

To:
UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Ms. Patricia Espinosa and
the UNFCCC Bureau
Martin-Luther-King-Straße
D-53175 Bonn, Germany

09th April 2021

Dear Executive Secretary,
Dear members of the UNFCCC Bureau,

On behalf of eight constituencies, ENGO-CAN, ENGO-DCJ, WGC, TUNGO, IPO, LGMA, Farmers and YOUNGO, we are writing to respond to the outcomes of the COP 25 Bureau meeting on February 25, 2021. We are deeply concerned with the treatment of observer engagement, as well as the proposed role for Constituencies, in the Bureau's note. As you know, observer engagement is essential to the effective functioning of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We want to draw your attention to the letter sent on behalf of five constituencies - YOUNGO, ENGO-CAN, ENGO-CJN, WMG, and TUNGO - that expresses views and principles on effective, inclusive and equitable virtual engagements. It is disappointing to see that none of these principles were incorporated in the Bureau's note. In particular, we find it problematic that the Presiding Officers ignored these recommendations, and by extension the voice of Observers within the UNFCCC, and invited only Parties to express their opinions and concerns on the calendar of upcoming activities. Furthermore, in the section on remote participation, there is no reference to Observer engagement in any proposed in-person formal sessions. In both circumstances, these are problematic oversights that could threaten the legitimacy of the entire process. We hope that the lessons instigated after the security incident in Madrid will not be lost in this process.

In order to ensure that these perspectives are appropriately reflected, we require clarification on several questions:

- What is your proposed process to receive submissions from constituencies, Observers, and non-Observers on the outlined approach? When will the dedicated sessions with the SB-Chairs and the Executive Secretary take place?
- What collaborative steps can be taken to prepared Observers and the Constituencies to participation in any proposed virtual sessions?
- Could you further elaborate what your commitments to transparency and inclusiveness mean in a virtual context? How are these principles expanded to include full and effective participation of Observers?

To reiterate, we are deeply concerned by the contents of the recent Bureau note. It is unacceptable, and in direct contradiction to the long-standing UNFCCC comment to inclusivity, to ignore any considerations for Observer engagement. We stand ready to work with you to address the above concerns, provided we are able to receive responses to the questions outlined above.

We look forward to working constructively together to overcome the given challenges and hope you will be able to address our questions during the next meeting of the COP/CMP/CMA Bureau taking place 15 April.

Sincerely,

ENGO-CAN - Tasneem Essop, Constituency focal point

ENGO-DCJ - Nathan Thanki, Constituency focal point

Farmers - Ceris Jones, NFU/WFO, Constituency focal point

IPO - Graeme Reed and Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Constituency co-focal points

LGMA (Local Governments and Municipal Authorities) - Yunus Arian, ICLEI, Constituency Focal Point

RINGO - Beth Martin and Tracy Bach, Constituency co-focal points

TUNGO - Bert De Wel, Constituency focal point

Women and Gender - Ndivile Mokoena and Bridget Burns, Constituency co-focal points

YOUNGO - Marie-Claire Graf and Heeta Lakhani, Constituency co-focal points

cc: UNFCCC Observer Liaison Team.