

Resolution #49
Concerning Guidelines for Northern Forum Business Memberships

Whereas, the Northern Forum Board of Directors has identified business memberships as an important component of the Northern Forum;

Whereas, business members will bring expertise from the private sector to the attention of the regional membership of the Northern Forum;

Whereas, business members provide new ideas for the benefit of the regional membership of the Northern Forum;

Whereas, in order to attract business members the regional members should endeavor to provide representatives of business members with reasonable access to governmental and private-sector officials within the member regions in which the business members have an interest;

Whereas, while the Northern Forum desires the participation of business entities in its functions, there must be clear guidelines as to the relationship of business and governmental members in order to avoid conflicts of interest on the part of the regional governmental members;

Therefore, the Northern Forum Board of Directors approves the following guidelines as to business members:

1. Upon the admission of a business entity to membership (Membership III), the Secretariat will promptly advise all members of the identity of the new business member, along with a concise description of the business, its experience, expertise, and other information the Secretariat may find to be relevant to the membership.
2. The new business member shall be promptly provided with the names, addresses, and other relevant information as to the membership of the Northern Forum, besides all other information to which the new business member is entitled.
3. The Secretariat and, where applicable, the Associate Secretariats and the regional members (Membership I and II), shall make every reasonable effort to assist business members in arranging meetings with government officials, private companies, or other persons or institutions within any member region. The Secretariat shall assist the business member in making travel arrangements to member regions if requested by the business member to do so.
4. The regional members (Membership I and II) shall make every reasonable effort to see that the meetings desired by the business member are arranged, and shall endeavor

to provide reasonable assistance during such business member's visit to the region. The regional members shall also assist the business member to contact persons or institutions within the region by telephone, facsimile, e-mail, or other means when requested to do so.

5. Once the requested meetings are arranged and have taken place, no further responsibility attaches to the Secretariat or to the members. It is appropriate for the Northern Forum Secretariat to arrange meetings and to provide logistical assistance, but the Secretariat cannot act as a sales representative for a business member, or attempt to secure special treatment from government or other officials.