

Farmers Constituency

Opportunity to propose ways to enhance observer engagement in UNFCCC process

The Farmers Constituency would like to draw attention to the positive experiences some of its members have had in engaging with the Committee on Food Security. The CFS has gone beyond the traditional UN grouping of “Members vs. Observers” to create a [space for active engagement](#). It has created a new “Participants” category with clear rules of engagement.

Participants in the CFS context include representatives from UN agencies with a specific mandate in the area of food security and nutrition, civil society and non-governmental organizations and private sector associations and philanthropic foundations etc. They have the right to intervene in Plenary and breakout discussions, contribute to preparation of meeting documents and agendas, submit and present documents and formal proposals and contribute regularly to intersessional activities of the Committee through the Advisory Group and Open-Ended Working Groups. Participation is based on a process of consultation prior to CFS meetings and feedback of results following the meetings, so that the few persons present at the sessions represent the views of many.

We recognise that this would be a significant departure from current UNFCCC processes. However if there was interest in exploring such a process, the approach could be trialled on a small scale.

We also welcome the steps taken to set up an online collaboration platform ahead of SB46. This echoes the preparatory work undertaken with major groups on the SDGs.