

SPECIAL EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

What are special events?

Special events organised on the margins of the official meetings have become a characteristic feature of the Framework Convention on Climate Change sessions. Special events are presentations on relevant issues, organised by:

- Parties and observer States,
- United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations, or
- accredited observer organizations.

Special events are convened during the lunch break (13.00-15.00) or in the evenings (after 18.00), when official sessions are not normally in progress. They are targeted at the participants at the sessions and provide a means by which information may be shared with all the actors in the climate change process. The events are informal, broad-based and interactive allowing delegates, international agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to exchange ideas and information. The non-governmental organisations have traditionally made effective use of this forum to show-case the role and interests of civil society in the climate change debate.

What are the trends?

Since COP 1 in Berlin in 1995 there has been a continuous expansion in this vibrant component of the climate change process, mirroring the issues of the individual meeting and the political stakes at hand:

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| COP 3 in Kyoto (1997) | 88 special events |
| COP 4 in Buenos Aires (1998) | 110 special events |
| COP 5 in Bonn (1999) | 155 special events. |

These events display the particular engagement of civil society in the climate change process and the growing momentum regarding the Convention process and the Kyoto Protocol.

At COP 5, with its schedule of over 150 special events, with four events running simultaneously, there was reduced participation and a frustration amongst participants, who were unable to attend all events of interest.

How can special events be arranged?

In order to provide a better platform, maximizing the exchange of information while reducing conflict between topic areas, the number of special events taking place simultaneously will be reduced. This will constrain the number of events but should improve the participation in, and interaction during, individual events.

Maintaining an energetic, representative and informative schedule will be a challenge. Consequently, organizers are encouraged to focus their interests, to hold events jointly with other entities or select a theme allowing for contributions from several organisations. Special events which are joint events, or which include panel discussions or which include a broad representation, could be allocated an evening slot which may be extended beyond two hours.

Special events will be held **only** during the week of formal sessions of the subsidiary bodies between 12 -16 June. Owing to the high demand for special events, only **one** application per organization will be considered. The schedule for the June sessions will include two lunch time events (13.00 - 15.00) and two evening events (18.00 - 20.00).

There will be no special events during the week of informal meetings, including workshops, that will precede the formal sessions since the purpose of this week is to provide more time for the Parties to hold discussions on agenda items and to clarify some associated technical questions. However, observers may attend the pre-session week and benefit from the discussions and exchanges, and the informal interaction with delegates.

What are exhibits?

Exhibits are displays of information on climate change related subjects organised by the same groups as for special events. These displays fall in to a variety of categories including those by:

- Parties presenting their national communications or climate change activities
- implementing agencies illustrating their climate change programmes and projects
- observer organisations promoting their area of focus.

The displays may contain *inter alia*, publications, climate change posters, computer models of climate change related phenomena, technologies related to climate change and research results. The displays are mainly located inside the conference facilities, although larger exhibits are located outside. It should be emphasised the displays are for the information of the participants at the sessions and not for commercial purposes.

What are the trends?

Exhibits have increased in popularity over the years, although they are constrained by the physical limitations of the venue for the sessions. The trend has led to an increase in numbers, diversity and sophistication, which adds focus to the interactions in the exhibit halls.

How can exhibits be arranged?

In order to better plan and to divide the available space to allow a broad representation, it is necessary have a standard space limitation, which is **two metres long, one and a half metres wide and two metres high**. This allows for the construction of most standard display units which allow an efficient utilisation of the available space. Organisers are encouraged to plan their display in advance based on the space limitations, in order to present an eye-catching, effective information base for the benefit of the participants.

How to apply

If you would like to organize a special event or to have an exhibit, please review the **conditions** and FAX the appropriate completed **registration** forms to the secretariat at the address indicated below.

The deadline for the receipt of the completed registration forms is **15 May 2000** after which decisions on the allocation of time slots will begin.

Further information

For any further information please contact Barbara Black, NGO Outreach Officer, at the:

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