

Accreditation of business and industry entities to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD or Convention), recognizes that the participation of the civil society is vital to the successful implementation of the Convention.

It is recalled that accreditation of observers to the COP is ruled by provisions contained in article 22, paragraph 7 of the UNCCD and Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the COP. According to these provisions, representatives from any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, may be admitted to participate in the proceedings of the Convention's bodies under the conditions that the organization:

- (a) Is qualified in matters covered by the Convention;
- (b) Has informed the secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the COP as an observer

Organizations complying with the above-mentioned requirements may be admitted to participate in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies as observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object. Only accredited organizations may designate representatives to attend sessions of the Convention bodies, or may apply to hold a side event and/or an exhibit at these sessions.

By its decision 5/COP.10, the COP decided to grant observer status and participation in official meetings of the governing bodies of the UNCCD to those business and industry entities¹ that:

- (a) Have expressed interest in participating in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
- (b) Have specific expertise in matters relating to the Convention; and
- (c) Participate in the United Nations Global Compact.

It is recalled that, in the case where a business and industry entity does not participate in the United Nations Global Compact, clearance prior to its accreditation shall be requested from the United Nations Procurement Division and the United Nations Ethics Office.

Entities wishing to be accredited as an observer to the sessions of the Convention bodies, shall submit to the secretariat the following documents and information:

1. Completed "Accreditation Form" with contact information of the entity and of a designated contact point for official communication with the secretariat (see Accreditation Form).
2. Letter of application on the entity's letterhead, addressed to the Executive Secretary, stating the motivation for the application and indicating how its work could contribute to combating desertification and land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.
3. Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the entity that shows its expertise in matters relating to the UNCCD. Web or e-versions are most welcome in this case, rather than printed materials;

¹ Business and industry entities also referred to as "private sector" in decision 5/COP.10.

Please note that all documents could be submitted in one of the three following languages: English, French or Spanish.

Upon receipt of the complete documentation, the application will be screened by the secretariat in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements, including clearance by United Nations Procurement Division and the United Nations Ethics Office as required. Those entities complying with all criteria will be considered for admission at the following session of the COP, provided that the set deadlines are complied with. The secretariat will inform all applicant entities of the outcome of such screening.

Applicant entities fulfilling the requirements referred above may be provisionally admitted to participate in the sessions of the COP and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, without prejudice to the final decision of the COP.

Entities accredited by the COP will be notified through a communication. The report of the COP containing the decision to accredit the requesting entity as observer constitutes the legal reference.

Accredited entities are expected to regularly keep the secretariat informed of any change of address or contact person, or other significant change in the information provided at the time of the request of accreditation.

For further information on the accreditation process, please contact:

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