

Constituencies and observer participation at workshops and meetings

Workshops and meetings are mandated by the COP or subsidiary bodies as vehicles for informal advice and inputs from experts, information sharing among delegates, and promoting consensus-building on strategies outside the political negotiations. They are normally small, with restricted numbers of participants to allow them to function effectively and to fulfil the task assigned to them.

The chairs of the subsidiary bodies, advised by the workshop/meeting chairs, have key roles in deciding the format of, and participation at, a workshop/meeting, including deciding whether and how many observers will be invited. This number will be determined by the nature of the workshop/meeting and the resources available, and will take into account the level of interest among the non-governmental organizations, with the ultimate aim of allowing an effective working atmosphere with an appropriate balance of participants.

Participation of non-governmental organizations is facilitated through the constituencies¹, so as to aim for a balanced representation of the admitted non-governmental organizations. The secretariat contacts constituency focal points for them to nominate constituency representatives based on the expertise required for respective workshops/meetings. Constituency members interested in, and suitably qualified in the matter of, a particular workshop/meeting, should contact the respective constituency focal point. The contact details for the constituency focal points can be found at the link below. http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/ngo/application/pdf/constituency_focal_point_contact_details.pdf

Please note that selection of representatives will be at the discretion of the relevant constituencies and the secretariat has no involvement or influence on this.

The schedule of workshops and meetings can be found by following the link below:

[UNFCCC workshops and meetings](#)

Related documentation regarding observer participation at workshops

- [FCCC/SBI/2002/17](#), paragraph 50(c) (SBI decision on observer participation at workshops)
- [FCCC/SBI/2011/7](#), paragraph 176 (SBI decision to encourage the chairs of workshops to invite observer organizations to make presentations)

¹ For more information about constituencies, please refer to the document Constituencies and you