



Date: 29 July 2015  
Reference: LA/CAS/CO  
Page 1 of 2

## INFORMATION NOTE

### **Participation of youth in United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21/CMP 11, 30 November to 11 December 2015 Paris (Le Bourget), France**

I refer to 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, in which paragraph A.4 states “Representatives shall normally be at least 18 years of age. Younger representatives may be registered at the discretion of the secretariat.”

As COP 21/CMP 11 is expected to be a landmark conference, I am of the view that voices from across the society should be represented, including the younger generation who will be impacted the most by the decisions made by Parties, in the years to come. Consequently, I am pleased to inform all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that in the exercise of the aforementioned discretion, I, as the Executive Secretary of the secretariat, allow NGOs to include minors between 15-17 years of age in their delegations for COP 21/CMP 11.

This policy, applicable only for COP 21/CMP 11, will be implemented as follows:

1. Each minor, who is authorised access, shall be accompanied by a chaperon at all times, who is 21 years of age or over;
2. Unaccompanied minor(s) will not be permitted access;
3. Both the minor and the chaperon shall be part of the allotted quota of the respective NGOs. No additional badges for either the chaperon or the minor shall be allocated or issued;

**Distribution:** To all non-governmental organizations admitted as observers by the Conference of the Parties



4. At the time of registration of the minor, each chaperon shall present a written consent of the legal guardian(s) of the minor authorising his/her participation at COP 21/CMP 11, and sign the appropriate waiver form assuming full responsibility of the minor during their custody at COP 21/CMP 11;
5. Were the minor to violate any provision of the UNFCCC guidelines for participation, , both the minor and the chaperon will face the same consequences:
  - Should such consequences result in confiscation of the badges, the NGO will not be allowed to nominate additional individuals in place of the de-badged minor and chaperon for the remainder of the conference; and
6. Were the chaperon to violate any provision of the UNFCCC guidelines for participation, the chaperon will face the consequences:
  - Should such consequences result in confiscation of the badge of the chaperon, then another chaperon from among the registered representatives of that NGO shall assume responsibilities of the minor by signing the appropriate waiver form in order for the minor to continue participation in the conference. In the absence of a registered chaperon the minor will not be allowed to participate.

I look forward to constructive engagement of young representatives at COP 21/CMP 11. For all inquiries on registration, please contact the secretariat through the communication log of the Online Registration System.

Yours sincerely,

*(Signed by)*

Christian Figueres