

Comparison of WHO Tobacco and UN Climate Convention for observers

WHO FCTC (tobacco control)	UNFCCC (climate change)
<p>Observers 26 at the time of COP-6 in 2014 No business NGOs</p>	<p>Observers 1,949 in 2015 [statistics] 41% are environmental NGOs 14% are business NGOs. 25% are 'research and independent' NGOs At UNFCCC COP-6 there were 479 NGO observers</p>
<p>Criteria Rules of procedure 31.2 - must be international, must be aligned with the FCTC purpose</p> <p><i>“international and regional nongovernmental organizations whose aims and activities are in conformity with the spirit, purpose and principles of the Convention, may apply for observer status.</i></p> <p>Note that when FCTC secretariat reviewed accreditation of NGOs it requested reports from observers:</p> <p><i>NGOs were asked to ensure that their reports addressed, in particular, activities undertaken in support of implementation of the Convention by the Parties and internationally, preferably in respect of specific articles of the Convention.</i></p>	<p>Criteria Rules of procedure 7 - applicant may be a national body and has relevant knowledge:</p> <p><i>Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or nongovernmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the secretariat of its wish to be represented</i></p>
<p>Admission process [link] Timing: 90 days before session Close of play 8 August 2016 for COP-7</p>	<p>Admission process [link] <i>The organization must have completed at least one full accounting year.</i></p>
<p>Decision-making - secretariat reviews conformance with criteria and makes recommendation to the COP.</p> <p>Rules of procedure 31.2 - requires consent of parties (i.e. each party has a veto)</p> <p><i>“granted by the Conference of the Parties, based on the report of the Secretariat, and taking into account the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs as well as Article 5.3</i></p>	<p>Decision-making [Rules of procedure 7] - the secretariat reviews applications makes recommendations, an applicant can only be blocked by one-third of the parties</p> <p><i>may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object</i></p>
<p>Qualifiers From rule 31.2 - referring to FCTC text</p> <p>17th para: refers to consumers but stresses contribution to tobacco control: <i>Emphasizing the special contribution of nongovernmental organizations and other members of civil society not affiliated with the tobacco industry, including health professional bodies, women’s, youth, environmental and consumer groups, and academic and health care institutions, to tobacco control efforts nationally and internationally and the vital importance of their participation in national and international tobacco control efforts,</i></p>	<p>Qualifiers None</p>

18th para: refers to exclusion of tobacco industry interests:

Recognizing the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts,

Article 5.3 refers to exclusion of tobacco industry interests:

In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.

Documents required

1. A letter of application signed by the head of the organization;
2. Application form, completed and signed, including supporting documentation as indicated in the form such as:
3. documents specifying the nature and identity of the organization, including evidence of nonprofit status (e.g. certificate of registration or establishment, tax-exempt status);
4. documents detailing the aims/objectives and main activities of the organization, including its geographical scope (e.g. statutes, by-laws);
5. documents detailing the human resources, sources of funding, membership and governance of the organization (e.g. annual report, including financial report);
6. information supporting claims, if any, that the organization is in formal relations with other organizations/bodies of the United Nations system;
7. documents that indicate the organization's competence in matters related to the WHO FCTC (preferably with reference to specific articles of the Convention).

Documents required

1. Letter of application from the head of the organization.
2. Certified copies of documents detailing the mandate, scope and governing structure of the organization
3. Certificate of incorporation/registration/establishment of the organization
4. Certificate of the non-profit and/or tax-exempt status of the organization
5. A recent annual report, including a financial statement that provides information expenditure of the organization;
6. List of donors and other funding sources in the last two years unless the organization is one year old. The treatment of the information is strictly confidential;
7. Information on activities undertaken by the organization in the last 12 months that indicate the competence of the organization in matters relating to the UNFCCC, such as newsletters and other publications;
8. Information on the affiliation of the organization with other non-governmental organizations or networks involved in climate change activities;
9. Completed contact details form,
10. In the case of research institutes, including universities, a document that proves academic independence of the organization.

Reporting process [\[link\]](#)

NGOs with observer status to the COP will be requested to submit a report on their activities to the Secretariat every two years. Such reports shall be submitted at the latest six months before the opening of the next session of the COP. In this regard, the COP adopted a standard reporting questionnaire to be used by NGOs which will be available on web-based format in due course.

Reporting process

None