

International Energy Agency (IEA) Submission to the SBI, February 2017

Views on “opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21”

The International Energy Agency (IEA) welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on opportunities to enhance engagement of non-Party stakeholders in the UNFCCC process.

Non-Party stakeholders make valuable contributions to the UNFCCC process

Observer organisations such as the IEA are critical players in the UNFCCC process. The value of contributions by non-Party stakeholders is acknowledged in SBI decision FCCC/SBI/2016/8, which reaffirms “the fundamental value of effective participation by observers, both in the intergovernmental process and in undertaking practical action in response to climate change.” These dual roles for non-Party stakeholders, as contributors of knowledge and expertise in the UNFCCC process as well as drivers and implementers of action, are also acknowledged in decision 1/CP.21.¹

As the global energy authority, the IEA has unrivalled analytical and statistical resources, drawing on a strong network of energy and climate change experts. The IEA prioritises high value-added engagement with the UNFCCC process, including through expert technical input across a number of areas:

- Authoritative modelling analysis of low-carbon development pathways. This analysis sheds light on mitigation potentials and technologies to enable clean energy transitions, and serves as key references to Parties and non-Party stakeholders as they work to transform the energy sector. Recently, the IEA’s *World Energy Outlook Special Reports on Energy and Climate* addressed issues of direct relevance to UNFCCC processes, assessing the impacts of (I)NDCs and identifying short-term emissions reduction measures to enhance pre-2020 ambition.
- Providing the world’s most comprehensive set of energy data and statistics, including greenhouse gas emissions. These data underpin the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and measures taken by Parties and non-Party stakeholders to transform their energy sectors.
- Serving as joint secretariat with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG). The CCXG convenes experts and provides impartial and rigorous analysis to promote dialogue on timely issues in the UNFCCC

¹ Paragraph 110 resolves to strengthen the 2016-2020 technical examination process by “Encouraging Parties, Convention bodies and international organizations to engage in this process, including, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant non-Party stakeholders, to share their experiences and suggestions, including from regional events, and to cooperate in facilitating the implementation of policies, practices and actions identified during this process in accordance with national sustainable development priorities.”

Paragraph 120 “Also encourages non-Party stakeholders to increase their engagement” in the 2016-2020 technical examination process.

Paragraph 118 “Welcomes the efforts of non-Party stakeholders to scale up their climate actions, and encourages the registration of those actions in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform” Paragraph 119 “Encourages Parties to work closely with non-Party stakeholders to catalyse efforts to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action”

negotiations. CCXG discussions have had concrete outcomes in providing technical input to the negotiations.

- Making substantive contributions to the technical examination process on topics including carbon capture and storage, transport, and industry, and playing a leading role in technical expert meetings on energy efficiency.
- Contributing expertise to numerous other components of the UNFCCC process: 2013-2015 Structured Expert Dialogue², Technology Executive Committee³, and SBSTA work programmes on market-based mechanisms⁴. The IEA has also made submissions on technical issues under the ADP^{5,6}, SBSTA⁷, AWG-LCA^{8,9}, and CMP¹⁰, in order to promote discussion and clarification of issues.
- Playing an important role in partnerships and collaborations supporting the UNFCCC processes, such as the Clean Energy Ministerial and Sustainable Energy for All.

With the UNFCCC process now in a technical phase developing the Paris Agreement implementation rules, technical input from expert observer organisations such as the IEA will be of particular value to Parties. The exclusion of observers from technical workshops and submissions processes – particularly at this “implementation” phase – would ultimately limit the range of resources and expertise available to Parties. This also applies to processes under the Paris Agreement that involve collective assessments of progress, such as the global stocktake and 2018 facilitative dialogue. Non-Party stakeholders could supply the information and expertise required for these processes that are not available through the UNFCCC.

Specifically, the IEA intends to provide substantial input to inform the 2018 facilitative dialogue’s assessment of progress toward the long-term goal of Article 4.1, such as tracking progress toward low-carbon energy sector transformation. Tracking the energy transition will be essential for understanding progress with both national and global greenhouse gas mitigation goals. The IEA is well placed to consolidate its various tracking activities in the energy sector to support relevant UNFCCC processes and Parties’ ability to explore opportunities to further enhance ambition.

As a concrete first step toward strengthening observer engagement in relevant UNFCCC processes, the IEA supports the enhanced participation of relevant observer organisations in technical workshops and submissions. In this current “implementation” phase, this includes discussion of issues on APA agenda items 3-8, such as development of the enhanced transparency framework, and collective assessment of progress, where IEA and other relevant non-Party stakeholders could add significant value.

² http://unfccc.int/files/science/workstreams/systematic_observation/application/pdf/141203_sed4_hood.pdf

³ <https://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/tec10/events/2015-03-09-13-30-tec-10/dr-luis-munuera-smart-grids-technology-lead-international-energy-agency-iea>

⁴ https://unfccc.int/files/focus/mitigation/application/mspowerpoint/iea_hood_sbsta40_8_june_2014_final.ppt

⁵ http://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_non-party_stakeholders/application/pdf/549.pdf;

⁶ http://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_parties/adp/application/pdf/adp_oecd_and_iea_03082012.pdf

⁷ https://unfccc.int/files/parties_observers/igo/submissions/application/pdf/705.pdf

⁸ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/smsn/igo/74.pdf>

⁹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/smsn/igo/099.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/smsn/igo/261.pdf>

Options to facilitate participation of non-accredited observer organisations can be considered

The IEA works with non-observer organisations who provide valuable engagement in the UNFCCC process, such as the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) – most often accredited through other observer organisations - and the Technology Collaboration Programmes (TCPs).

Specifically, TCPs are an international group of 6000 experts, representing more than 50 countries worldwide. The current portfolio of TCPs focuses on advancing progress in clean technologies and related issues, including energy efficiency and renewable energy, which are of direct relevance to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

TCPs are a constituency of experts whose direct and regular engagement could bring additional value to the UNFCCC process, particularly given their expertise in certain underrepresented areas of clean technology (e.g., carbon capture and storage, hydrogen). As they are not able to be accredited as observer organisations in their own right under the current rules, they rely on accredited organisations (such the IEA) for access to UNFCCC meetings and participation in side events. The IEA does not currently receive sufficient badge allocations for both IEA and TCP staff to adequately attend UNFCCC meetings.

The IEA recognises the value in enabling participation of currently non-accredited, non-Party stakeholders such as the TCPs and IPEEC while remaining mindful of logistical constraints. We welcome further discussion on how participation of TCPs and other valued non-accredited observers can be enabled – both with regards to access to meetings and ability to organise side events - recognising these discussions may take place over the longer term.

Meanwhile, the UNFCCC could consider various options to enable participation of valued non-accredited observers in the shorter-term, including:

- amending the participant nomination process to permit badges to be transferred amongst members of an observer organisation on a more-than-weekly basis (e.g., daily);
- granting temporary (e.g., one-day) access to members of non-accredited organisations who are participating in events on the official programme or in official pavilions (including side events hosted by observer organisations); and/or
- providing additional badge allocation to organisations such as the IEA that act as an umbrella to other groups of high relevance to the UNFCCC process such as the TCPs.