

Guidelines for Observers to the ICPDR

Guidelines for Observers

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “Convention” means the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention), done at Sofia, on 29th of June 1994.
- 1.2 “Contracting Party” means a State or a regional economic integration organization that signed and ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Danube River Protection Convention and for which this Convention is in force.
- 1.4 “Observer” means an international or national organization or other body as referred to in Article 18 (6) of the Convention invited by the International Commission to participate to all or only selected activities in the framework of the Convention.
- 1.5 “International Commission” means the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) established by Article 18 of the Convention.
- 1.6 “Standing Working Group” means a coordinating body established in accordance with Annex IV, Article 6(1) first sentence of the Convention.
- 1.7 “President of the International Commission” means the member of the delegation to the International Commission that holds the Chair of the International Commission, nominated to become President according to Annex IV, Article 2 of the Convention.
- 1.8 “Secretariat” means the Permanent Secretariat established by Annex IV, Article 7 of the Convention.
- 1.9 “Admission” means the decision taken by the ICPDR to grant Observer status.
- 1.10 “Letter of Admission” means the formal information to the Candidate containing the admission and the specifications applying.
- 1.11 “Withdrawal” means the decision taken by the ICPDR, initiated by either party, to terminate Observer status.
- 1.12 “Letter of Withdrawal” means the formal information of the Observer on the withdrawal.

2. Observers

2.1 Rights and Duties:

- a) to be informed, by the Secretariat, of the date, place and agenda of the meetings and of the activities, in which they are entitled to participate.
- b) to have free access to the documents of the International Commission and its bodies in accordance with the decisions of the International Commission.
- c) to participate in meetings organized in the framework of the Convention, in which they are entitled to participate, with the possibility to express their position and views, and to have them reflected in the relevant documents.
- d) to submit relevant documents and proposals to the International Commission, which are distributed by the Secretariat and may be discussed at the meeting.
- e) to take part in the programs and contribute to the projects initiated under the auspices of the Convention in which they are invited to participate or to make any other voluntary contribution.
- f) to reflect in their practice the principles and goals of the Convention and the decisions and recommendations of the ICPDR.

2.2 Criteria for granting Observer Status

The general conditions under which candidates are admitted to get Observer Status to the ICPDR are the following:

- the goals and basic principles of the DRPC acknowledged;
- the existence of specialized technical or scientific competence or of other competences relating to the goals of the DRPC;
- the existence of a structured permanent administration;
- the mandate to speak as accredited representatives;
- regional or basin-wide perspective.

2.3 Procedure of granting Observer Status

- a) Proposals for admission of Observer Status shall be examined by the Commission on a case-by-case basis, having in view the readiness of the possible future Observer to make a practical and valuable contribution to the implementation of the main principles and goals of the Convention.
- b) The item of Observer Status shall be included in the agenda of the earliest possible meeting of the International Commission for decision.
- c) The President of the International Commission shall address a Letter of Admission to the Observer after its admission by the International Commission.

2.4 General conditions for Observers:

General conditions for Observers taking part in particular meetings are the following:

- a) nomination of one representative by each Observer unless otherwise agreed;
- b) active cooperation in support of the ICPDR's goals;
- c) fulfilment of the President's orders regarding the meeting conduct and management;
- d) fulfilment of special arrangements made together with the ICPDR or its Expert Body concerned.

3. Common Rules concerning Decision-making and Withdrawal

3.1 Decision-making

The Observers cannot take part in the process of adopting decisions during the meetings in the framework of the Convention (as described in Annex IV, Article 4 of the Convention), in which they are entitled to participate.

3.2 Cooperation maintenance, termination and Withdrawal

If an Observer does not participate in the Commission's work for two years in succession, the Secretariat should consult this Observer and notify the Commission.

At any time Observers may terminate their status by written notification to the Secretariat.

A withdrawal of the Observer status may be initiated by the International Commission at any time and shall take effect after the period declared by the International Commission in the Letter of Withdrawal.
