

**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

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TDPC Global Relations Strategy 2010-14

Revision 2013

This is a final version of the document presented at the 29th meeting of the Territorial Development Policy Committee meeting, on 17-18 June 2013 [GOV/TDPC(2013)5].

On 5 July 2013, a revised version of the Global Relations Strategy was approved by the TDPC through written procedure [GOV/TDPC(2013)5REV2].

On 15 October 2013, the Council formally approved the Committee's Participation Plan, in Annex 2 of this document.

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. The new 2012 Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [C(2012)100/FINAL] called all Committees to update their Global Relations Strategies and prepare Participation Plans to guide the participation of non-Member countries in the Committees in the longer term. This document represents a draft revised Global Relations Strategy for the TDPC in response to Council's resolution and is accompanied by a draft proposed Participation Plan (ANNEX 1), which will be presented to Council. It is aligned with OECD strategic priorities, and informed by the successes and lessons arising from the strategy previously approved by the TDPC in 2010 [GOV/TDPC(2010)17].

2. The document offers a structured way to engage in a dialogue with like-minded non-Member countries, providing the Committee with the flexibility of using multiple mechanisms for engaging partner countries in the longer term. The objectives are to:

- sustain and increase the relevance and impact of PWB outputs in a more global, interconnected world;
- maintain high-level of standards and focused discussions at the Committee level; and
- respond to an increasing demand for regional, urban and rural development policy expertise around the world, while allowing for mutual learning and a gradual approach to engagement.

The impact of the Council's Resolution

3. In accordance with the new 2012 Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [C(2012)100/FINAL], all Committees were called to update their Global Relations Strategies with a view of enhancing the quality, relevance and impact of the Organisation's work and hence its capacity to fulfil its mandate as defined in the OECD Convention. The Resolution introduced new rules for non-Member participation in the work of OECD Committees, to make them more flexible and ensure their compatibility with the Organisation's overall Global Relations Strategy. It recognised the importance of ensuring non-Member participation in OECD bodies on a basis of mutual interest, as well as the need to foster co-operation in order to enhance the influence of the Organisation's work and its role on shaping the international agenda.

4. To ensure that substantive committees' Global Relations Strategies remain relevant and that their Programmes of Work and Budget are based on up-to-date strategies, the Resolution invites all committees to review their strategies biennially, in parallel to the preparations of their biennial programmes of work. It also specified that a committee wishing to involve one or more non-Member countries in its work shall develop a Participation Plan, based on its Global Relations Strategy, which should be submitted for approval by mutual agreement.

5. This new resolution is aligned with the OECD Development Strategy, which also frames OECD relations with partner economies and guides OECD contribution to the development process. The OECD Development Strategy addresses the "what" and the "why" of engaging non-Members, while this Resolution and the OECD Global Relations Strategy focus primarily on the "who" and the "how".

2. Policy context

6. The recurrent financial and economic crises over the past several years acutely illustrated how interdependent world economies have become. Today, as countries and regions at all levels of development seek to recover from the crisis, they are looking for insight into managing the long-term residual effects, including higher unemployment (particularly youth), strained national and sub-national budgets, and a demand by citizens and businesses for more transparent and accountable performance.

7. Indeed the turbulence that recently shook the global economic landscape and the wave of political changes that swept through the MENA region vividly demonstrate the extent to which countries, regions and their social and economic outcomes are interconnected. The well-being of OECD countries depends more and more on what happens outside the OECD area as much as what happens inside it. The quality and reliability of OECD policy advice to its Members will be increasingly judged by its relevance for guiding co-operation, investment and policies *vis-à-vis* developing and emerging economies and the countries of the G20.

8. Moreover, in its role as a leading forum for policy makers in a multi-disciplinary approach, and in light of the challenges presented by the economic, fiscal and governance crises, the OECD is taking a more visible and active role in the work of the G20. As a result of the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the Organisation has been tasked with substantive contributions in a number of policy areas, including bribery and corruption, employment and social policy, strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and investment and trade. This illustrates the need for the OECD and its subsidiary bodies to cover emerging economies more systematically in its work.

