



Assembly

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Agenda item 6

Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly

Decision of the Assembly on the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Bearing in mind rule 82 of its rules of procedure,¹

Having considered the need to streamline the application and review process with regard to observer status and to facilitate its consideration of requests for that status,

1. *Approves* the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority contained in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Decides* that it may review the guidelines from time to time;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the guidelines to all non-governmental organizations having observer status with the Authority.

*186th meeting
26 July 2019*

¹ ISBA/A/6.



Annex

Guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority

I. Purposes

1. The present guidelines are aimed at facilitating the assessment by the Assembly of requests for observer status submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of its rules of procedure.
2. The guidelines also address the periodic review of the list of NGOs that the Assembly has invited as observers under rule 82 (1) (e).

II. Guidelines

A. Requests for observer status

3. The Assembly may extend invitations to participate as observers to NGOs that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, in accordance with rule 82 (1) (e) of its rules of procedure.

4. In determining whether an NGO can demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, the Assembly may have regard, inter alia, to:

(a) Whether the purposes or activities of the organization are related to the purposes and work of the International Seabed Authority or whether the organization can contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants;

(b) Whether the organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area;

(c) Whether the organization has an interest in or the ability to support the capacity-building programmes and initiatives carried out by the Authority.

5. If the Assembly determines that an applicant organization has not demonstrated its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, or if the Assembly determines that an applicant organization has provided insufficient information regarding its request for observer status, the Assembly may, if it considers it appropriate, invite the applicant to resubmit its application for consideration at the following annual session of the Assembly.

B. Format and content of applications

6. Each application for observer status shall be submitted in the format prescribed in enclosure 1 and shall be addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority.

C. Submission of requests

7. Each applicant shall submit a request in writing no less than three months before the opening of the session of the Assembly at which the request is to be reviewed. Each applicant will be invited to introduce the request and remain available to provide any further information during the consideration of the request by the Assembly.

D. Periodic review of the list of non-governmental organizations

8. The Assembly may review every five years the list of NGOs to which it has granted observer status to determine whether they continue to demonstrate an interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly. The list is available on the Authority's website.

9. In order to facilitate the periodic review of NGOs granted observer status, each organization will be required to provide, within the review period, a report containing information that demonstrates its continued interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly. The questionnaire provided in enclosure 2 should be used for that purpose.

10. The Assembly may withdraw observer status, including if it decides, on the basis of the review of the organization's responses to the questionnaire in enclosure 2 or any other credible information brought to the attention of the Assembly, that an organization can no longer demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly.

11. In the event of the withdrawal of observer status by the Assembly, no new application may be made until at least two years have elapsed since the withdrawal.

Enclosure 1

Format and content of applications

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization
2. Address of headquarters
3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters
4. Telephone number
5. Fax number
6. Email address
7. Name, title and contact details of focal point
8. Background information on the organization
9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?
10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?
11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations
12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.
14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.
15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.
16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.
17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).

Enclosure 2

Questionnaire to be completed by the non-governmental organization for the periodic review

Name and acronym:

Date:

1. Please describe any changes in the information provided about the organization in its application for observer status (enclosure 1, questions 1 to 12).
2. Briefly outline how your organization has demonstrated its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 3 to 6 and by providing any other relevant information from the past five years.
3. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of your organization relate to the work of the Authority.
4. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has contributed to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.
5. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.
6. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has contributed to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).
7. Please indicate how many times your organization has attended meetings of the Assembly as an observer and whether your organization has made oral statements, and on which questions, within the scope of its activities.
8. Please indicate the composition of the delegation of your organization at each meeting attended.
9. Has your organization participated in workshops and sensitization seminars of the Authority or has it sponsored or co-hosted workshops with the Authority?
10. Has your organization participated in public consultations of stakeholders by the Authority?
11. Has your organization held side-events on activities of the Authority? Has your organization referred to the work of the Authority in other forums?
12. Briefly outline whether and how your organization keeps abreast of the activities of the Authority between its sessions (e.g., newsletters, social media).
13. If there have been changes to your organization in the past five years, please also provide the secretariat with the information requested in enclosure 1.