

To Avoid Overshoot the IPCC Must Prioritize the Need to Rapidly Phase Out Fossil Fuels

March 28, 2022

Dear IPCC WGIII Co-Chairs and Focal Points,

As governments convene to review the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regarding mitigation, the stakes could not be any higher, the science any clearer, or the imperative for immediate action any greater. The IPCC's recent report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability leaves no doubt: Climate change is a human rights and environmental and social justice crisis, eroding health, wellbeing, the environment, and equity across the entire globe, in grossly unequal ways. Current levels of warming are already causing permanent loss and damage, especially for the populations most vulnerable to, and least responsible for, the climate crisis. Surpassing 1.5°C of warming—even temporarily—will unleash further irreparable harm taking the planet into a point of no return.

States have a responsibility to translate this scientific consensus into the concrete actions necessary to avert climate catastrophe. The urgency of the climate crisis demands a rapid reorientation of our societies and economies away from fossil fuels, the key driver of global warming. There is no time or justification for policy scenarios that fail to center an immediate halt to oil, gas, and coal expansion and the managed phaseout of all fossil fuels. Planning for overshoot on the premise that geoengineering techno-fixes and carbon trading can reverse temperature rise or mitigate its effects is indefensible.

As the politically endorsed overview of the IPCC's key findings, the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) influences how the consensus science is understood and in turn, how it is acted upon by policymakers, investors, and the public. As you consider the Working Group III (WGIII) contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), the undersigned organizations and impacted communities urge you to ensure that the SPM:

1) Foregrounds assessments of pathways to rapidly phase out fossil fuels at source, beginning immediately. As IPCC reports have repeatedly affirmed, fossil fuels are the primary cause of climate change. The recent WGII report underscores the dire consequences of current levels of warming and the looming threat of triggering tipping points and catastrophic feedback loops if warming surpasses 1.5°C, even temporarily. Therefore, the principal focus of the IPCC's report on mitigating climate change should be on ending the extraction and use of fossil fuels, recognizing that wealthy nations should begin that phase-out immediately and pursue it fastest, to avoid temperature overshoot.

2) Acknowledges clearly that reliance on large-sale carbon dioxide removal technologies threatens to result in irreversible harm by pushing the planet beyond 1.5°C warming, from which a return might not be possible. The IPCC must recognize that these technologies pose precisely the sorts of risks to social justice, human rights and Indigenous Peoples rights that the IPCC WGII emphasizes need to be incorporated in, not sacrificed through, responses to the climate crisis;

3) Recognizes that the world no longer has time for misplaced reliance on market-based emissions trading systems and offset mechanisms, disguised as net-zero targets, that neither reduce emissions nor advance the urgent action needed to end reliance on fossil fuels, halt agro-industrial deforestation and biodiversity loss, and accelerate a just transition to a fossil-free future. The IPCC has clearly stated the urgency of staying within a rapidly dwindling carbon budget. Doing so requires that efforts to respect and restore natural systems, consistent with Indigenous Peoples' cosmivision, traditional knowledge, and human and land rights, must be separate from and pursued in addition to emissions reductions policies to phase out fossil fuels, not traded off against them;

4) **Heeds the warnings of WGII on the novel and possibly catastrophic risks that the deployment of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) would pose for people and ecosystems, as well as for international cooperation and peace.** Delegations must ensure that SRM is excluded from discussions of climate change mitigation measures and not treated as a legitimate response to the climate crisis.

This is the decisive decade for climate action. The public understanding of the science elaborated by the IPCC will be a critical pillar of that action. You have a responsibility to ensure that the summary of the science on mitigation measures clearly conveys to the global community the urgency of the crisis and the central role of fossil fuels in driving it; the need for a rapid phaseout of oil, gas, and coal to avoid overshooting 1.5°C and unleashing further irreversible harm; and the danger of relying on large-scale carbon dioxide removal technologies, carbon trading and offsets, or solar radiation modification, which do not reduce emissions or keep fossil fuels in the ground, and pose significant risks to people and nature.

