

## **Principles and Guidelines for Third Party Participation in CBSS Activities and Meetings**

Adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CBSS Member States  
through written procedure in February 1999

Revised by the Council through written procedure in April 2009

### **I. General**

1. The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) welcomes the interest expressed by third parties in participating in its work and contributing to the pursuit of its goals.
2. Third party participation strengthens the potential of the CBSS by improving the Council's capacity for practical action and its overall ability to advance regional co-operation.
3. Participation of third parties is welcomed also as a means to disseminate information about co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

### **II. Principles**

1. Third parties may apply for, in the case of states, the status of Observer, or, in the case of organisations, the status of Strategic Partner.
2. Observers and Strategic Partners must contribute to CBSS activities in line with its long-term priorities.
3. Observers and Strategic Partners must adhere to the CBSS principles as they are referred to in the CBSS founding documents.
4. The regional character of CBSS activity must be maintained.
5. Observers and Strategic Partners are invited by consensus.

### **III. Procedures**

1. According to the Terms of Reference of the CBSS (as adopted in Copenhagen 1992 and revised in Szczecin in 2005 and in 2009) the CBSS and its working bodies and structures may decide to invite third parties to participate in CBSS activities.
2. Observers, Strategic Partners and other third parties may be invited to take part in CBSS meetings at all levels for one or more specified agenda points or for an entire meeting. They may be given the right to speak but they do not participate in decision making.
3. Third parties wishing to participate in CBSS activities and projects on a more continuous basis are expected to submit an application for, in the case of a state, the status of Observer or, in the case of an organisation, Strategic Partner. The Council decides on the acceptance of a new Observer, while the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) decides on that of a new Strategic Partner. The status of Observer and Strategic Partner is subject to review.

4. Observers, Strategic Partners and other interested parties may be invited to Council meetings.
5. The CBSS Secretariat maintains a list of the contact persons designated by all Observers and Strategic Partners.
6. The CSO convenes consultations with the Observers, and with the Strategic Partners, to be held annually, as a rule.

#### **IV. Review**

1. The above principles and guidelines will be subject to review by the CSO.