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INFORMATION NOTE

Launch of the Online Admission System for applications from organizations for admission to the UNFCCC process as observers

I would like to inform Parties and observer organizations of the launch of the Online Admission System (OAS) for applications from organizations for admission as new observers to the UNFCCC process.

Admission of observer organizations to UNFCCC sessions is governed by Article 7, paragraph 6, of the Convention and rules 7 and 8 of the draft rules of procedure being applied.¹ There are also working procedures, as noted by the SBI, whereby observer organizations are required to provide proof of possessing independent juridical personality, of competency in matters related to the Convention and of their non-profit and/or tax-exempt status in a State that is a member of the United Nations, of one of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or in a State party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.²

In recent years, the interest of the public and the engagement of stakeholders in the UNFCCC process have increased and so has the number of applications for admission to the UNFCCC process, as has been reported to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.³ As the number of applications increases the quality of the applications varies widely, requiring a closer review of each application in accordance with the procedures outlined above, and a greater deal of communication with the applicant organizations.

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.

¹ FCCC/CP/1996/2.

² FCCC/SBI/2004/10, paragraph 100 and FCCC/SBI/2004/5, paragraph 8.

³ FCCC/SBI/2010/8, paragraph 33; FCCC/SBI/2011/6, paragraph 37; FCCC/SBI/2012/11, paragraph 32; and FCCC/SBI/2013/4, paragraph 29.



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I have previously informed Parties and observer organizations of the change to the application deadline as a measure for ensuring proper assessment of each application. In addition, the secretariat is launching an online interface – the OAS – for the submission of application documents and for communication with applicants, making the entire process more efficient.

All applications and required supporting documents now have to be submitted through the OAS, the link to which you can find below. Hard copy and e-mailed applications will no longer be accepted. Please pass on this information to any organizations you are aware of that may be interested in obtaining observer status in the UNFCCC process.

<https://oas.unfccc.int/>

I am confident that facilitating the admission and thus the active engagement of new observer organizations will help to advance the negotiation process.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed by)

Christiana Figueres