

Procedure for admission of observers to the CDENF



This document, based on the [Resolution CM/Res 2021\(3\) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods](#) is aimed at clarifying the rules applicable for the consideration and admission of any observers from states or organisations other than those referred to in the terms of reference. It shall guide the CDENF Bureau and the Committee in Plenary in decisions to be taken with regard to upcoming requests for observer status, coming from non-member states of the Council of Europe and international organisations, including civil society organisations.



Relevant legal framework

- The [Terms of Reference of the CDENF](#) (including the initial list of the observers to the CDENF);
- The [official list of observers to the CDENF](#);
- The [Resolution CM/Rec\(2021\)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods \(§8\)](#) sets out the procedure for the admission of other observers to intergovernmental committees.



Criteria for admission

1. Have a **legal personality**;
2. Have a proven ability to **share** and **promote** the values and principles of the Council of Europe;
3. Have the ability to make an effective and **high-quality contribution** to the Committee;
4. **Broad experience** in the areas of competence of the CDENF or the relevant subordinate body;
5. Adequate **europe-wide** representation, and where relevant a broader level ([CM_Res\(2016\)3](#)).

Organisations who are members of the [Council of Europe's Conference of INGO's](#) and/or of another umbrella organisation holding observer status with the CDENF have the possibility to follow and contribute to the work of the CDENF via these organisations.



Process of the application

- The application should be addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the following email address: children@coe.int;
- The application must clearly explain the **reasons** for the request and provide justification for how each of the five admission **criteria** is met, if possible within one page;
- Observers are admitted, to the CDENF or any of its subordinate body, on the basis of a **unanimous decision** by the CDENF ([CM/Rec\(2021\)3](#)).
- If unanimity is not reached, **two-thirds of the CDENF** may refer the matter to the **Committee of Ministers**;
- Upon approval by the CDENF, observers are informed and may participate in the meetings (at their own costs).



Thank you!

Please do not hesitate to contact
the CDENF Secretariat :
children@coe.int