

Options for Observers to the Green Climate Fund

Ilana Solomon
ActionAid USA

In thinking about the different roles for observers to the Green Climate Fund, it may be helpful to consider a few different precedents for observers on multilateral funds:

1) The Adaptation Fund (AF): In the AF, any UNFCCC accredited observer can attend the meetings and listen. However, there is no dedicated regular space for civil society to intervene in those meetings and observers are often shut out of Executive Sessions.

2) Climate Investment Funds: The CIFs have "active civil society observers." In the case of the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience (PPCR), this includes: four civil society representatives (one from a developed country, one from Asia, one from Africa, and one from Latin America) and two Indigenous People's representatives.

Active observers can:

- Request the floor during discussions of the Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees to make verbal interventions. Selected observers from each of the constituency groups are requested to work together to coordinate their interventions to maximize efficiency of the proceedings.
- Request the Co-Chairs to add agenda items to the provisional agenda.
- Recommend external experts to the Trust Fund Committee or the Co-Chairs to speak on a specific agenda item.

In the case of the Climate Investment Funds, the observers were identified through a self-selection process designed and managed by an independent organization, RESOLVE. (For more information on RESOLVE and the self-selection process, see <http://www.resolve.org/cif/>).

It is important to note that active observers have been shut out of Executive Sessions (in the case of the Clean Technology Fund). And, unlike in the Adaptation Fund, civil society representatives cannot come and simply listen.

3. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Fund (GAFSP): The GAFSP includes three civil society representatives—two from Southern civil society organizations (CSO) and one from a Northern CSO—on the GAFSP Steering Committee. The representatives were selected through a self-selection process managed through their respective networks. On the GAFSP, CSO representatives are referred to as “non-voting members”

and have all the same rights as members – except for voting. (This includes speaking at any time, requesting agenda items, being included in all Executive Sessions.)

Other Options for Consideration

-- What we DON'T want is a 2 or even 5 minute intervention at each meeting – this is not nearly substantial enough.

-- One other possibility could be to ask for regular interventions throughout the meeting, potentially at every agenda item (should civil society want to comment on it).