

# ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

**THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE IPCC**  
**Geneva, 6-9 June 2012**

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## **IPCC OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Role of the European Union**

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

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## **OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Role of the European Union**

#### **Note by the IPCC Secretariat**

At its 34th Session in Kampala, Uganda, 18-19 November 2011, the IPCC amended Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports, and adopted new text in Section 4.4 (see italic print), on the “Preparation, Approval and Acceptance of Summaries for Policymakers and Adoption of Overview Chapters of Methodology Reports Related to National Greenhouse Gas Inventories” which now reads as follows:

“Summary sections of Reports approved by the Working Groups and accepted by the Panel will principally be the Summaries for Policymakers, prepared by the respective Working Groups of their full scientific, technical and socio-economic assessments, and Summaries for Policymakers of Special Reports prepared by the Working Groups. The Summaries for Policymakers should be subject to simultaneous review by both experts and governments, *a government round of written comments of the revised draft before the approval Session* and to a final line by line approval by a Session of the Working Group. Responsibility for preparing first drafts and revised drafts of Summaries for Policymakers, lies with the respective Working Group Co-Chairs. The Summaries for Policymakers should be prepared concurrently with the preparation of the main Reports.

*The first review of the Summaries for Policymakers will take place during the same time period as the Expert/Government Review of the Second Order Draft of the full report. The final draft of the Summaries for Policymakers prepared by the respective Working Groups and Overview Chapters of Methodology Reports related to National Greenhouse Gas Inventories will be circulated for a final government round of written comments in preparation of the Session of the Working Group(s) that approves it or Session of the Panel that adopts it.”*

Reference is made further to Sections 4.2 and 4.3.4.2 of Appendix A which describe the procedures for the Second Review of IPCC Reports by Governments and Experts.

During the final plenary discussion at the 34th Session, the representative of the European Union (EU) asked for clarification about whether the EU could provide comments in the government/expert reviews, as it has been the current practice. The Co-Chair of the Task Group on Procedures confirmed that this was not discussed among the relevant group, and explained that the intention was to reflect the current practice while he agreed that this was a valid point. The Chair suggested to record the issue in the meeting minutes and assured the EU that at a later stage this will be considered. He expressed regret that this concern was not brought up at an earlier stage but said it was a concern that will be given consideration by the Panel at an appropriate stage in the future.

According to paragraph I.8 of the IPCC Policy and Process for Admitting Observer Organizations “The European Union may exercise the following procedural rights at IPCC Sessions: the right to speak in turn, rather than after all participant States have been acknowledged; the right to reply; the right to introduce proposals. These rights are exclusive. They do not grant the ability to vote or to be elected.”

Through the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/276, dated 10 May 2011 and entitled “Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations”, the EU obtained an enhanced observer status at the UN and was granted the following rights in the General Assembly: the right to speak in debates, the right to submit proposals and amendments, the right to reply, the right to raise points of order and to circulate documents. Copy of the resolution is annexed to this document for information.

Noting:

- the provisions for the Second Review of IPCC Reports by Governments and Experts;

further noting that:

- the Summaries for Policymakers “should be subject to simultaneous review by both experts and governments, a government round of written comments of the revised draft before the approval Session and to a final line by line approval by a Session of the Working Group”,

- the European Union at IPCC Sessions may exercise the right to speak in turn, the right to reply and the right to introduce proposals,

and acknowledging the United Nations General Assembly Resolution *A/RES/65/276* which grants enhanced observer status to the European Union in the works of the United Nations,

the Secretariat of the IPCC has taken note of the request made by the European Union.

Based on the above, the Secretariat recommends that the Panel takes a decision to allow the European Union to provide comments in the Government/Expert review of IPCC Reports and Technical Papers and the final review stage of Summaries for Policymakers.



## General Assembly

Distr.: General  
10 May 2011

Sixty-fifth session  
Agenda item 120

### Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.64/Rev.1)]

#### 65/276. Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the role and authority of the General Assembly as a principal organ of the United Nations and the importance of its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its functions under the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* that the current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

*Recognizing also* the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the benefits to the United Nations of such cooperation,

*Acknowledging* that it is for each regional organization to define the modalities of its external representation,

*Recalling* its resolution 3208 (XXIX) of 11 October 1974, by which it granted observer status to the European Economic Community,

*Recalling also* that, consistent with the relevant legal provisions, the European Union has replaced the European Community and is a party to many instruments concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and an observer or participant in the work of several specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations,

*Noting* that the States members of the European Union have entrusted the external representation of the European Union, previously performed by the representatives of the member State holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to the following institutional representatives: the President of the European Council, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, and European Union delegations, which have assumed the role of acting on behalf of the European Union in the exercise of the competences conferred by its member States,

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 18 May 2011.

10-52910\*



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*Mindful* of the modalities for the participation of observer States and entities, and other observers in the work of the United Nations, as set out in the respective resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly is an intergovernmental body whose membership is limited to States that are Members of the United Nations;
2. *Decides* to adopt the modalities set out in the annex to the present resolution for the participation of the representatives of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and its committees and working groups, in international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly and in United Nations conferences;
3. *Recognizes* that, following a request on behalf of a regional organization that has observer status in the General Assembly and whose member States have agreed arrangements that allow that organization's representatives to speak on behalf of the organization and its member States, the Assembly may adopt modalities for the participation of that regional organization's representatives, such as those set out in the annex to the present resolution;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly during its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the modalities set out in the annex to the present resolution.

*88th plenary meeting  
3 May 2011*

## **Annex**

### **Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations**

1. In accordance with the present resolution, the representatives of the European Union, in order to present positions of the European Union and its member States as agreed by them, shall be:
  - (a) Allowed to be inscribed on the list of speakers among representatives of major groups, in order to make interventions;
  - (b) Invited to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly, in accordance with the order of precedence as established in the practice for participating observers and the level of participation;
  - (c) Permitted to have its communications relating to the sessions and work of the General Assembly and to the sessions and work of all international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly and of United Nations conferences, circulated directly, and without intermediary, as documents of the Assembly, meeting or conference;
  - (d) Also permitted to present proposals and amendments orally as agreed by the States members of the European Union; such proposals and amendments shall be put to a vote only at the request of a Member State;
  - (e) Allowed to exercise the right of reply regarding positions of the European Union as decided by the presiding officer; such right of reply shall be restricted to one intervention per item.
2. The representatives of the European Union shall be ensured seating among the observers.

3. The representatives of the European Union shall not have the right to vote, to co-sponsor draft resolutions or decisions, or to put forward candidates.
4. A precursory explanation or recall of the present resolution shall be made only once by the President of the General Assembly at the start of each session.