



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

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Request for Observer Status to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - C/OED/2025/66

18 September 2025

Addressee

H.E. Mr. Rolph Payet

Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions Secretariat

Sender

Mr. Jaewon Choi

Executive Director

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the DMUN Foundation

The Executive Director of the DMUN Foundation, on behalf of the Secretariat and Members of the Foundation, presents his compliments to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and has the honour to transmit herewith information requested for circulation, as prepared under the authority of Ms. Lily Y. YangLiu, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy and Research of the DMUN Foundation.

With reference to the Rules of Procedure of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Members of the DMUN Foundation, has the further honour respectfully to request the accreditation of the international non-governmental organization "DMUN Foundation" as an Observer to the BRS Conventions.

The DMUN Foundation is an international non-governmental organization founded in 2021. With a broad individual and organizational membership representing the interests of more than 26,000 young people across 161 States and territories, the Foundation is today the largest international non-governmental organization dedicated exclusively to the engagement of children and youth in multilateral and intergovernmental bodies and processes.

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The Foundation originally submitted the required documentation in support of its application for observer status in November 2024. However, the Foundation has not received correspondence from the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions acknowledging the receipt or consideration of these documents.

Accordingly, the Foundation has the honour once again to submit, under cover of the present communication, the complete set of required documentation in paper form through official mail.

The Foundation would be grateful if the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions would kindly forward its application for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties at their next upcoming session, to be held from 19 to 30 April 2027 in Panama City, Panama.

The Executive Director of the DMUN Foundation, on behalf of the Secretariat and Members of the Foundation, avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions the assurances of his highest consideration.

Jaewon Choi,
Executive Director,
DMUN Foundation

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Attachment I: Information describing the body or agency

The DMUN Foundation is an international, independent, non-governmental organization established in 2021. The Foundation is duly registered as a non-profit entity in 5 states and maintains its seat at the Republic of Korea.

The Foundation brings together a broad membership of individual and organizational participants representing the interests of over 26,000 young people from 161 States and territories. It is the largest international non-governmental organization devoted exclusively to the engagement of children and youth in multilateral and intergovernmental processes.

The DMUN Foundation pursues the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations by fostering knowledge of and respect for multilateral diplomacy, promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, and advancing international cooperation in areas related to sustainable development, disarmament, and global governance.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, a Governing Body, and a Secretariat, ensuring representation, accountability, and operational continuity. Its resources are derived from voluntary contributions, philanthropic support, and partnerships with private institutions; it does not accept financial contributions from governments or entities controlled/owned by governments.

The DMUN Foundation has actively participated in intergovernmental processes and United Nations bodies, contributing children and youth perspectives to negotiations and high-level dialogues.

The Foundation has multiple precedents in facilitating and advocating for youth participation inside the United Nations and its Convention Bodies, with a focus on the environment.

The Foundation has received observer, or other participatory status, in several intergovernmental organizations that include, but is not limited to: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the UNODC Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

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Attachment II: Information on the affiliation of the body or agency with non-governmental organizations or institutions

The DMUN Foundation maintains broad affiliations with non-governmental organizations and institutions active in areas relevant to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. These affiliations take the form of both membership in international coalitions and networks, and strategic partnerships formalized through memoranda of understanding.

As a member organization, the Foundation participates in the Major Group for Children and Youth, the Major Group for Non-Governmental Organizations, the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for the UNECE Region, the International Youth Climate Movement (YOUNGO), Children and Youth International, Sendai (UNDRR) Stakeholder Constituency, FfD Civil Society Mechanism, and Together 2030. These memberships enable the Foundation to contribute substantively to multi-stakeholder consultations and to coordinate its work with the broader civil society community.

The Foundation also maintains strategic partnerships with a number of institutions and initiatives dedicated to advancing education, diplomacy, sustainability, and youth leadership. These include Toronto Model United Nations, Global Diplomatic Model United Nations, KIT International Model United Nations, Manila Model United Nations, Astute Diplomats Model United Nations, Kridz World Model United Nations, and MUN Impact.

In addition, the DMUN Foundation has entered into cooperative relations with organizations such as The Vision for Teenagers Adolescents and Youths, Debate Association of Young Students, Delegating Decorum, MyMUN GmbH, Dublieu.com, ENOMAD Inc., Future United Leaders Model United Nations, Sangji Caelum Inc., and Soopro Inc.



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Attachment III: Description of any network and/or membership system

The Constitution of the Foundation charges the Secretariat of the Foundation to maintain three types of Membership: Individual, Organizational, and Honorary. The types of Member have differing rights to participation and involvement in the decision-making and operations of the Foundation, but by principle, all Members are given one vote at the Annual General Meetings of the Governing Body, can submit candidatures for elected positions, and can participate in all relevant activities and programs of the Foundation. The Foundation's Membership is primarily made up of individual members, with over

Individual Membership is open to youth and adults who subscribe to the mission, vision, and values of the Foundation. Individual Members constitute the principal constituency of the institution and are vested with fundamental rights, including the ability to vote in elections for the Board of Trustees, to submit agenda items for consideration at the Annual General Meeting, and to participate in Foundation programs. Persons under the age of eighteen may be admitted as Individual Members upon the consent of a legal guardian that is already admitted as a Member to the Foundation (to act as a chaperone for the child during in-person events). The Constitution mandates Individual Membership to be free of charge, with no membership dues levied.

