



Brussels, 27 SEPT 2019
CLIMA/MP

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your recent message to President Juncker. I was requested to reply on his behalf.

The EU supports the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat's current approach to encouraging broad and deep engagement of non-Party stakeholders as observers. In accordance with Article 7, paragraph 6 of the Convention, "[a]ny body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object." All accredited observers must state their competence in Convention matters, confirm their "non-profit and/or tax exempt status" and in certain circumstances, provide evidence of their independence from governments.

The UNFCCC Secretariat has helped organize observers into five constituencies, the business and industry organizations (BINGOs), environmental groups (ENGOs), indigenous peoples organizations (IPOs), local government and municipal authorities (LGMAs) and the research oriented and independent organizations (RINGOs). These constituencies are primarily for the purpose of allocating time for formal interventions and arranging participation in workshops where space is often limited.


The EU supports an approach that ensures that members of each of these constituencies, have the same opportunity to participate in the process. However, the EU has also been keen to strengthen the voices of groups that are at times marginalized from policy debates. For these reasons, the EU regularly funds the participation of voices from the Global South and has been instrumental in brokering an agreement on a Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform, which will enable the respect, promotion and consideration of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge.

The EU does not, however, see the need for policies that would exclude from eligibility as observers at intergovernmental meetings, groups that represent the interests of the fossil fuel-related industries. It is of paramount importance that these industries are exposed to the full debate on climate change and the impact of fossil fuels, and that they become a part of the solution.”

Finally it is important to note that Non-Party stakeholders are only observers of the intergovernmental process, and do not participate in the negotiation of texts or in decision-making. In the end, it is the responsibility of governments, in the context of inclusive and well-informed debates, to take the decisions necessary to achieve the Paris Agreements goals, and for civil society to hold governments accountable for doing so.

Yours sincerely,

Mauro Petriccione

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mauro Petriccione', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.