

SB 62 Briefing Sessions for Observers
Navigating the UNFCCC Process as an Observer
Q&A Summary
Tuesday, 27 May 2025 | Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Negotiations

- 1. Can observer organizations that are not part of a constituency take the floor?**
→ Technically yes, but limited speaking time is usually allocated to [constituencies](#) due to time constraints.
- 2. What is the process for submitting statements or submissions?**
→ Use the [UNFCCC submission portal](#). For statements, coordinate with the secretariat in the meeting room.
- 3. What is the intervention time limit for observers?**
→ Generally, two minutes. The chair of the meeting will note the specific time allocated to the intervention. Please stick to the indicated time limit.
- 4. Can IGO observers speak without submitting proposals in advance?**
→ Rarely. Negotiations are between Parties. On occasion, an IGO may be invited, e.g., by the chair, to provide technical expertise, which would however be coordinated in advance.
- 5. How can I check if observers can intervene in a negotiation session?**
→ Check the [Daily Programme](#) or CCTV for open meetings. Approach the secretariat support team at the start of the session to ask if observer interventions would be possible.
- 6. Will the negotiations be streamed online?**
→ Yes, please note that online access will be limited to negotiation meetings and mandated events only. Virtual participation in other events, such as side events, will not be available through the platform. Plenary meetings will be streamed online and are accessible via a link provided on the UNFCCC meetings [webpage](#).

Formal Participation and Submissions

- 7. How can we propose a topic to the negotiations?**
→ Only Parties can do so. Observers must work through Parties to raise issues.
- 8. What is the deadline for formal submission of position papers?**
→ Varies by agenda item. Check the [Submissions and Statements](#) portal.
- 9. What is the protocol to approach negotiators?**
→ Follow the [Code of Conduct](#). Use [National Focal Points](#) listed on the website or coordinate via your constituency.

Observer Organizations Structure

- 10. Do IGOs have constituency focal points?**
→ No. IGOs are not part of the constituency system.
- 11. What are the main differences between NGO and IGO observers?**
→ [Admitted NGOs](#) are non-governmental organizations while [admitted IGOs](#) are intergovernmental organizations. The different admission requirements are detailed

in the [Standard admission process for NGOs](#) and the [Standard admission process for IGOs](#).

→ NGOs work via self-organized constituencies; IGOs do not.

→ NGOs vastly outnumber IGOs in terms of admitted observer organizations.

12. How are youth and children involved in the UNFCCC process?

→ Through the [Youth and Children NGO \(YOUNGO\)](#) constituency and the [Action for Climate Empowerment](#). Youth must be 16+ or have a chaperone to receive a badge.

13. Can NGOs participate in developing the [Gender Action Plan](#)?

→ Yes. Observers can join the in-session workshop at SB62.

Access and Daily Programme

14. Will the Daily Programme show if a negotiation is open to observers and its location?

→ Yes. The schedule in the [Daily Programme](#) indicates open/closed status and location of meetings, also shown on CCTV screens around the venue.

15. Are there guidelines for posting on social media during the session?

→ Social media posting use must comply with the [Code of Conduct](#), particularly the [Use of Cameras and Audio/Video Recording Devices at UNFCCC Sessions](#).

Global Climate Action Engagement

16. How can we follow themes like health that are not part of a negotiation track?

→ Via the [Global Climate Action](#) Agenda and high-level champions, but these are mainly during COPs.

17. How can we join the Marrakech Partnership?

→ Visit the [Marrakech Partnership webpage](#) or email globalclimateaction@unfccc.int.

18. Can a new program like one on sustainable cities be admitted as an observer?

→ No, only legal entities can apply. Engage via the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities \(LGMA\)](#) constituency or [Marrakech Partnership](#) instead.

Side Events

19. Are side events streamed, and can online speakers participate?

→ It is not streamed by the secretariat due to budget constraints. Side event organizers may arrange virtual participation and streaming independently.

20. Why can some virtually registered participants not see side events?

→ Side events are not streamed by default. Organizers may stream them independently.

21. Are presentations from side events shared with observers?

→ Organizers are encouraged to upload materials to [SEORS](#) or event webpages.

Advocacy Actions

22. How can I know if an advocacy action is authorized before joining?

→ Authorized actions are supervised by UNDSS and the secretariat. Ask Claire Kiss or on-site UNDSS staff if you are unsure whether the action is authorized.

23. Is there anything new in the Observer Handbook this year?

→ Substantive content remains similar, but encourage all registered participants to review the [Observer Handbook for SB 62](#).

- Further, a new [Observers' Guide to Advocacy Actions](#) has been published. It is encouraged for all those interested in organizing advocacy actions to review the Guide accordingly.

24. What major misconduct should observers be aware of?

- Read and comply with the [Code of Conduct](#), particularly 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](#). The Code of Conduct includes reporting mechanisms.

25. What is the email address to register for the venue walkthrough?

- Email cool@unfccc.int to join the walkthrough, typically held the day before the session starts.