9. Engagement of partner countries in TDPC activities would also be in line with the 2010-14 TDPC mandate and thus focus on improving the performance of regional policies to enhance well-being and living standards in *all* types of regions.

Why engage partner countries in TDPC work?

10. Engaging non-Members in regional development issues is of value to both Members and non-Members, since all economies are striving to recover from the multiple crises. Specifically, engaging like-minded partner countries can help to build stronger Committee output results and deliver on corporate priorities, including the OECD-wide Global Relations and Development Strategies, by

- *increasing the diversity of experiences and perspectives brought together in TDPC activities*, including in thematic reports and Territorial Reviews. Some partner countries may offer fresh and innovative ways of looking at regional development policies and making territorial reforms happen, as they have had to reform their governance systems relatively quickly and adopt innovative ways to make the necessary adjustments;
- *yielding stronger horizontal outputs in long-term projects* such as urbanisation, capacity building at the sub-national level, sub-national finances, water governance and other future specific policy topics the Committee chooses to study; and
- *increasing awareness of the crucial role of effective regional policies* to a more integrated, multi-level governance view on development strategies, such as public investment, social outcomes, environmental sustainability or innovation.

4. Engaging with whom?

11. Below are the categories of non-Member countries that TDPC may consider engaging with through its Global Relations Strategy:

- **Accession countries** – while the Russia accession process to the OECD is still underway, a number of other countries have officially expressed an interest in OECD membership.¹ At the 2013 Council Meeting at Ministerial it was agreed to begin accession procedures with Colombia and Latvia, and at a next stage with Costa Rica and Lithuania. The countries invited to begin the accession process could be added to the Participation Plan. In this context, to reinforce knowledge sharing, the Committee could consider undertaking peer review(s) of regional, rural or urban policy for these countries.
- **Key partners (enhanced engagement countries)** - Enhanced Engagement (EE) is considered by the Council as a critical step in addressing the challenge of transforming into a more plural and open organisation. The central element of EE was meant to be direct and active participation of the five key partner countries in the work of OECD bodies. The TDPC has already approved its strategy for engaging key partners in 2010 [GOV/TDPC(2010)17]. While the Committee is increasingly integrating key partners in its activities, more proactive steps would be necessary to engage with Indonesia. A summary of proposed individual plans for engaging with key partners is provided in the Annex 2. These countries have been included in the Committee's draft Participation Plan, although their participation no longer requires approval of the Council.
- **Partner countries (other non-Member countries)** - Involvement of partner countries depends on the type of engagement mechanisms and will be based on the principle of mutual learning. It is proposed to use regional programmes and projects as the main mechanisms to involve a wide range of partner countries that are interested in exchanging lessons learned and good practices in promoting regional development (see next section).

¹ These countries include Costa Rica and Lithuania.

12. Regarding the meetings of the Committee and its networks (see next section), it is suggested to ensure a gradual approach for engagement and prioritise the demand of partner countries to participate in the meetings as *invitees* (Table 1), by focusing on partner countries engaging strongly in and adding value to Committee's substantive work on regional development policy (current or potential). This category would include non-Members contributing to the Committee's evidence base, providing opportunities for knowledge sharing and, providing significant financial support for OECD work. Substantive work may include undertaking a country, metropolitan, rural or innovation review(s), engaging with the Committee in designing joint products or events or otherwise contributing to the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate. Most countries currently engaged in the substantive activities with the Committee or those that take active steps in this direction, are already proposed for the inclusion in the Committee's Participation Plan (Annex 1). In addition, over time, the Committee may decide to engage with other countries, which have a strong potential to provide a clear mutual benefit through contribution of institutional and policy know-how to TDPC peer learning/influencing and rule-making processes (e.g., remaining G20 countries), are likeminded and/or are major players on a global arena.

