CHAPTER IV – MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

ARTICLE 4
Membership of the Organization

(1) Each Contracting Party shall constitute a single Member of the Organization.

(2) A Member may change its category of membership on such conditions as the Council may agree.

(3) Any reference in this Agreement to a Government shall be construed as including the European Union and any intergovernmental organization having exclusive competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5
Group membership

Two or more Contracting Parties may participate in the Organization as a Member group, by appropriate notification to the Council and to the Depositary, which will take effect on a date to be specified by the Contracting Parties concerned and on conditions agreed by the Council, including financial obligations.

ARTICLE 6
Affiliation

(1) An entity of the Private Sector or Civil Society is eligible to be considered for affiliate membership by decision of the Council.

(2) Entities that wish to be recognized as an Affiliate Member of the Organization should submit an application addressed to the Chair of the Council, which must be endorsed by a Member before it is submitted to the Chair.

(3) The Council shall accept or reject applications for Affiliate Member status.

(4) Affiliate Members' status shall be reviewed every coffee year by the Council.

(5) The Council shall establish procedures for appraisal of applications for Affiliate Member status, which shall take into account how the work of the applicant is related or engaged with the work of the Organization and its direct relevance to the objectives of this Agreement.

(6) The Organization has the opportunity to avail itself of expert advice from Affiliate Members, while the Affiliate Members in turn have the opportunity to express their views and engage in the work of the Organization.

(7) The Council shall establish a schedule of annual contributions to be paid by Affiliate Members. The mechanism and management of the contributions paid shall be in accordance with the Financial Rules and Financial Regulations of the Organization.