

International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

www.inbar.int

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) wishes to provide some suggestions to enhance observer engagement in the UNFCCC process, particularly in regards to the annual COP meetings.

INBAR requests that observers have more access to official negotiations and opportunities to interact with Party negotiators in both formal and informal venues. INBAR proposes two concrete ideas to further such interaction:

1. A mechanism such as a forum for observers to make formal presentations to negotiators/Party representatives

INBAR acknowledges the great number of observers and limited time of negotiators, so one possible mechanism is for UNFCCC to run some kind of competition that allows observers to present their ideas for addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. Observers would work to secure official endorsements from beneficiary countries, and all negotiators/Parties would vote to provide some seed money to the winners. More importantly, this mechanism would allow the Parties to learn more about observers and consider elevated partnerships following the COP.

2. Better-organized networking opportunities

INBAR acknowledges the current official side event system, which encourages organizations to partner together. However, the overwhelming number of side events still ensures limited visibility and networking opportunities among organizations and negotiators/Parties with similar agendas. INBAR therefore proposes the UNFCCC Secretariat organize formal affinity groups among like-minded observers (to include UN agencies, IGOs, and NGOs) who commit to attending specific networking events during the COP to discuss potential synergies. This would also allow an organized opportunity for negotiators/Parties to connect with observers without having to sit through a 1.5 hour side event.

INBAR wishes to thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for this opportunity to share feedback on enhancing observer engagement in the UNFCCC process.