



30/01/2018

BusinessEurope submission to SBI 48 (April-May 2018) on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders

The Paris Agreement is the single most important tool in providing clarity in the direction that society must take to tackle climate change. BusinessEurope is fully committed to its implementation, and its member companies are investing billions into low-carbon innovation, as well as the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies for the future. In the years running up to this year's Talanoa Dialogue, European business has encouraged national governments to reaffirm their commitments to Paris Agreement by making strong progress on the Paris Rulebook. BusinessEurope and its members will continue to do so in 2018 by providing representative business views and expertise to inform deliberations and provide technical input on Europe's NDCs. It will also push its governments to call for greater action from Europe's main trading partners to converge their climate ambitions to those of Europe's. Only then will we see the required global emissions reductions that are necessary to achieve the common ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

In order to assure credible, timely and consistent information from the business community reach the Parties, BusinessEurope calls on the SBI-48 to begin building a **recognised business channel**. This business channel will be pivotal to provide real input into the continuous cycle of reviewing and improving NDCs. It will also allow for a standing and ongoing interactive structure for business and industry to the UNFCCC Focal Point.

There are a number of general principles that will guide the recognised business channel:

- Inclusiveness and openness for business communities in both developing and developed countries.
- Voluntary, self-managed and self-resourced by representative business groups at national, regional, international and sectoral levels.
- Recognised, mainstreamed and transparent.
- Not aiming for a "single consensus", allowing for multiple views and ideas.
- In synergy with the existing structures of the UNFCCC.

In addition to a recognised business channel, BusinessEurope believes that the following principles should guide non-Party stakeholder involvement into the UNFCCC process in general:

Access to the UNFCCC Process

- There must be no discrimination between any of the constituencies, also when space is limited. Making people part of the problem instead of the solution will significantly undermine the success of the Paris Agreement.
- Minimise restrictions (numbers etc.) to access to all COPs/SBs and where restrictions are necessary ensure that the selection process is transparent to all



groups (Noting that closed meetings/exclusions are necessary when Parties are “negotiating”).

- Allow for more flexible participation of various categories of participants in the online registration system.

Activities during the UNFCCC Meetings

- Continue system to allow one statement per constituency of 2 minutes at the opening plenaries of COPs/SBs.
- Continue process to organize a meeting during COPs/SBs with the COP Presidency, Chairs of the appropriate Meetings (APA, SBI, SBSTA etc.) and the Executive Secretary.
- Continue availability of pre/post meeting documents through the UNFCCC website.
- Continue the availability of in-session documents through the UNFCCC web-portal using social media to call attention to their availability.
- Expand the opportunities to provide written input on all agenda items through ensuring that pre-designated language is contained in the opening paragraphs of all COP/CMP/SB decisions and conclusions.
- Pre-COP consultations should be summarized and conveyed to Parties in an informational document as part of COP documentation.
- Consultations should take place with the BINGO community during the early preparation of meetings (TEMs, High-level events, the Global Action Agenda etc.) to obtain views on priority areas, the appropriate agenda structure, timing and potential speakers from the BINGO community.
- Continue and enhance opportunities to be briefed on advancement of work.

The Role of the UNFCCC Champions

- Champions should moderate an annual “pre-COP” with constituencies and, where possible, hold focused formal Dialogues.
- UNFCCC should create an Internet forum for the Champions and constituencies' focal points to raise and discuss relevant issues.
- Continue and expand the availability of meeting rooms for side events in the Blue zone.

Engagement with UNFCCC Standing Bodies

- Continue and augment the formal engagement of members of the Business Community with UNFCCC Standing bodies such as the TEC, CTCN, Green Climate Fund etc.

Synergies between UNFCCC process and Global Action Agenda

- Explore and extend synergies between the UNFCCC process and the Global Action Agenda; one way to do this is to arrange a steering committee with focus on a single joint Business and Industry Day at COP-24 including the COP Presidency, the High-Level Champions, the UNFCCC, and representatives from the business community.

We look forward to working with the current and next Presidencies to continue the focus on action and partnerships, and hope to continue the momentum during the Fijian and Polish Presidencies and beyond.