Sincerely,

Abibinsroma Foundation
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
ActionAid International
Adéquations
Adventure Lodge
African forum for International Relations in
Research & Development (AFIRRD)
AGIR POUR LA SÉCURITÉ ET LA
SOUVÉRAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE (ASSA)
Aitec
AJECC
Al-Haq
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Amazon Watch
American Friends Service Committee - AFSC
Amigos da Terra - Amazônia Brasileira
Amigos de la Tierra
Amis de l'Afrique Francophone- Bénin (AMAF-
BENIN)
Amnesty International
Andy Gheorghiu Consulting
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to
Climate Change)
Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and
Development
Association For Promotion Sustainable
Development
Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany
Association of voluntary actions for society -
AVAS
ATTAC France, LDH
Azul
BankTrack
Batani Indigenous Foundation

Beaver County (PA) Marcellus Awareness
Community (BCMAC)
Below2C
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Better Tomorrow Solar, Inc
Between the Waters
Biodiversity Conservation Center
Biofulwatch
Black Environment Network
Blue Dalian
Bomenstichting Achterhoek
Break Free From Plastic (BFFP)
Bucks Environmental Action
Businesses for a Livable Climate
California Kitchen
Call to Action Colorado
Campax
CAN Latin America
CAN South Asia
Capitol Heights Presbyterian
CatholicNetwork US
Censat Agua Viva (Friends of the Earth
Colombia)
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment &
Management (CECIC)
Centre for Climate Safety
Centre for Environmental Justice
Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education
Centro Ecológico
CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador
ChambreTransversaledes Jeunes
Entrepreneursdu Burundi

Christliche Initiative Romero (CIR) e.V.
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens' Climate International
Climate & Sustainability
Climate Action for Lifelong Learners
Climate Action Moreland
Climate Action Parry Sound
Climate Alliance Switzerland
Climate Change & Sustainability Law Clinic
(Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Climate Emergency Institute
Climate Justice Alliance
Climate Reality: Silicon Valley
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
coasap
Collier County Waterkeeper
Community for Sustainable Energy
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Consociazione Nazionale Associazioni
Infermiere/i - CNAI Italian Nurses
Association
Corporate Europe Observatory
Cultural Survival
CWA Local 1081
Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
Dibeen for Environmental Development
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Earth Ethics
Earthlife Africa Jhb
Eco Action Families
Eco Justice Collaborative of Philadelphia
Yearly Meeting
Ecoaction Committee of the Green Party of
the United States
Ecologistas en Acción
Ecoropa
Egyptian Green Party
Ekologi brez meja
Energy Shift Europe Limited
Environment East Gippsland inc
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Equity Transit
ETC group
Extinction Rebellion (XR) Nelson Mandela
Bay (NMB)
Extinction Rebellion Bolton
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Extinction Rebellion South Africa
Extreme International
Farmworker Association of Florida
FASE - Federation of Organizations for Social
and Educational Assistance

Federation of Community Forestry Users
Nepal (FECOFUN)
Femmes Autochtones pour le Développement
et l'Environnement (FADE)
FIAN International
Flight Free Australia
Florida Conservation Voters
Focsiv italian federation christian NGOs
FoE Russia
Food & Water Watch
Fossil Free Sweden
Fourm For environmental and climate change
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Frack Free Sussex
Frack Off London
FracTracker Alliance
Freelance Researcher
Fresh Eyes
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Mallacoota
Friends of the Baltic
Friends of the Earth Canada
Friends of the Earth Finland
Friends of the Earth International
Friends of the Earth Ireland
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Friends of the Earth Uganda
Friends of the Earth US
Fundacion Aguaclara
Fundación Pro Defensa de la Naturaleza y
sus Derechos
Fundación Terram
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator
Alternatives
Gallifrey Foundation
Garden of Resilience
Gas Free Seneca
Gatf
geoenvi
George Mason University Center for Climate
Change Communication
Glasswaters Foundation
Global Forest Coalition
Global Justice Ecology Project
Global Justice Now
Global Policy Forum
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador
Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet GASP
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Greater Whange Residents Trust
Green 13

Green Education and Legal Fund
 Green Gorilla Consultants Ltd
 Green Mountain Monastery
 GreenFaith
 Greenpeace
 Harrington Investments, Inc.
 Heinrich Boell Foundation
 Hikone Mocambique
 Housing Assembly
 Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's
 Climate Action Campaign
 Humusz Szövetség
 I-70 Citizens Advisory Group
 Indigenous Taiwan Self-Determination
 Alliance
 Indivisible Ambassadors
 Inland Ocean Coalition
 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
 Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy
 Program
 Institute of Socioeconomic Studies (Inesc)
 Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto
 Generalate
 International Marine Mammal Project of Earth
 Island Institute
 International Women's Development Agency
 (IWDA)
 Iowa CCI
 Islamic Relief Worldwide
 JA!Justica Ambiental
 Jamaa Resource Initiatives
 Jaringan Ekologi dan Iklim (JEDI)
 Jewish
 Joshua Klemm
 Just Earth
 Just Transition Alliance
 Justiça Ambiental
 KRuHA - people's coalition for the right to
 water
 Laudato Si Movement
 Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center -
 Friends of the Earth Philippines
 Living Oceans Society
 Local Clean Energy Alliance
 Local Environmental Action Demanded
 (LEAD) Agency, Inc.
 London Mining Network
 Loretto Community
 Manushya Foundation
 Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board
 Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
 Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action

Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth
 Netherlands)
 Milwaukee Riverkeeper
 MobilizeTO
 Mom Loves Taiwan Association
 Montbello Neighborhood Improvement
 Association
 Mother Earth Project
 Mother Nurture Company
 Mothers Out Front Colorado
 Mt. Kenya Network Forum
 Music Declares Emergency
 Mustards Last Stand
 NAPE
 National Association of Professional
 Environmentalists(NAPE)
 National Campaign for Sustainable
 Development Nepal
 National Family Farm Coalition
 Nature Trust - FEE Malta
 NC Climate Justice Collective
 NGO Forum on ADB
 Niue Australian Vagahau Association
 No Plastic In My Sea
 NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
 North Range Concerned Citizens
 Novasutras
 Nuclear Information and Resource Service
 Observatório do Clima
 Offinso Partners in Sustainable Development
 Oil Change International
 ONG LA GRANDE PUISSANCE DE DIEU
 ONG OPESEA-Vie
 Pacific Islands Climate Action Network PICAN
 Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
 Parable of the Sower Intentional Community
 Cooperative
 Peevers Consulting Services
 People for a Healthy Environment
 People's Federation for National Peace and
 Development (PEFENAP)
 Perpetuum Energi & Miljö
 Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
 philippinenbüro e.V.
 Physicians for Social Responsibility Iowa
 Chapter
 Physicians for Social Responsibility
 Pennsylvania
 Physicians for social Responsibility- Los
 Angeles
 pivot point
 Plastic Change

Political Ecology Research Centre, Massey University
Post Growth Institute
Pro Public/ FOE Nepal
PSR Arizona
Pueblo Action Alliance
Quaker Council for European Affairs
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc
RAPAL Red de Accion en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas de Amèrica Latina
Rapid Transition Alliance
RapidShift Network
Reacción Climatica
Realising Another World (RAW) Foundation
Reclame Fossielvrij
Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad
REDES Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay
RedRoot SVG
Reforest the Earth UK
Res.Awesome Ltd
Resource Renewal Institute
Responsible Decarbonization Alliance
RESTORE
Robin Hood Tax
Rural Coalition
Santa Cruz Climate Action Center
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Santa Cruz for Bernie
Save EPA (former employees)
Save the Bays
Science and Environmental Health Network
Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
Shamamama.or
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia.PA
Small Business Alliance
Social Tipping Point Coalitie
Socio-ecological union international
Sotol House Ranch
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
Southwest Organization for Sustainability
Spirit of the Sun, Inc.
Spirit of the Sun, Inc.
Stamp Out Poverty
Stand.earth
sunray harvesters
Sustainable Development Council

Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)
System Change Not Climate Change
Temple of Understanding
Terra Advocati
Terre et Développement
The Corner House
The Enviro Show
The Green House Connection Center
The Greens Movement of Georgia/FoE Georgia
The Human Exploring Society
The Libra Foundation
The Tishman Environment and Design Center
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Thrive At Life: Working Solutions
TONATIERRA
Turtle Island Restoration Network
UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative)
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development
UNISC International
Unite North Metro Denver
Universidad Nacional de Loja
Universidade de São Paulo
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
Vision for Alternative Development
VIVAT International
VOICE
Vote Climate
Wall of Women
Warrington CEE Bill Alliance
Water Climate Trust
Water Justice and Gender
Waterkeeper Aliance
Waterkeepers Bahamas
We the People
Weald Action Group
WECF
Wen (Women's Environmental Network)
WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (WAPCEH)
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
WhatNext?
Wilwerding Consulting, Co-Chair, Littleton Business Alliance
WMW/ATFD
Womxn from the Mountain
Womxn from the Mountain
Working for Racial Equity

World Association for Christian
Communication (WACC)
Youth Advocates for Climate Action
Philippines
ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of
the Earth System
350 Colorado
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Eugenbe
350 Hawaii
350 New Orleans
350 Triangle
350colorado
350NYC