

SBI 46, item 16 (a)

Programme Budget for the biennium 2018/2019

Speaking notes for the Executive Secretary

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am very pleased to present to you at this session my proposal for the UNFCCC budget 2018-19, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/4, its two addenda and the large array of informal background information that, in the spirit of transparency, the secretariat has made available on its website.

As you know, this budget is the first presented for approval by Parties after the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement. It is therefore an important bridge between existing and new activities, between the present and the future. It needs to strike a careful balance to ensure continuity of mandated activities under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol while effectively addressing new areas of work as mandated in the Paris Agreement, decision 1/CP.21 and other relevant decisions.

This is a tremendous challenge. While on the one hand our work programme for 2018-19 must be ambitious for us to maintain momentum and move forward to enable swift implementation of the Paris Agreement, we must also recognize that many governments continue to operate under severe financial constraints.

The budget I am proposing to you, therefore, aims to maximize impact through a clear prioritization of areas of work in support of Parties' efforts to begin implementing the Paris Agreement, a prudent use of resources, and the efficient organization of work of the secretariat.

The three areas of work I have identified are as follows:

- The urgent task of completing the provisions for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement, building on the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;
- Continuing support to the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and to the swift implementation of the Paris Agreement with a special focus on turning nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) into actions, policy interventions and investment plans;
- Strengthening the catalytic role of the Convention in engaging actors at the national and international level, including relevant United Nations entities, to support Parties more effectively in achieving their climate change and development objectives.

As you will have seen from the main budget document, to be able to support those priorities I propose a modest increase of 7.9 per cent in the core budget as compared to the current biennium.

You had asked me to present a zero nominal growth budget, and I have included such a scenario in the budget document as well. However, let me be frank. I truly believe that a budget without the proposed increase will make it impossible for the secretariat to support you in the way it should. As you know, we have absorbed several tasks within our existing resources, for example, the support to the two additional bodies (the CMA and the APA) or the support to the preparations for the 2018 facilitative dialogue.

Such a budget would particularly affect the effective secretariat support to Parties in their implementation activities, most notably in the preparation and

implementation of NDCs and NAPs, including facilitation of access to finance, technology and capacity-building. Similarly, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to facilitate broader engagement of UN agencies and other non-Party stakeholders that can help Parties with implementation at national level. The secretariat is not becoming an executing agency. There are others who are much better suited to help Parties on the ground. But the secretariat can and should help Parties connect the dots and get in touch with relevant partners. This important work, I am convinced, needs sustainable funding through the core budget.

Let me emphasize again that this is YOUR budget. What you have in front of you at this session is, in our view, a balanced proposal that meets the most urgent needs of ALL Parties and supports the transition into the new era of implementation and climate action.

In order to assist with your deliberations, and in the spirit of the transparent process I have established in developing this budget, I will be holding a presentation of the budget proposal later today during the contact group. I will go into more detail on key elements of the budget and look forward to receiving your feedback and answering any questions.

Thank you very much.