

## Informal note by the Chair

### *Background*

- *Parties met in informal consultations on 11 June 2021.*
- *They reflected on the engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC process and provided specific suggestions for further enhancing it.*
- *During the discussions, Parties heard proposals from observer organizations on ensuring their equitable, full and effective participation.*
- *While acknowledging the importance of discussing observer engagement in the UNFCCC process, Parties noted the importance of other issues under this agenda item, such as the organization of COP 26, the hosting of future sessions, ways to improve the efficiency of the intergovernmental process and the mandate from COP 25 to review the process of admission of observer organizations. Parties acknowledged the approach of the Chair to take up such issues in a subsequent sessional period.*
- *On the basis of the discussions, the Chair has prepared under her own responsibility the following possible elements of draft conclusions.*
- *The elements are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered final in any way. They are offered to assist Parties in advancing the discussions on this matter and do not prejudge further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.*

### *Possible elements*

- Reaffirm the value of the contribution of observer organizations to the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, while acknowledging the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC process.
- Welcome the biennial report prepared by the secretariat on the engagement of observer organizations in the intergovernmental process in 2018–2019.<sup>1</sup>
- Acknowledge the progress in relation to observer engagement and participation over the years, while reiterating the urgent need to find solutions to address the geographical imbalance in the participation of observer organizations from developing countries, in particular the LDCs.
- Note that, while virtual engagement has its challenges, technology can be used to enhance engagement, including of observer organizations from developing countries.
- Welcome the continued efforts of the COP 25 Presidency, COP 26 Presidency, Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and secretariat to enhance the engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC process.
- In the spirit of fostering openness, transparency, effectiveness and inclusiveness, while respecting the draft rules of procedure being applied, highlight the following areas where further enhancements to observer engagement could be considered, subject to the availability of resources:
  - Encouraging presiding officers and constituted bodies, as relevant, to:
    - Increase intervention opportunities for observers at meetings and make the best use of their inputs, including submissions;
    - Change the timing of observer statements at meetings, for example to between statements by groups of Parties and by individual Parties;

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/10.

- Continue dialogues with observers;
    - Encouraging future COP Presidencies to:
      - Consider convening open dialogues also outside of sessions of the COP;
      - Explore ways to increase the participation of observer organizations, including youth organizations and those from developing countries, particularly the LDCs;
    - Encouraging all Parties to:
      - Open meetings to observers as appropriate;
      - Further engage non-Party stakeholders at the national level, including through information dissemination and consultation;
      - Make capacity-building initiatives and programmes available to non-Party stakeholders that are implementing climate action on the ground, particularly in developing countries;
    - Requesting the secretariat to:
      - Continue preparing the biennial report on the implementation of SBI conclusions on ways to engage observer organizations in the intergovernmental process;
      - Explore ways to encourage broad participation of observer organizations, including those from developing countries and youth organizations, including using technology to enable virtual engagement.
  - Note the proposals from observer organizations on ensuring their equitable, full and effective participation, including that of indigenous peoples, young people, persons living with disabilities, other civil society representatives.
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