



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary

Nations Unies
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Secrétaire exécutive

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Open letter to non-governmental organizations

United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21/CMP 11, 30 November to 11 December 2015 Paris-Le Bourget, France

I would like to welcome all non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are registered in such large numbers to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session (COP 21)/the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties at its eleventh session (CMP 11). This is a turning point COP. I am confident of the Parties' commitment to reaching an ambitious outcome.

It is my goal and desire that UNFCCC participants continue to enjoy various opportunities for bringing their voices to the process.

As the person ultimately responsible for ensuring a conducive working environment for Parties, the constructive engagement of observer organizations in the process, and the safety of thousands of participants in the wake of the recent tragic events, I am writing today to advise you of the security standards at the Le Bourget conference centre.

As you are aware, the Leaders Event will see an unprecedented number of Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries bringing the impetus of their leadership into the process that is critical for the successful outcome of the conference. At the same time, it is the first time that the United Nations organizes a conference of such magnitude, with over 150 Heads of State and Governments and other dignitaries attending, outside of the usual UN Headquarters and in a country that is in a state of emergency with the highest security alert for a constantly evolving security environment.

It is therefore all the more important for the goal of COP 21/CMP 11, for which we have been working so hard for years, that the security standards at the UN Headquarters be strictly replicated at Le Bourget conference site. This is particularly important on Monday, 30 November and Tuesday, 1 December 2015 but also relevant throughout the entire conference and in the interest of security and safety of all participants.

Distribution: To all non-governmental organizations admitted as observers by the Conference of the Parties (COP) and registered for COP 21/CMP 11.



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In the light of the extraordinary security environment currently prevailing, and in full cooperation with the Government of France and the United Nations Department of Security and Safety (UNDSS), I have decided, for the purpose of protecting all participants at COP 21/CMP 11, that the Guidelines for the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at meetings of the bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN standard operating procedure for security at the United Nations Headquarters be strictly applied throughout the conference. I request all representatives of NGOs to cooperate and comply with the requests and instructions from the UNDSS officials. Non-compliance with the UNDSS requests and instructions will be treated with the same consequence as at UN Headquarters, including suspension of entry of participants to the conference site. The secretariat will not be responsible for any participant who is suspended.

In addition, on Monday, 30 November and Tuesday, 1 December 2015 the scope for facilitation of publicity actions will be extremely limited due to the attendance of Heads of State and Government and the very large number of participants. From Wednesday, 2 December 2015, the usual authorization procedure for publicity actions by advocacy NGOs will be reinstated as in the past.

I thank you for your understanding and I am confident of your full cooperation in order to make this conference a safe place for all participants while achieving an ambitious outcome at this critical juncture for the fight for our planet.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed by)

Christian Figueres