

Draft Proposal for Virtual Participation at Advisory Board Meetings

Joint Annual Report of the CTCN – Annex X

Recommended measures to enhance the efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint of Advisory Board meetings of the Climate Technology Centre and Network by authorizing virtual meetings and allowing remote participation of Advisory Board members.

I. Procedural background

1. Decision 25/CP.19, Annex II, VI and VII, respectively stipulate the procedures that guide the Meetings of and establish Quorum for the CTCN Advisory Board. Inter alia, it is specified that the Advisory Board shall meet at the premises of the CTC unless otherwise decided by the Board, that facilitating the participation of key stakeholders should be a consideration in the case of venue rotation, and that eleven of the Advisory Board's twenty-five members must be present to constitute quorum for the adoption of decisions by the Board.
2. The CTCN Advisory Board is currently mandated to meet at least twice per calendar year. In addition to the Board's twenty-five members, Board meetings usually attract approximately forty in-person observers and usually feature remote participation by 2-3 experts, including from the Green Climate Fund. Advisory Board meetings are streamed via the Internet, except for agenda items dealing with particularly sensitive information.
3. The UNFCCC is a progressive adopter of streaming technology, and is exploring technological options to facilitate the remote participation of delegates and other experts at meetings of its constituted bodies. Many government officials participate in multiple meetings on an annual basis, and the adoption of progressive technological solutions would enable more representative participation at meetings of the UNFCCC and its Technology Mechanism. These adjustments would enable the CTCN Advisory Board to keep pace with any changes proposed by the UNFCCC, and to assist with the piloting of any proposed solutions.

II. Purpose and scope

4. The purpose of this recommendation is to enable the CTCN Advisory Board to, in future and if appropriate, convene one in-person meeting and one virtual meeting each calendar year. The proposed adjustments to the rules of procedure would recognize remote participation and enable Board members to participate and vote on proposed actions by the Advisory Board.
5. It would also have the effect of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change while preserving financial resources to be applied towards climate solutions.

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6. The CTCN Advisory Board notes that it may make use of some but not necessarily all of the proposed additional measures for its operation in 2018. It would not implement virtual meetings unless agreed by the Board beforehand.
 7. However, the approval of these proposed additional measures at COP23 would provide the CTCN Advisory Board with the full range of possibilities identified, to be used as needed in the future, including in the longer term. As such, all proposed additional measures are included in the recommendation.

III. Recommendation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network Advisory Board to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

8. The COP may wish:

(a) To affirm that, to support the prudent management of resources and a diminished environmental footprint associated with travel to its meetings, the CTCN Advisory Board may meet in person less than twice a year, and may implement additional efficiency measures for its operation, such as virtual participation in meetings, electronic consultation and electronic decision-making;

(b) To also affirm that virtual participation of members of the Advisory Board at its meetings shall count towards the quorum and that virtual meetings of the CTCN Advisory Board are meetings of the Advisory Board as described in the rules of procedure;

(c) To further affirm that electronic or verbal indication of agreement is sufficient to fulfil the requirements of the rules of procedure respecting remote participation.