contributed, after which the information will be destroyed. Subject to requirement to notify the existence of a conflict of interest to others under paragraph 6 of the Implementation Procedures, I understand that these forms will be considered confidential and will be reviewed in accordance with the COI Implementation Procedures.

I hereby declare that I will comply with the IPCC COI Policy and the Implementation Procedures.

Signature:

Date: