

Briefing Sessions for Observers
Navigating the UNFCCC Process as an Observer
Q&A Summary
Thursday, 28 May 2026

Negotiations and Process

1. Where can I find information on certain negotiation streams, including the specific topics under discussion and Parties' positions?

→ Annotated agendas for [SBI](#) and [SBSTA](#) provide information on agenda items. The SBSTA Chair and SBI Chair have also published a [joint note](#) to give SB 64 participants an overview of their proposed approach to the sessions. Party positions are generally not available in one place and may be found through Party [submissions](#), reports, statements, and third-party analyses. Many positions are also developed through negotiating group coordination processes.

2. If a constituency would like to speak on a particular agenda item, what is the process for requesting an intervention?

→ For plenary sessions, speaking opportunities are usually coordinated with [constituencies](#) in advance.

→ In Contact Groups and Informal Consultations, constituency representatives should approach the secretariat support team (cool@unfccc.int) at the beginning of the meeting. The support team will consult the co-facilitators regarding possible observer interventions.

Access to Negotiations

3. Are negotiation meetings open to observers?

→ Most formal negotiation meetings are open to observers. However, Parties may decide to close meetings at any time. Further information regarding access to negotiations can be found in the [Observer Handbook for SB64](#).

4. What happens if Parties decide to close a meeting?

→ Observers must leave the room and follow instructions from meeting support staff and security personnel.

5. Do Parties have priority access to meeting rooms?

→ Yes. Parties have priority seating and access. However, observers have priority over Party Overflow.

6. Can observers speak during negotiation meetings?

- In some meetings, observers may be invited to intervene, typically at the end of discussions and if time and Parties allow.

Networking and Engagement

7. Is there a platform to facilitate networking with other delegates?

- There is no dedicated networking platform. Networking generally takes place through bilateral meetings, constituency meetings, side events, receptions, mandated events, and informal interactions throughout the session.

Town Halls

8. Who can attend the town halls and how are they organized?

- Town halls are open to all observers. Interventions are generally taken first from NGO constituencies and informal observer groups, followed by IGOs and UN organizations if time permits.

9. Are there any attendance restrictions for town halls despite them being open to all observers?

- The secretariat aims to hold town halls in large rooms and also makes them available virtually to accommodate as many participants as possible. Restrictions may be necessary in cases of overcrowding.

Side Events

10. How do participants attend side events?

- Side events can be attended in person or virtually through the conference virtual platform. For further information, please consult the [handbook for SB 64 side event organizers](#).

11. Will side events be recorded?

- No. Side events will not be recorded by the secretariat due to resource constraints. For further information, please consult the [handbook for SB 64 side event organizers](#).

12. Do presenters need to bring their own computers?

- No. Laptops will be available in side event rooms and presentations can be accessed online. For further information, please consult the [handbook for SB 64 side event organizers](#).

13. Will virtual speakers be given online access to side events?

→ Yes. Duly registered virtual participants and speakers can join through the conference virtual platform and associated Teams links. For further information, please consult the [handbook for SB 64 side event organizers](#).

14. How can sign language interpretation and live captioning be integrated into side events?

→ Additional guidance was being finalized and will be provided to organizers.

15. The remote connections at side events during COP30 did not always work. Will this be improved for SB64?

→ The secretariat indicated that improvements have been made and that the integrated virtual platform will continue to be used.

16. Can side event organizers increase their quota allocation for the day of their event?

→ Quota-related questions should be addressed through the [Online Registration System \(ORS\)](#) and the registration team.

17. We received a different side event date than requested. Can it be changed?

→ The Observer Relations team tries to allocate all side events according to side event organizers' logistical preferences and in line with the [selection and allocation criteria](#). Organizers may arrange a swap with another organizer following the procedures outlined in the handbook. For further information, please consult the [handbook for SB 64 side event organizers](#).

18. Can artwork, banners, or display materials be used at side events?

→ Small displays may be permitted. Larger displays may be considered advocacy actions and should be discussed with the secretariat in advance.

19. Where can I find the schedule of side events at SB64?

→ Please see the schedule of official side events at SB64 [here](#).

Advocacy Actions

20. Can advocacy actions include individuals' names, photographs, and nationalities?

→ References to countries and nationalities are permitted when presented in the context of climate impacts. Individuals may also be named in an honorary, memorial, or commemorative context, provided the action remains linked to climate change and complies with the Code of Conduct. Further information on advocacy actions can be found [here](#).

21. Is the distribution of informational flyers considered an advocacy action?

→ Yes. Distribution of printed materials is considered an advocacy action.

22. Would it be possible to set up a counter, display case, or similar arrangement for informational materials?

→ Organizations should discuss specific proposals with the secretariat. Distribution of printed materials throughout the venue is generally discouraged for sustainability reasons.

Press Conferences

23. When can organizations apply for a press conference slot?

→ Applications can be submitted through the UNFCCC press conference booking system. At the time of the briefing, bookings were open until 31 May. Further information on press conferences at SB64 can be found [here](#).

COP31

24. Will there be a briefing on COP31 logistics and practical information during SB64?

→ Yes. The incoming Presidency will hold a logistics briefing during SB64. Please check CCTV during SB64 for exact timing and room.

25. Will there be opportunities to learn more about the vision, priorities, and expectations for COP31?

→ Yes. An open consultation on the vision, priorities, and expectations for COP31 is also planned during SB64. Please check CCTV during SB64 for exact timing and room.

Other

26. Are there any important changes compared to previous sessions that participants should be aware of?

→ No major changes were highlighted. Participants were encouraged to consult the [Observer Handbook](#) for the latest information and updates.