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Dear UNFCCC Secretariat,

The International Energy Agency (IEA) Hydrogen and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Implementing Agreements (IAs) are pleased to offer the following submission in response to the SBI's request for information and views on enhancing UNFCCC engagement in the context of the Paris Agreement.

### Background

- Both Implementing Agreements, which are IEA Technology Collaboration Programmes (TCPs), made (separate) formal application to the UNFCCC to become observers. Unfortunately, neither IA/TCP was admitted as an observer. The reasons are different in each case.
- Both Implementing Agreements/TCPs have been dependent and fortunate to cooperate with the IEA Climate Change Division to gain admission to COPs and related meetings.
- Before COP22 and the May 2016 UNFCCC Meeting in Bonn, there was a total gap at COP and UNFCCC meetings on representation, awareness and understanding of hydrogen, an energy vector that can play a crucial role in achieving the 1.5°C target. As the world leader in hydrogen R,D&D, the IEA HIA (IEA Hydrogen) can fill the gap on this substantive issue, consistent with its mission to accelerate adoption and utilization of hydrogen. The only UNFCCC hydrogen observer, with which we teamed to present a side event in the Moroccan host area after being rejected for an UNFCCC event, has informed us that it likely will not have the capacity to participate in future UNFCCC events.
- At the last three COPS, GHG participation has provided a robust technical presence to bridge the knowledge gap on CCS through UNFCCC recognized side events, exhibits and information dissemination as the mechanics and role of Carbon Capture Dioxide and Storage (CCS) are not generally well understood.
- In sharp contrast, many IEA IA/TCP issue areas (e.g., solar and wind) fortunately already enjoy broad support and exposure in the UNFCCC COP related community. Our understanding is that other IEA IAs/TCPs have not made application for UNFCCC observer status.

**Observer, Observer-like or “Grandfathered” status would enable the IEA Hydrogen (HIA) and IEA GHG to contribute directly on substantive issues key to realizing the Paris Agreement through:**

- Attendance at COP, SBI and other meetings without having to depend on IEA's own quota use.
- Organization of side events and other event types that build awareness and understanding of H2 and CCS.
- Targeted dissemination of materials.

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Moreover, having demonstrated initiative and the willingness to cooperate with both UNFCCC and IEA, and thereby having gained familiarity with UNFCCC system, closer engagement of the IEA GHG and HIA with the UNFCCC would have additional valuable benefits:

- It would ease administration UNFCCC burden.
- It would likewise reduce administrative responsibilities for IEA Climate Change Division.

Engagement with the UNFCCC was so vital to realization of the IEA Hydrogen and GHG missions that both entities, of their own volition, undertook the rigorous process of gaining official observer status, then faithfully and successfully pursued participation UNFCCC opportunities. Therefore, at a minimum, we suggest that the UNFCCC 'grandfather' our organizations for continued UNFCCC participation, each in its own right.

#### **Construct of organizations**

- Treaty based organizations within framework of IEA; enabled by the same treaty that created the IEA itself.
- Legally described as Implementing Agreements; now informally known as Technology Collaboration Programmes.
- Autonomous – with independent memberships, funding sources and work programs; operated by legally separate 'operating agents' or 'managers'.

Enhanced engagement of these entities, world recognized leaders in their respective domains, will facilitate realization of the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our views. Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to closer cooperation with the UNFCCC.

Sincerely,

Mary-Rose de Valladares

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