

Guidelines relating to the Observer participation, accreditation of Observer organizations and participation of active Observers

This document is as adopted by the Board and contained in annex XII to decision B.01-13/03.



I. Introduction

1. These guidelines relate to observer participation and the accreditation of observer organizations, and to the selection and participation of active observers.
2. The Board would like to promote the input and participation of stakeholders throughout this process with a view to strengthening the role that they will play. Increased interaction with the Board members and the Co-Chairs will be arranged during the duration of the Board meetings. The Secretariat will designate a point of staff contact for all observers to facilitate communication with and among them.
3. Information and access to documents will be addressed in a separate disclosure policy to enhance participation of stakeholders.

II. Registration and participation of observers

4. The Secretariat will notify observer States and accredited observer organizations of the dates and venue of the meetings through a formal notification circulated with the provisional agenda at least 30 days before the first day of the meeting.
5. Once the notification for a meeting has been issued, the designated contact point of the observer State or accredited observer organization should inform the Secretariat of the composition of their delegation no later than one week after the notification has been circulated. Representatives of United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations will need to be officially nominated by the head of that organization or his/her designated representative. No nominations will be accepted after the deadline set in the notification.

III. Accreditation of observer organizations

6. Observer organizations that wish to participate in the activities of the Fund shall apply for observer status with the Fund. Observer status will be granted upon successful completion of the accreditation process outlined below.
7. The applicant organization will send a letter of application to the Secretariat, in which it will:
 - (a) Provide a description of the organization;
 - (b) Demonstrate that it has a well-organized administrative structure and relevant competences and experience, and can send representatives fully mandated to speak on behalf of the organization;
 - (c) Explain the benefit of its input for the Fund, its specialized scientific and technical competences relating to the Fund's goals, and what it expects in return from the Fund; and
 - (d) Give written confirmation that it acknowledges the goals and basic principles of the Fund and will abide by the Board's rules of procedures.
8. Any new requests for admission as an accredited observer should be submitted at least two months before a Board meeting.
9. Applications will be reviewed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will then present them, with a recommendation, to the Board, which will decide on a no-objection basis in line with the additional rules of procedure.

10. A list of accredited observer organizations will be maintained on the Fund's website.

IV. Process and guidelines for participation of active observers

4.1 Representation of active observers

11. The two civil society representatives and two private sector representatives will be invited to participate in the Board meetings as active observers from among the representatives of accredited civil society organization (CSOs) and private sector organizations (PSOs), respectively.
12. Representation is for a term of two years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
13. If an active observer is unable to attend a Board meeting or fails to comply with the requirements set forth in paragraph 14 of these Guidelines, the Co-Chairs, acting jointly, may invite the civil society or private sector observer organization concerned to nominate a replacement, consistent with Section 4.3 of these Guidelines and the procedure concerning accreditation of observer organizations.

4.2 Roles and responsibilities of active observers

14. The active observers may intervene upon invitation of the Co-Chairs in open segments of the meetings of the Board. They may attend as observers the meetings of a Board committee or working group in special circumstances and if expressly authorized by the Board. The active observers shall:
 - (a) Consistently attend meetings;
 - (b) Consult with other civil society and private sector stakeholders in compliance with agreed consultation guidelines;
 - (c) Solicit, collect and communicate information from CSOs and PSOs to the Board on matters that the Board is considering and represent the views of their constituency;
 - (d) Collect and disseminate information from the Board and related bodies and processes to members of the CSOs and PSOs groupings; and
 - (e) Not disclose, both during and after their term of office, information obtained from the Fund and/or project participants that is marked as proprietary and/or confidential, without the written consent of the Fund and/or the provider of the information, except as otherwise required by the law.

4.3 Selection process of active observers

15. In order to ensure equity and diversity across observer organizations, representation of active observers should aim, in addition to the agreed balanced representation from developing and developed countries, at a balanced gender representation as well as a balanced representation between international and local or national organizations.
16. CSOs and PSOs will select their respective active observers and replacements.

4.4 Comprehensive review

17. A comprehensive review of observer participation, including the selection process of active observers, involving a wide range of stakeholders will be undertaken after a trial period of two years.



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