



United Nations  
Climate Change Secretariat

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Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Mr. Erik Hagen  
Chair  
Western Sahara Resource Watch

Date: 8 April 2013  
Reference: 2013-214-S  
Direct line: +49 228 815 1687

*Sent by e-mail to: info@vest-sahara.no*

**Re.: The UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism and Western Sahara**

Dear Mr. Hagen,

Thank you for your letter, received on 10 January 2013, which has been made available to the CDM Executive Board.

On behalf of the Chair, I would like to thank you for sharing your concerns and suggestions with regard to CDM project activities in Western Sahara.

Please note that, in accordance with the CDM modalities and procedures, the Executive Board determines whether or not a project activity or programme of activities is to be registered on the basis of a specific request for registration. It does not usually make general determinations or statements in relation to a specific Party or territory per se. In this regard, any potential project activities located in Western Sahara, if submitted for registration, would be assessed on a case-specific basis taking into account all the relevant procedures and considerations.

We would also like to draw your attention to the role of designated operational entities (DOEs) in the project activity validation. As per paragraph 41 of the Validation and Verification Standard, version 3.0, the DOE shall determine whether the letter(s) of approval has/have been issued by the respective Party's designated national authority (DNA) and is valid for the proposed project activity under validation. If a project activity is subsequently submitted to the Executive Board for registration, this information is subject to review by the Board in accordance with paragraphs 40 and 41 of decision 3/CMP.1.

Thank you once again for contacting the Board with your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Howard  
Secretary to the CDM Executive Board