Table 1. Proposed Criteria for Non-Member Participation in the Committee

<i>Categories of participation</i>	<i>Proposed Criteria</i>
<i>Associate</i>	<p>Partnerships with like-minded countries that would serve a mutual interest, evidenced through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrating willingness and ability to comply with/implement any legal instruments that may be developed by the Committee. 2. Demonstrating coherence with regional, urban and rural policies and practices found in OECD Member countries. 3. Demonstrating willingness and ability to establish a policy dialogue on regional policies and comply with/implement any future Committee instruments through a peer assessment/review. The Committee will use the means of peer reviews of regional, urban or rural policy, as a benchmark tool for policy dialogue on regional development issues in countries aiming to acquire an Associate Status in the Committee; 4. Meeting all criteria for Committee participants (below); 5. The appropriate number of Associates in the Committee. <p><i>Proposed fee: EUR 50 000</i> (EUR 10 600 allocated to the central budget of the organisation, with the rest remaining in the Committee’s budget)</p>
<i>Participant</i>	<p>Partnerships that would serve a mutual interest, in light of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant facilitation to the achievement of the Committee’s mandate and the Programme of Work (or subsidiary body concerned) and facilitate good practice exchange through sharing institutional and policy know-how; 2. The effects on economic growth and/or the welfare of Members, considered on a national level, for regions and cities or on a global basis. 3. The appropriate number of Participants in the Committee. <p><i>A standard fee: EUR 10 600</i> (allocated to the central budget of the organisation)</p>
<i>Invitee</i>	<p>Partnerships that would serve a mutual interest, in light of:</p> <p>Partner country’s strong engagement in, and adding value to, OECD substantive work on regional development (current or potential). This category would include non-Members engaging strongly in substantive work, and which contribute to the OECD’s evidence base, provide opportunities for mutual learning and knowledge sharing and, in many cases, provide significant financial support for OECD work. In addition, the Committee may decide to engage with some other countries which have a strong potential to provide a clear mutual benefit through contribution of institutional and policy know-how to TDPC peer learning/influencing and rule-making processes (e.g., remaining G20 countries), are likeminded and / or are major players on a global arena.</p> <p><i>There is no fee for participating in Committee’s meetings as invitees</i></p>

5. Engaging How? Methods of Engagement

13. There are a variety of ways in which the Committee can meet the objectives of this proposed Global Relations Strategy. Overall, it is proposed to consolidate the strategy implementation in the next biennium along three main tracks of non-Member engagement:

1. Participation in meetings of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and networks;
2. Engagement in substantive work through participation in Committee's activities, in particular Regions at a Glance, policy databases and horizontal projects;
3. Tailored country-based engagement: mutual learning/exchange workshops, policy support in the form of reviews and data support in the form of regional governance indicators; institutional partnerships and co-operation, capacity building activities, peer advice and peer learning.

a) Participation in TDPC and its networks

14. While an important way to involve partner countries in Committee's activities, the participation in the meetings of the Committee and its networks will nonetheless be limited to a narrow set of partner countries, which would be selected according to a clear set of criteria related to the mutual benefit and like-mindedness, including meeting corporate priorities (Table 1).

15. The 2012 Council Resolution introduced new terminology and rules for non-Member participation in the activities of official bodies of the Organisation. The former forms of participation (full participants, regular observer, *ad hoc* observer) have now been replaced by a new range of options, composed of three levels: Invitee, Participant and Associate (Table 1). The resolution simplified the modalities of involvement, with a view of allowing full participation of non-Members in projects and their respective steering bodies.

Table 2. Overview of the Changes in the Forms of Participation

Old	New
Ad hoc observer	Invitee
Regular observer	Participant
Full participant	Associate

16. In view of the guidance provided by the Council, below are the options for country participation in meeting of the TDPC and its subsidiary bodies.

Associates

- Associate status of non-Members in the work of TDPC (previously full participant) is a powerful engagement option, which provides for proactive, long-term non-Member involvement. The threshold for associate status should be set high, and this status should be granted on an invitational basis only, following a set of criteria which clearly indicate why the TDPC wishes to involve the country and where it sees the long-term strategic value of such a working relationship.
- The Council Resolution provides a package of initial criteria for becoming an Associate in the Committee, but the Committee is requested to develop its own criteria. Based on the past practice and the importance of any OECD instruments developed by TDPC for determining like-

mindedness and commitment to the Committee’s work, Table 1 contains the proposed criteria for a non-Member country to become an associate in the TDPC.

