

# Ensuring Observer Participation as the Convention Evolves

United States of America

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# Basis for Enhanced Modalities

- Civil society brings valuable perspective and expertise on a range of issues, and support is essential for the success of the UNFCCC process.
- Process should be accessible to civil society, understanding that civil society views are also given expression through governments that represent them.
- UNFCCC has managed civil society input well over the years, BUT now must manage a major increase in numbers of NGO participants, engagement of constituent groups, and number of agenda items to be covered during each session of the UNFCCC.
- We will need to consider enhancements of observer participation in UNFCCC processes given management challenges.

# Possible Enhancements

- First-day lunch session with SB chairs and Parties to hear comments from observers. Could be interactive between observers and Parties.
- First informal meetings of significant issues not in Contact Groups should be open to observers wherever practicable.
- Regular reporting on progress by SB and CG chairs.
- Greater use of workshops and technical meetings, including observer inputs.
- Creative use of other informal avenues: constituency interaction with delegations, major negotiating groups at expert level.
- Ensure COP venues are large enough to accommodate NGO participant access to negotiating areas.