



Guidelines on the Participation of Observer Countries in the Pacific Alliance

The Council of Ministers has decided to adopt the following guidelines:

1. Non-member countries of the Pacific Alliance may participate as Observer Country under these guidelines.
2. The Observer Country must share the principles and objectives established in the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance.
3. Countries interested in becoming Observer Country shall submit a written request to the pro tempore Presidency, who will present it to the Member Countries for consideration before the Council of Ministers of the Pacific Alliance.
4. The Council of Ministers may grant the status of Observer Country, in accordance with Article 10 of the Framework Agreement, and the interested Country will be informed of its decision by the pro tempore Presidency.
5. Observer Countries may participate in meetings and presidential or ministerial events of the Pacific Alliance by extended invitation, prior consent of the Member Countries. Unless other criteria is agreed by the Member Countries, such participation will be restricted to a right to speak, and only high hierarchy representatives corresponding to the respective meeting or event being held may attend.
6. An Observer Country may at any time apply to become a candidate, provided it has signed free trade agreements with at least half of the Member Countries. The corresponding application shall be resolved by the Council of Ministers and the Observer Country will be informed of its decision by the pro tempore Presidency. In case the application is not accepted, the Observer Country may submit it again.



7. The Observer Country whose application for candidacy has been accepted, may participate and have the right to speak in discussions that take place in meetings and events of the Pacific Alliance to which it has been invited, prior consent of the Member Countries.
8. The Observer Country must comply with the conditions to begin its accession process into the Pacific Alliance within one calendar year from the date of acceptance of its application to become candidate. If the Observer Country has not complied with these conditions by the end of the prescribed period, the Council of Ministers, previously listening to the statements of said Country, may issue a new date for this purpose, and raise recommendations as deemed necessary.
9. It is reiterated that in accordance with Article 17 of the Framework Agreement, as well as with these Guidelines, Costa Rica and Panama are Observer Countries already considered as candidates to become Member Countries of the Pacific Alliance, unless they expressly state otherwise. In this sense, the prescribed period referred to in paragraph 8 will start on the date in which these Guidelines are made known to said Countries by the pro tempore Presidency.
10. The status of Observer Country shall remain as long as the interested Country maintains its commitment with the principles and objectives established in the Framework Agreement as well as its interest in monitoring the works done by the Alliance. Such status shall also remain as long as it is not revoked by a decision of the Council of Ministers, the Observer Country decides not to renounce it, or the country becomes a Member Country of the Pacific Alliance.
11. Member Countries, also by consensus and through the pro tempore Presidency, may call guests to participate in the meetings and events of the Pacific Alliance as they deem appropriate.
12. Prior to each meeting, Observer Countries and guests shall receive an announcement outlining the topics to be covered, and those segments of meetings open for their participation. The necessary documentation and information shall also be sent to them.



13. All communications shall be sent to Observer Countries and guests through the pro tempore Presidency.
14. Observer Countries, as well as guests, shall maintain the confidentiality and/or privacy of the information accessed or exchanged in the different events of the Pacific Alliance which they attend, unless otherwise agreed by the Member Countries.