Participants

- Participation (formerly regular observership) is another means of engaging like-minded partner countries, which is reserved for countries demonstrating a clear mutual benefit to the work of the Committee (on invitation only). A status of a participant in the Committee can be obtained by a country in a gradual manner, on the basis of a mutual learning process between the country and the Committee and by providing a substantial contribution to the TDPC substantive work. The proposed criteria for becoming a participant in the TDPC are outlined in Table 1.
- In 2013, the Committee’s current roster of two *participants* includes South Africa and Morocco. The Committee could strengthen the policy dialogue with these countries with a view of inviting them to acquire *associate* status, for example, by undertaking peer-reviews of regional policy and compliance with future TDPC instruments. The Committee will continue its proactive approach in engaging with Brazil and China, which may ultimately lead to their *participant* status, as per its 2010 Enhanced Engagement Strategy.
- In addition, the Committee may consider more active engagement of India and Indonesia with a view of determining the mutual benefit and increasing familiarity between Members and these countries. It can then allow for a well informed decision regarding the extension of a *participant* status to these countries, in line with the broader OECD Enhanced Engagement strategy. Engagement of these countries could play a significant role in accomplishing elements of the TDPC’s mandate, meeting the expectations of Council, and realising the objectives of its Global Relations strategy.

Table 3. Comparison of Participant Countries in Select OECD Committees

Committee	Participants	Key Partners²
Chemicals	1	3
Public Governance	5	2
Territorial Development Policy	2	1
Fisheries	4	0
Trade	3	1
Investment	2	1
Insurance and Private Pensions	1	0
Financial Markets	1	0
Competition	15	4
Fiscal Affairs	5	3
Scientific and Technological Policy	5	3
Information Computer and Communications Policy	8	4
Consumer Policy	2	1
Steel	7	3
Education Policy	3	0
Statistics	4	2
Average number per committee	4	2

Source: Adapted from OECD Global Relations Secretariat (2013).

² Key Partners participating in Committee as Participants (currently: South Africa).

Invitees

- Finally, non-Members could be invited as *invitees* (former *ad hoc* observers) to meetings of the Committee, without rights or obligations other than to attend the meeting and to participate in the discussion where appropriate. While this option should not be limited to single meetings, it does not entail an entitlement to be invited. Thus while the draft Participation Plan proposes a range of countries to be considered as *invitees* in meetings of the Committee, it is meant as a longer-term strategic list. As such inclusion in the Participation Plan does not imply that all proposed countries would attend all Committee meetings; it rather means a possibility for being invited to certain meetings.
- Countries currently proposed for the inclusion in the Participation Plan as Invitees have either engaged into the Committee's substantive work (or planning to), or are on the accession path or have a strong potential for demonstrating a mutual benefit (e.g., a significant player).
- Moreover, in terms of the future requests for participation in the TDPC work as Invitees and given the importance of keeping focused discussions during the Committee meetings, the Committee may prioritise partner countries' *ad hoc* invitations based on the suggested criteria in Table 1.

b) Engagement in the Committees' substantive work

17. The TDPC may consider engaging specific partner countries in substantive projects, policy databases and horizontal projects. Such participation and projects would be based on a strong demand of countries and relevant stakeholders, and should add value to and promote activities of the Committee, and be in accordance with the rules and procedures of the organisation, including the Council resolution on Partners, [C(2012)100].

c) Tailored country-based engagement

18. The Committee may consider engaging in specific tailored country-based activity, based on country demand and value-added to the Committee. Such activities may include mutual learning/exchange workshops, policy support in the form of reviews and data support in the form of regional policy indicators; institutional partnerships and co-operation.

19. These methods are not exhaustive, nor are they mutually exclusive. Individually, they can each play a role in helping TDPC meet the strategic objectives of the Global Relations Strategy, and taken as a package they can reinforce one another.

20. Concerning methods of engagement *b)* and *c)*, information about potential non-Member participation in Committee activities where they are involved in accordance with Council-recognised procedures will be provided to the Committee in the course of the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. During the course of the biennium, information about non-Member participation that has not been provided prior to the start of the biennium will be made available in good time to Members, so that Committee members may have the opportunity to comment if they wish.

