



**United Nations**  
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary

**Nations Unies**  
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Secrétaire exécutive

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## NOTIFICATION

### **Clarification of the requirements relating to the adoption by Parties of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome under the Convention applicable to all Parties**

The secretariat has received enquiries regarding whether full powers will be required for Parties to participate in the adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome under the Convention applicable to all Parties.

The secretariat wishes to confirm that credentials will be sufficient for the purposes of adopting, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties.

Article 7, paragraph 2(c), of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties provides that representatives accredited by States to an international conference for the purpose of adopting the text of a treaty in that conference do not need to produce full powers.

As indicated in the secretariat's information note of 22 May 2015 and annex III to the notification of 30 September 2015 to Parties and observer States with respect to the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015, only Parties that have submitted valid credentials will be entitled to participate in the adoption by the Conference of the Parties of the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

As at 30 November 2015, 57 Parties had submitted valid credentials to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties. I wish to take this opportunity to kindly remind Parties that in accordance with rule 19 of the Draft rules of procedure being applied, credentials shall be submitted to the secretariat if possible no later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session.

**Distribution:** To Parties through National Focal Points for climate change, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic.

It is also available on the UNFCCC website at the following link: <<http://unfccc.int/6558.php>>.



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The secretariat recalls that at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 November 2012 to 8 December 2012, credentials were sufficient for the purposes of the adoption of an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to its Articles 20 and 21. Full powers were required only from those representatives of Parties wishing to be included in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol in relation to the second commitment period in the instances where the written consent (a condition precedent for inscription in any amendment to Annex B) submitted by these Parties in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol was not issued and signed by their Heads of State or Government or their Ministers of Foreign Affairs (see annex III to the notification to Parties dated 26 September 2012 and the information note dated 29 October 2012).

Information on the requirements for credentials can be found on the UNFCCC website at:

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop21parisinformationhub/cop-21cmp-11-information-hub-participation-and-accreditation>.

Yours sincerely,

*(Signed by)*

Christiana Figueres