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***Information to ICAO on the Clean Development Mechanism registry operations
and information about material changes***

Dear Ms. Hupe,

On behalf of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board, I acknowledge the request sent to the Board via the UNFCCC secretariat regarding the programme registry attestation and notification of material changes. The CDM Executive Board is accountable to the Parties of the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol.

As with the original request on assessing programme eligibility (as responded to in May 2018) the CDM Executive Board considered that it would not be appropriate to complete the relevant forms. Nevertheless, the CDM Executive Board wishes to provide information as relevant to the areas highlighted in the questionnaire as they apply in the context of the CDM.

Programme Registry

The CDM registry¹ operates under the guidance of the CDM Executive Board and the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). Fulfilling registry service requirements is in line with the CDM governance framework. No material changes have been made to the operation of the CDM registry since the information on the CDM provided to ICAO by the CDM Executive Board in May 2018.

The CDM registry accepts applications for permanent holding accounts (PHAs) only from project participants with authorizations from UNFCCC non-Annex I Parties. PHAs can hold CERs only from activities in which the account holder is a project participant and can transfer CERs only to holding accounts of project participants of the same CDM activity or to a voluntary cancellation account in the CDM registry. Furthermore, the

¹ CDM registry pages with attestations (downloadable with a link, report updated quarterly):
https://cdm.unfccc.int/Registry/vc_attest/index.html CDM registry public reports:
<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Registry/index.html> UN online platform for voluntary cancellation of CERs history page: <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/vchistory>



UN platform for voluntary cancellation of CERs allows any user to open an account on the platform and to request cancellation of CERs in the CDM registry.

Voluntary cancellation transactions² of CERs are processed on the basis of voluntary cancellation requests. Such requests may include a description that could be used by the requestor to indicate the transaction description/purpose. Limits to the length of text apply for both requests directly processed through the CDM registry and requests initiated through the UN online platform for voluntary cancellation. Other information tracked in relation to voluntary cancellation transactions includes the quantity and the serial numbers of the CERs cancelled, host country, date of cancellation, name of the requestor. Other relevant information such as applicable CDM methodology and type of the activity generating the emission reductions, as well as the period for which the CERs are issued, could be found on the relevant pages of the CDM activities on the UNFCCC CDM website.

The CDM registry processes complete and duly authorised requests for cancellation of CERs and publishes relevant attestations within three business days.

Voluntary cancellation transactions completed in accordance with project participants' requests are not reversible. The CDM registry complies with the transaction procedures as per decision 13/CMP.1 and other relevant CMP decisions, as well as the data exchange standards (DES) for registry systems under the Kyoto Protocol. The CDM registry publishes various downloadable reports and maintains a public website, including a public website for the UN online platform for voluntary cancellation of CERs.

The CDM registry is subject to regular security audits and penetration tests, including reviews of its security-related procedures and practices. The CDM registry has an internal procedure for escalating security breaches within the programme and with the administrator of the International Transaction Log in accordance with the common operating procedures related to Security Incident Management. This includes notifying CER holders, the CDM management and other stakeholders as relevant.

CDM registry business practices and procedures are available at:

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Registry/index.html>.

Material changes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the CDM Executive Board agreed at its 106th meeting that:

(a) A DOE may postpone site visits for onsite inspections required by the "CDM validation and verification standard for project activities" (VVS-PA) (version 02.0) or the "CDM validation and verification standard for programmes of activities" (VVS-PoA) (version 02.0), as a result of the

² See procedure for "Voluntary cancellation of CERs in the CDM registry" available at:

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Procedures/index.html>

Decision 13/CMP.1: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/cmp1/eng/08a02.pdf>. The DES are available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/registry-systems>.



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COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the rules of relevant national and local authorities (local to the DOE offices as well as the location of the site visits), World Health Organization recommendations, policies of the DOE (if any) and other relevant travel restrictions and guidance (for example, a requirement to self-isolate upon return from specific countries);

(b) If the site visits cannot be postponed, a proper justification should be provided by the DOE as to why the site visits cannot be postponed, including the demonstration of a significant impact of delaying the site visits on the DOE, project participants or coordinating/managing entity (e.g. commitment/ timeline as per the validation or verification contract, CER delivery commitment by project participants), with reliance on applicable force majeure provisions in the validation or verification contracts, if needed;

(c) If the site visit cannot be postponed but are not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOE may use other standard auditing techniques for validation or verification, as referred to in sections 7.1.3 and 9.1.3 of the VVS-PA and sections 7.1.3 and 10.1.3 of the VVS-PoA. With regard to the above, the Board agrees to allow for three months, from 23 March to 23 June 2020, to deviate from the requirements in paragraphs 30 and 339 of the VVS-PA and paragraphs 183 and 321 of the VVS-PoA. Where the DOE relies on this temporary measure, it shall describe in the validation/verification report the alternative means used and justify that they are credible and sufficient for the purpose of validation or verification.

The Board subsequently extended the period for these deviations until 31 December 2020 and again until 30 June 2021.

This change is a temporary deviation because of the global pandemic. It has been reflected in the meeting reports of the Executive Board, which are publicly available, and all Designated Operational Entities have been informed of the decision.

The CDM Executive Board looks forward to continued collaboration with ICAO.

Yours sincerely,

Olivier Kassi
Chair, CDM Executive Board