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INFORMATION NOTE

The secretariat would like to inform Parties and observer organizations of the withdrawal of the cost recovery plan for side events and exhibits announced in the information note dated 2 June 2014. Based on input from Parties and observer organizations, the secretariat will continue to facilitate side events and exhibits using existing resources.

During the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2014, the secretariat organized a series of formal and informal discussions and meetings with Parties and observer organizations interested to discuss this plan. The secretariat has identified two positive developments which emerged through these discussions:

1. side events and exhibits, albeit not mandated or budgeted by Parties, are now recognized as “an essential part of the UNFCCC process”; and
2. “Parties recognized the need for financial support to the important work in relation to these activities”.

It also became clear, however, that a cost recovery plan places too much burden on participants. In response to this, various NGO constituencies came forward to propose alternatives.

The secretariat shared those proposals to a wider audience at the conference. These were:

1. collaborative management where NGO constituencies facilitate their constituents’ side events and exhibits within pre-assigned slots; and
2. the secretariat continues its work but within the existing resources, which may mean reduction of services.

Distribution: To Parties and observer States, through national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.
To United Nations Secretariat units and bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations.
To all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations admitted as observers by the Conference of the Parties.



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Different constituencies had different preferences, but all requested more time in order to revert to the secretariat with considered responses and additional proposals if any.

By the deadline, the secretariat received input from six NGO constituencies. The secretariat reviewed this input and concluded that the only viable alternative to cost recovery is to continue to facilitate work within the existing resources. The secretariat recognizes that none of these options are ideal and trusts that this decision is most acceptable to all. It is also hoped that a longer-term solution can be found soon now that Parties are aware of the importance of a robust side event and exhibit system.

In the meantime, the secretariat looks forward to welcoming observers in these essential activities alongside the negotiating process as contributors towards an ambitious outcome in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by Richard Kinley for)

Christiana Figueres