

## Guidance for IETA Delegates to COP23

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We are looking forward to work together at COP23 in Bonn in November. We want to offer you a procedural “scene setter” for this event.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been criticised in recent months for allowing business observers to participate in its processes. Critics say that the presence of business observers is concerning due to potential conflicts of interest. We hold a different view.

IETA supports the UNFCCC’s goals and objectives for climate protection. We also respect its rules and procedures, including its guidelines for observer participation. We support the Parties’ efforts to draw upon business as a partner in the global effort, creating platforms for sharing successes and celebrating achievements through the Global Climate Action Agenda.

At COP23, we expect another push against corporate participation at COPs. IETA’s official communications on this and other COP topics will be coordinated by Katie Kouchakji ([kouchakji@ieta.org](mailto:kouchakji@ieta.org)). But we also wanted you to be prepared with a few key points on our views on the importance of corporate engagement:

1. IETA and its members bring a long history of cooperation with the UNFCCC, having helped mobilise action and investment in the CDM and JI programmes of the past – and hoping to prompt more business action through cooperative approaches under the Paris Agreement’s Article 6.
2. While businesses face many challenges in addressing climate change, the private sector also brings innovation, green finance and technology solutions. That’s why business must be part of the climate negotiations – because it is part of the solution.
3. IETA is committed to transparency and openness. We operate in a transparent manner daily, making the list of our members, our governance structure and principles publicly available. We also support openness in UNFCCC negotiations. We urge Parties to the UNFCCC to open their negotiating sessions to observers. This will increase public awareness of policy developments and build support for the outcomes.
4. IETA strives to participate in the UN process with constructive ideas and an entrepreneurial “can do” spirit that is essential to the transformation required to address climate change.

We also believe that we can improve our efforts. To that end, the IETA governing council adopted a set of Guidelines for our delegation’s participation at COP23, which appear on the following page. It will be posted on the IETA website for public view.

We hope that this information helps prepare you for a productive COP23 experience. If we can be of any assistance over the next two weeks, please reach out to our team on the ground – or stop by the “IETA Business Hub” for a visit.

## IETA DELEGATION GUIDELINES ON COP23 PARTICIPATION

### 6 November 2017

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#### Introduction

IETA members play a valuable role at meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as we have done since our founding in 1999.

IETA's diverse membership joins together in support of a clear [Mission](#), favouring business engagement in climate action consistent with the UNFCCC's objectives through effective market-based trading systems that are fair, open, efficient, accountable and consistent across national boundaries. We encourage our members to make public their emissions and plans for addressing climate change.

We are committed to serve as constructive observers of UN negotiations, honouring its guidelines for observers. The annual gathering of the global climate community at the UNFCCC "Conference of the Parties" (COP) presents an unparalleled opportunity to advance international cooperation on climate change, both at national, subnational and corporate levels. Fundamentally, we believe that our businesses should be part of the climate negotiations – because we intend to be part of the solution.

#### Guidelines

The IETA Council adopted the following Guidelines for those individuals attending COP23 on IETA's delegation:

- IETA, its members and those attending COP23 as members of its delegation support climate action under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. We pledge to assist in their implementation and are particularly engaged with helping make the negotiations on Article 6 a success.
- At COP23, we will make public IETA's Priorities for the negotiations, highlighting the policies that we believe will enable greater climate action and investment by business.
- We are clear in our support of effective market-based trading systems for greenhouse gas emissions. We make all of our position papers publicly available on our website as a matter of course.
- IETA delegates to COP23 will respect the UNFCCC's [Guidelines for the participation of representatives of non-governmental organisations at meetings](#) (October 2017).
- At COP23, we will disclose the names and affiliations of the members of our delegation. Our full membership is publicly available on our website.
- As in previous COPs, our side events will be open to any interested parties present, subject to space constraints. We will again partner and collaborate with other NGOs, negotiators and groups. We will endeavour to allow time for open, constructive discussion and dialogue in our events.