

III. Context of the 2018–2019 budget proposal

A. General context

21. The UNFCCC budget for the biennium 2018–2019 will be the first budget to be presented to Parties for approval after the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement. It is an important bridge between existing and new activities, between the present and the future. It needs 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.

22. The overall aim of this budget proposal is to help strengthen the urgent global response to the dire threat of climate change. It is crucial that the budget for the biennium 2018–2019 facilitates the achievement of all Parties' objectives in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. A profound transformation of national economic patterns and global cooperation on climate change is needed.

23. In the light of these challenges, it is clear that the 2018–2019 work programme must be ambitious. Recognizing, nonetheless, that many governments are currently operating under severe financial constraints, the budget will need to ensure prudent use of resources, strict prioritization of activities, efficient organization of work and deployment of resources in such a way as to maximize impact.

B. Vision

24. Actions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders over the next five years will determine whether emissions will peak in time to keep the global average temperature rise well below 2°C as envisaged in the Paris Agreement. For this goal to be achieved, NDCs and NAPs must lead to concrete actions, policy interventions and investment plans without delay.

25. At the same time, the response to the threat of climate change requires the participation of all actors, governments, United Nations entities and the many non-Party stakeholders, as well as enhanced coordination of those efforts for maximum impact.

26. The secretariat continues to play an important role in these efforts. While the provision of support to the intergovernmental process remains a central element, new areas of work have emerged that urgently need support from the secretariat. These include support for implementation of national undertakings and mobilization of enhanced action, in coordination with other United Nations entities, recognizing that the secretariat is not an executing agency but has a facilitative role.⁸

C. Priorities

27. Building on this vision and the evolving needs of the intergovernmental climate change process, the priorities for the work of the secretariat in the biennium 2018–2019 are as follows:

⁸ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.13.

1. The completion and operationalization of the Paris Agreement rule book, building on the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, by advancing work under relevant institutions, bodies and mechanisms

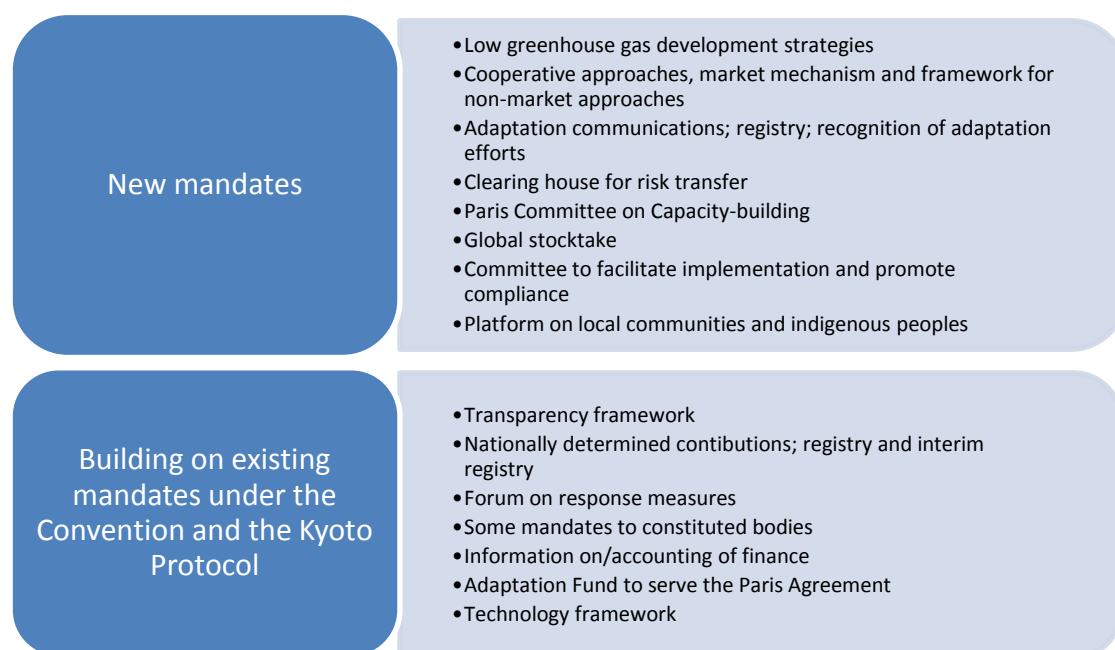
28. The secretariat will continue to provide procedural, institutional and technical support for the work of an extensive array of negotiating and implementing bodies under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement,⁹ including:

- (a) The three supreme bodies: the COP, the CMP and the CMA;
- (b) The subsidiary bodies: the SBI, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA);
- (c) Eleven constituted bodies;
- (d) Various mandated procedures, mechanisms and other arrangements.

29. With regard to the completion of the Paris Agreement rule book, decision 1/CP.21 contains numerous additional mandates for the secretariat; some are totally new while others build on existing mandates under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Completion of these tasks is critical for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement. Figure 1 lists areas of support assigned (directly or indirectly) to the secretariat under decision 1/CP.21 relating to the completion of the rule book.

Figure 1

Areas of support related to the completion of the rule book under decision 1/CP.21



⁹ For a list of bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, please see <http://unfccc.int/bodies/items/6241.php>. This list does not include those established by the Paris Agreement but not yet operationalized through decisions by the CMA.

2. The continued implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and the swift implementation of the Paris Agreement with a special focus on turning nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans into actions, policy interventions and investment plans

30. To achieve this, the secretariat will provide support in different ways and at different levels. Some of these activities will be in continuation of key support mandates, such as the implementation of the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and transparency framework for developed and developing countries, support to developing countries on adaptation and means of implementation, and the provision of reliable and authoritative data.

31. At the same time, prioritizing the implementation of NDCs and NAPs means that the secretariat will need to refocus some of its capacity on activities that provide more targeted support of national efforts to drive climate action and to enhance coordination with relevant United Nations entities in support of Parties' implementation activities at the national level.

32. The facilitative dialogue¹⁰ and the assessment of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs,¹¹ both planned for 2018, are key milestones. The secretariat will support and assist Parties in their preparations, including through the analysis and dissemination of best available information in preparation for the global stocktake.

3. Strengthening the catalytic role of the Convention in engaging actors at the national and international level, including relevant United Nations entities, so that they can more effectively support Parties' climate change and development objectives

33. This growing area of work is essential in the global effort to reduce emissions, increase adaptive capabilities and mobilize adequate resources in line with the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The secretariat will support it through a number of activities, including the following:

- (a) Connecting stakeholders, including through engagement and advice to relevant networks and partnerships;
- (b) Providing substantive inputs, technical assistance and advice for enhanced implementation of actions;
- (c) Showcasing success stories;
- (d) Sharing information on efforts and best practices.

D. Objectives

34. The secretariat will be guided by the following objectives in integrating the substantive priorities identified in chapter III.C above with the broader secretariat support infrastructure (see also figure 2):

- (a) Objective 1: provide effective technical expertise and technical support to Parties to facilitate ongoing negotiations under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and the swift completion of the Paris Agreement rule book;
- (b) Objective 2: enable and support Parties in the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and the mobilization of climate action as an integral element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

¹⁰ See decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 20.

¹¹ See decision 4/CP.21, paragraph 11.

(c) Objective 3: provide optimal support to the UNFCCC intergovernmental process in its oversight of the global response to climate change;

(d) Objective 4: strengthen the secretariat's capacity to respond to the evolution of the international climate change regime by adapting skill sets, streamlining services, adopting innovative approaches to work and enhancing its role as the global hub for official data and information on climate change.

Figure 2
Priorities and objectives for the biennium 2018–2019

