

Update on access to information and public participation for meetings on carbon trading and other market-based mechanisms under the UNFCCC

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The UNFCCC secretariat continues to ensure that the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and public participation are upheld in all discussions and decisions related to carbon trading and market-based mechanisms. This approach helps build trust, enhance accountability, and foster broader support for these mechanisms.

Access to information

The UNFCCC secretariat prioritizes transparency and inclusivity, ensuring that stakeholders have comprehensive access to information. All official documents related to carbon trading and market-based mechanisms are made publicly available on the UNFCCC website unless they are confidential. These include draft texts, decisions, standards, procedures, and technical papers, as well as meeting agendas, background documents, conclusions, decisions, and reports. Meeting sessions and technical workshops are webcast live and are available on the UNFCCC website unless closed for reasons of confidentiality. Information about upcoming meetings, including agendas and relevant documents, is circulated well in advance through the UNFCCC website and official mailing lists to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient time to prepare.

Public participation

The UNFCCC secretariat recognizes the critical role of stakeholder engagement in effective climate action and follows practices that facilitate public participation. Meetings on carbon trading and other market-based mechanisms under UNFCCC, including Article 6 negotiation sessions, technical expert meetings, and workshops, are open for attendance as observers by UNFCCC-admitted observer organizations, including NGOs, IGOs, and civil society groups, unless closed for reasons of confidentiality. The observers can make written submissions, interventions, and presentations and engage with negotiators. The UNFCCC secretariat provides opportunities for observers to organize side events and exhibits during meetings, facilitating the sharing of information, best practices, and perspectives on carbon trading and market-based mechanisms. The UNFCCC secretariat also conducts public consultations and invites submissions of views and proposals by stakeholders, which are considered during the drafting of negotiation texts and decisions. In addition, the UNFCCC secretariat maintains public registries for carbon trading and other market-based mechanisms, providing information on projects, transactions, and compliance with relevant rules and standards.

It is important to highlight that there is no ‘public participation’, in the sense that the UNFCCC meetings and events are not open to the general public. However, besides national government representatives of the Parties, observer organizations, i.e., UN agencies and admitted IGOs and NGOs, and accredited media can participate in the process. In addition, main proceedings such as plenary and a number of mandated events are also publicly webcasted. Recent guidance from Parties on observer engagement in the UNFCCC process can be found in the SBI 60 conclusions¹ from June 2024.

¹ Accessible through https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-60?item=5#decisions_reports when available.