REFERENCES

- GOV/TDPC (2010)17 Strategy for Defining the Role and Participation of Non-Members in the TDPC's work.
- C(2012)100/FINAL Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies.
- C(2010)100/FINAL The Guidelines to Committees for Deepening Enhanced Engagement.
- C/MIN(2012)6 The OECD Strategy on Development.
- C/MIN(2011)6/FINAL The OECD 50th Anniversary Vision Statement.
- C/MIN(2012)10/FINAL The 2012 Ministerial Council Statement.
- C(2011)3 In-Depth Evaluation of the Territorial Development Committee.
- GOV/TDPC(2009)1/FINAL Renewal of the Mandate of TDPC
- C(2009)126 Proposed Revision of the Mandate of the Territorial Development Policy Committee.
- C(2005)158/FINAL A Framework for OECD Relations with Non-Members.
- C(2004)132/FINAL Resolution of the Council Concerning the Participation of Non-Members in the Work of Subsidiary Bodies of the Organisation.
- CCNM(2009)1 The OECD's Global Relations Programme 2009-2010.
- ECSS(2009)7 Enhanced Engagement and the OECD Plus Model.
- ERC/RD(2009)3 2007-2008 PIR: Global Relations.

ANNEX 1. PROPOSED PARTICIPATION PLAN

PARTICIPATION PLAN			
OECD Body	Territorial Development Policy Committee(TDPC)		
Subsidiary bodies to which this Plan applies:	ALL		
Global Relations strategy	OLIS reference: GOV/TDPC(2010)17	Approved on: 1 December 2010	
ASSOCIATES			
Conditions	<p>Under the 2012 Resolution of the council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [C(2012)100/FINAL], invitations as Associates shall be based on “an assessment of the candidate’s policies and of its commitment to this body’s goals, practices and high standards, demonstrated by these policies and by its adherence to at least any legal instruments defined for this purpose in the Participation Plan”. It is proposed for delegates to consider the following criteria for countries to be become associates in the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate willingness and ability to comply with/implement any instruments that may be developed by the Committee. 2. Demonstrate coherence with regional, urban and territorial policies and practices found in OECD Member countries. <p>The TDPC will review the quality of the candidate countries’ policies and institutions for regional policy and governance as well as country’s willingness and ability to comply with legal instruments. In this regard, the Committee’s preferred approach is to undertake a peer-review of regional, urban or rural policy, in countries aiming to acquire an Associate Status in the Committee, and use this study as a benchmark tool.</p>		
Fee	EUR 50 000		
Associate	Bodies to which invitation applies ³	Approval date, summary record ⁴	Exchange of Letters

3 Invitations as Associate apply to the inviting body, its subsidiary bodies, joint bodies, Ministerial meetings and Global Fora, unless provided otherwise.

4 If applicable: information on suspension or termination should be mentioned in this column.

PARTICIPANTS			
Participant	Bodies to which invitation applies⁵	Approval date, summary record²	Acceptance letter
Morocco	All	C/M(2003)12, Item 192	7 January 2005
South Africa	All	C(2009)10	6 February 2009
INVITEES			
Invitee	Bodies and items to which the Invitee may be invited:⁶	Approval date, summary record	
Bulgaria	All	Partner suggested by the Committee to be invited to engage in OECD substantive work on regional development.	
Colombia	All	Accession country.	
Costa Rica	All but particularly the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas in view of Costa Rica's interest in this area of work.	In view of the decisions taken at the OECD Council meeting at Ministerial level in 2013, a mutual knowledge and co-operation could be developed, notably through undertaking a Territorial Review.	
Kazakhstan	All	Partner proposing to engage strongly in OECD substantive work on regional development. Approval by written procedure 6 May 2013.	
Latvia	All	Accession country	
Lithuania	All	In view of the decisions taken at the OECD Council meeting at Ministerial level in 2013, a mutual knowledge and co-operation could be developed, notably through undertaking a Territorial Review.	