Organizational Membership is reserved for youth-led entities, academic clubs, and civil society organizations whose objectives are demonstrably aligned with the mission of the Foundation. Admission is contingent upon the submission of an application, the demonstration of at least two years of substantive programmatic activity in youth empowerment, and the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding delineating roles and responsibilities. Each Organizational Member designates one representative to serve as the formal liaison to the Foundation. Organizational Members are vested with full rights of participation, including the right to vote in elections and constitutional matters, eligibility to serve on committees, and representation in the Annual General Meeting. Annual dues are assessed to Organizational Members by resolution of the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, and the timely payment of such dues is required to maintain good standing.

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Honorary Membership is conferred upon individuals who have rendered exceptional service either to the Foundation or to the broader cause of youth empowerment in multilateral settings. Such membership is conferred through nomination by the Board of Trustees and approval by majority vote. Honorary Members are accorded rights equivalent to those of Individual and Organizational Members, including the right to vote and to serve on committees, thereby integrating their distinguished expertise and contributions into the governance of the Foundation.

In the Fourth Session of the Annual General Meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Body, Members agreed upon a decision without a vote to instruct the Secretariat to stop the issuance of Honorary Membership to concerns over cost implications and duplicative work. All existing Honorary Members admitted prior to this decision continue to receive their privileges for lifetime.

All Members of the Foundation, regardless of category, are obliged to uphold the mission, vision, and values of the institution; to comply with the Constitution and all bylaws promulgated thereunder; and to engage actively, to the extent feasible, in the activities and programs of the Foundation. Membership may be suspended or terminated by decision of the Board of Trustees, adopted by the requisite majority, in cases of non-payment of dues, conduct injurious to the reputation or values of the Foundation, or conviction of a serious criminal offense. Such action requires due notice and affords the Member the opportunity to respond in accordance with principles of fairness and accountability. An appeal to such termination or suspension can be submitted for consideration at the Annual General Meetings of the Governing Body, which would be processed through a majority vote.

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Attachment IV: Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the body or agency /qualification in fields relating to the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes as well as their management and disposal,

Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the body or agency /qualification in matters covered by the Rotterdam Convention,

Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the body or agency /qualification in matters covered by the Rotterdam Convention

The DMUN Foundation has consistently devoted its work to strengthening the role of children and youth in multilateral processes of environmental governance.

In relation to the Basel Convention, the Foundation has convened interactive workshops and policy dialogues, that address the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the imperative of their environmentally sound management and disposal. These initiatives have engaged thousands of young people worldwide, equipping them with both substantive knowledge and practical skills to understand the regulatory frameworks established under the Convention, while instilling awareness of the dangers of improper waste handling practices.

With respect to the Rotterdam Convention, the Foundation has introduced dedicated programmes examining the prior informed consent procedure for hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. Through capacity-building seminars and thematic sessions, the Foundation has drawn attention to the importance of transparency, shared responsibility, and precaution in trade and regulation. In doing so, it prepares youth constituencies to take part in informed discussions about safeguarding public health and the environment.

The Foundation also supports the objectives of the Stockholm Convention by integrating themes of persistent organic pollutants into its sustainability education programmes and youth research projects. Participants examine the interlinkages between chemical safety, environmental protection, and sustainable development, while also developing policy proposals and advocacy campaigns aimed at raising awareness of these pollutants' risks. By

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facilitating such initiatives, the Foundation advances the Convention's goals of protecting human health and the environment from harmful substances.

In particular to the objectives and relevance of the BRS Conventions at-large, the DMUN Foundation possesses a distinctive and unique capacity to conduct public outreach to the global youth demographic. Its platforms provide direct access to a constituency that is often overlooked, but whose engagement is critical to long-term implementation.

The Foundation not only educates young people about the Conventions, but also serves as a conduit for collecting their inputs, perspectives, and proposals, which represent invaluable contributions to intergovernmental deliberations. These contributions reflect the lived experiences of communities most directly impacted by hazardous chemicals and wastes, ensuring that the work of the Conventions benefits from the perspectives of those who will bear the consequences of present policy choices.

The Foundation emphasizes that its membership includes many experts of lived experience, as well as young professionals working in nexus industries such as renewable energy, waste management, agriculture, and health. In addition, its members include young researchers and academics affiliated with universities and institutes addressing precisely the matters under consideration by the Conferences of the Parties. This composition ensures that the Foundation can provide well-informed and innovative input into the policy discussions and implementation strategies of the Conventions.

Precedent exists for the admission of children and youth-focused organizations as Observers to multilateral environmental agreements, such as Children and Youth International, which serves as the legal entity of the Major Group for Children and Youth.

Moreover, numerous multilateral environmental agreements have in recent years recognized more fully the value of youth participation, as seen in the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the UNFCCC, both of which have taken active steps to embed youth engagement in their processes. These practices are consistent with the Secretary-General's Youth2030 strategy, the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, and the policy brief issued under Our Common Agenda on meaningful youth engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes.

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The Foundation highlights that participation is a recognized right under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In accordance with the CRC, children's rights to express their views freely in all matters affecting them, and to have those views given due weight, must be respected and operationalized in civil society engagement with the BRS Conventions.

Excluding children and youth would run contrary to these obligations and to the normative progress achieved across the United Nations system.

Looking beyond children and youth merely as a vulnerable population group, young people's views and voices are ambition-raisers in multilateral processes, bringing new perspectives, knowledge and innovative solutions to the work of the BRS Conventions.

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