GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING THE CRITERIA OF “MAJOR PLAYER” AND “MUTUAL BENEFIT” TO FUTURE REQUESTS FOR OBSERVERSHIP IN THE PUMA COMMITTEE

This final version of the Guidelines takes into account comments provided by delegates during and after discussions at the 27th session of the PUMA Committee.

The guidelines were approved by the Committee via written procedure.

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1. Following a request by the Secretary-General, the OECD Public Management (PUMA) Committee agreed at its 26th session to establish guidelines for applying the criteria of “major player” and “mutual benefit” to future requests for observership.

2. Resolution C(96)64/REV2/FINAL governs the participation of non-member economies in OECD instruments and subsidiary bodies. In particular, the Resolution provides broad guidelines on the application of the two criteria -- “major player”/“mutual benefit” -- used to assess a request for observership status. However, specific interpretation of the application of these criteria is left to the subsidiary bodies in light of the broad scope of the OECD’s substantive work and the heterogeneity of committee working methods.

3. As a result, committees are encouraged to develop appropriate guidelines for the application of the observership criteria, taking into account the field of competence of each committee, which would then be used consistently to frame their technical opinions for specific requests. A technical opinion submitted to the CCN/Council would include a reference to the committees’ guidelines to help the CCN/Council understand the basis of the opinion.

4. Following discussion of a first draft of the guidelines at the 27th Session of the PUMA Committee, and incorporation of delegates’ comments, the following guidelines have been adopted via written procedure by the PUMA Committee, and will be applied to future requests for observership.

PUMA Committee guidelines for the application of the criteria of “major player” and “mutual benefit”

I. An applicant for observer status may be considered a “major player” based on:

- Its demonstrated willingness – including political commitment and leadership – and capacity to strengthen its public administration in the interests of better governance, and the experience and performance it has demonstrated in implementing and evaluating good governance policies in areas such as citizen-oriented administration, public participation in the decision-making process, rationalisation of state administration, administrative simplification and regulatory reform, introducing information technology into government and the administration, and modernising human resources management.

- The existence of an established national structure and policy to promote good public governance in the country.

- Its capacity to collect, provide and share high-quality data and analysis on public management and good governance issues.

- The posture and leadership it has adopted in international public management discussions.
• The degree of public access to information on governance issues and public participation in the country’s decision-making process.

• Its willingness and capacity to apply PUMA Committee policy recommendations related to public management issues.

II. An applicant’s observership status may be considered of mutual benefit based on:

• Its adoption of legislation and organisational structures that are in line with international practice, so that the discussion of their implementation against a broad variety of member countries’ experience can contribute to mutual learning.

• Its level of knowledge and expertise in public management reform and innovation.

• Its capacity to contribute to international policy dialogue on public management issues.