⁵ An invitation as Participant applies to the inviting body and its Global Forums, and may apply to its subsidiary bodies and joint bodies and Ministerial meetings.

⁶ An invitation as Invitee shall apply to an individual meeting of the body concerned, or one of its subsidiary bodies or a meeting at Ministerial level, as provided for in the invitation. It may apply to meetings of joint bodies, provided that their constituent bodies agree. It may be limited to specific agenda items.

Romania	All	Partner suggested by the Committee to be invited to engage in OECD substantive work on regional development.
Russian Federation	All	Accession country
Ukraine	All	Partner proposing to engage strongly in OECD substantive work on regional development. Approval by written procedure 6 May 2013.

The following Invitees have been invited on a recurrent basis to participate in a (sub-)body's meetings for four years or more, and are not being proposed as Participants⁷

Invitee	Body	Reasons
KEY PARTNERS (FOR INFORMATION) ⁸		
Key Partner	Invitation as	Bodies to which invitation applies ⁹
Brazil	Invitee	All
China	Invitee	All
India	Invitee	All
Indonesia	Invitee	All
South Africa	Participant	All

⁷ Period starting from adoption of this participation plan (2013) pending additional approval by the External Relations Committee (ERC).

⁸ Key Partners (currently: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa) may be invited as Invitee or Participants without prior Council approval, but should be mentioned in the Participation Plan for information.

⁹ An invitation as Participant applies to the inviting body and its Global Forums, and may apply to its subsidiary and joint bodies and Ministerial meetings.

ANNEX 2. INDIVIDUAL PLANS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF KEY PARTNERS

COUNTRY	Proposed next steps for country-based engagement
BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the TDPC Enhanced Engagement Strategy, the Committee has increased dialogue with Brazil, notably through the completion of a Territorial Review. In the follow-up of this work, the authorities have started discussions about a National Urban Policy Review. Brazil was also in the report of Water Governance in LAC countries and discussions are currently underway for a Water Governance Review of Brazil. Its regular participation would enable further advancement of ongoing and future work on strategic issues which are of mutual interest and benefit. It is proposed to officially invite Brazil to become a <i>participant</i> of the Committee. • In parallel, it is envisaged to continue actively engaging Brazil in various activities of the Committee as an invitee, including follow-up and ongoing reviews, horizontal projects and data collection activities.
CHINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on previous projects such as a National Rural Policy Review and the joint work with the CDRF on urbanisation, currently the final stages of negotiation are underway for a National Urban Policy Review of China. Moreover, Chinese cities could participate in the project of Fast Growing Asian Cities. Efforts will be made to engage China in the meetings of the Committee on a more regular basis, in order to acquire <i>participant</i> status in the Committee. • It is also envisaged to continue engaging China in various activities of the Committee, including the reviews, horizontal projects and data collection activities, including Regions at a Glance.
INDIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dialogue with India on regional and urban policies has taken place on a more <i>ad hoc</i> basis, nevertheless, more recent discussions have taken place concerning the undertaking of a Territorial Review of the Mumbai-Delhi Corridor. This project of critical importance for India would provide an opportunity to strengthen co-operation. Participants from India have already attended several meetings of the Committee and its Working Parties, but it would be desirable to engage India on a more regular basis.
INDONESIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Indonesian national and sub-national government have attended TDPC events, such as the Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers. Nevertheless the dialogue with Indonesia is still limited compared with other partner countries. • In order to promote steer enhanced co-operation, the Secretariat proposes to invite representatives from Indonesia to the forthcoming Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers and the TDPC Ministerial meeting in December 2013.
SOUTH AFRICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa is the only key partner to hold <i>participant</i> status in the Committee and in this context has regularly attended Committee meetings and related activities. • TDPC has undertaken several Territorial Reviews in South Africa (<i>OECD Territorial Reviews: Cape Town, South Africa 2008, OECD Territorial Reviews: The Gauteng City-Region, South Africa 2011, Case Studies of Port-cities: Durban</i>). Given this strong relationship, it is proposed that South Africa could develop a more solid engagement and become an <i>associate</i> of the Committee.