



Executive Secretary  
Secrétaire exécutif

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Page 1 of 1

## NOTIFICATION TO PARTIES

### Clarification relating to the Notification of 18 January 2010

Reference is made to the secretariat's Notification to Parties dated 18 January 2010 regarding the communication of information relating to the Copenhagen Accord. Since the issuance of the Notification, a number of Parties have raised questions regarding the use of the phrase "In light of the legal character of the Accord..." in the second paragraph of the Notification. The secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of Parties the following clarification with respect to the phrase in question.

The phrase "In light of the legal character of the Accord..." should be read in its context. In using the phrase, the secretariat sought to convey two facts regarding the legal nature of the Accord. First, that since the Conference of the Parties neither adopted nor endorsed the Accord, but merely took note of it, its provisions do not have any legal standing within the UNFCCC process even if some Parties decide to associate themselves with it. Secondly, that since the Accord is a political agreement, rather than a treaty instrument subject to signature, a simple letter or note verbale to the secretariat from an appropriate authority in Government is sufficient to communicate the intention of a Party to associate with the Accord. This is in view of the fact that after the Copenhagen Conference the secretariat received numerous enquiries from Parties seeking information on where they could physically sign the Accord in order to signify their association and support.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the secretariat at [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int).

Yours sincerely,

Yvo de Boer

**Distribution:** To Parties through national focal points for climate change.