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REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A POLICY AND PROCESS FOR ADMITTING OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A POLICY AND PROCESS FOR ADMITTING OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

At its 24th Session the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, considered and discussed a proposal for admitting observer organizations to the IPCC (IPCC-XXIV/Doc. 10). Suggestions were made during the Session regarding qualifications required, regional balance and a code of conduct. Several governments expressed interest to provide further comments on the proposal to the Secretariat. The Panel asked the Secretariat to prepare information about organizations that are already participating in IPCC activities and new applications for consideration by the IPCC Bureau and the Panel, to facilitate a decision on a policy and process for admitting observer organizations at the 25th Session of the Panel in April 2006. The Panel agreed to take a decision on a policy and process for admitting observer organizations at its next session.

As follow up actions, the Secretariat sent a letter to international and other organizations asking for the information in October 2005 (No. 7786-05/IPCC/ORG) and a letter to governments asking for further comments on the proposal in November 2005 (No. 7790-05/IPCC/Outreach, paragraph 2.).

The Secretariat received comments on policy and process from 8 governments and one organization, and information from 23 organizations. This information is contained in IPCC-XXV/INF. 1 "Compilation of Comments from Governments and Organizations", and IPCC-XXV/INF. 2 "Summary of Information Provided by Organizations". The full information provided by organizations can be obtained from the Secretariat upon request. Taking into account suggestions made during IPCC-24, comments from governments and organizations afterwards, and information provided by organizations, the Secretariat has revised the proposal.

Proposed admission policy for observer organizations

The following policy for admitting observer organizations to IPCC Sessions is proposed:

- A body or an agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and which has informed the IPCC Secretariat of its wish to be represented at Sessions of the IPCC and any of its Working Groups, may be so admitted subject to acceptance by the Panel.
- In judging whether an organization is "qualified in matters covered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change" the Secretariat should be guided by the Principles Governing IPCC Work.
- Organizations need to be non-profit organizations and are required to furnish proof of their nonprofit and/or tax-exempt status in a State Member of the United Nations, of one of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or in a State Party to the International Court of Justice.
- Bodies and organizations, which are part of the UN System, are considered participating organizations of the IPCC and are not requested to submit an application or other documentation.
- Organizations, which already have observer status with WMO, UNEP or UNFCCC, will also be accepted as observer of the IPCC if they wish.
- Applications from national organizations will be brought to the attention of the IPCC Focal Point of that IPCC Member. They need to provide evidence of independence from governments. Otherwise, they are encouraged to participate as part of their government delegations.
- Only admitted observer organizations may designate representatives to attend Sessions of the IPCC and Sessions of a Working Group at plenary level. Observer organizations have to register their representatives for each Session in advance.
- Being admitted as observer organization to Sessions of the Panel and Sessions of a Working Group does not imply that they are admitted or invited to workshops, expert meetings and other closed meetings. During a Session of the Panel or a Working Group certain meetings may be closed to observers. Observer organizations are not admitted to any session of the IPCC Bureau or Task Force Bureau.

- Consistent with the IPCC procedures experts from “international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may be invited in their own right to contribute to the work of the IPCC Working Groups and Task Forces.”
- Subject to availability of sufficient space in the conference room UN and other international and intergovernmental organizations will be provided with nameplates.

Process of admitting observer organizations

For admitting observer organizations the following process is proposed:

1. Organizations interested in being admitted as an observer to Sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups will be asked to send by post a letter of application with copies of
 - Documents describing the mandate, scope and governing structure of the organization, such as the charter/statutes/constitution/by-laws or articles of association.
 - Evidence of the non-profit and/or tax-exempt status of the organization.
 - Any other information that supports the competence of the organization in matters related to the IPCC.
 - Information on the affiliation with other non-governmental organizations or institutions involved in climate change activities as appropriate.
 - Completed form with contact information of the organization and of a designated focal point.
2. The Secretariat will screen the submissions and make a proposal to be considered by the IPCC Bureau.
3. Following consideration by the IPCC Bureau, the list of observer organizations as agreed by the IPCC Bureau will be presented to the next Session of the Panel for acceptance.
4. A body or organization is admitted as observer organization unless at least one third of the Members of the IPCC Members present at the Session object.
5. The Secretariat of the IPCC maintains information on observers.
6. The Secretariat shall extend invitations to Sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups to accepted observer organizations, including to bodies and organizations of the UN system and organizations having observer status with WMO, UNEP or the UNFCCC and which have informed the IPCC Secretariat of their interest in receiving such invitation. The IPCC shall not provide financial assistance to the Observers for participating in the IPCC process.
7. The IPCC decides on which occasions the observers may submit information or views to the IPCC and how this information is made available. New requests for admission to Sessions of the IPCC shall be submitted at least 4 months before a Session of the Panel or a Working Group.
8. Organizations, which are already on the list of the IPCC Secretariat and have received invitations to Sessions of the IPCC in the past, will be asked whether they wish to continue to receive invitations to Sessions of the Panel and Working Groups on a provisional basis until the Panel has taken a decision, and if so, they will be asked to submit documentation listed under item 1 above.
9. Admission of observer organizations will be included as a regular agenda item of Sessions of the IPCC Bureau and the Panel. The IPCC Bureau and the Panel shall review the list of accepted observer organizations every five years.

Proposed action by the Panel

The Panel is invited to consider the revised proposal by the Secretariat at the present Session and take a decision.