



Initial Briefing on the preparations for the UNFCCC 2020-2021 Budget

Introductory remarks by Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

Bonn, February 2019

- Welcome and thank you for your participation, those present and also those participating remotely.
- In my view, we are at a very crucial moment in the process to address climate change. Climate change has indeed been identified as the biggest challenge that humanity is facing and we are right in the middle of the action to tackle it. We are indeed the institute that has been given the responsibility to guide and support global efforts for this extraordinary challenge. And I feel this is a huge responsibility. We are seeing the importance of the climate change issue arising in every international meeting as the biggest threat to humanity.
- This is in my view also important; it's an important moment because it is the first time that we have a budget process with a bottom-up methodology that has been crafted with utmost transparency.
- For this exercise, I have asked our colleagues in the Secretariat to think differently – and I would kindly like to ask all of you to do the same: not to measure our new numbers against what we had in the last budget cycle but to craft a budget to meet our objectives and mandates, those old and new.
- At this session, you will be presented with the budget levels today that capture the totality of the resource requirements as well as what we expect to be funded in the core, supplementary and other sources.
- At this stage, the core budget shows an increase of approximately 15% compared to the last biennium. However, as required by the parties, the formal budget document will include a zero nominal growth scenario as well, but I would like to caution against this as this simply would not cover the real needs for the secretariat to be able to deliver on the mandate and expectation by parties.
- The way we see it, the work of the secretariat is central to advancing the methodologies and essential technical basis for mandated climate

action and its consideration under the process, including by way of supporting the negotiations, constituted bodies, information management systems, or other mandated substantive deliverables.

- Therefore, effective support to the secretariat is imperative for the necessary and timely progress that is essential for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and for saving the world from the intolerable impacts of delayed, inadequate or incomplete action.
- This effective support indeed is not a luxury. It is a basic need at this moment where urgent action is required; action that is premised on sound planning, support, implementation and reporting. All of these require dedicated work by the secretariat through mandated actions.
- I have mentioned the need for effective support and I would like to underline the word “Effective” also implies “cost effective”. Cost effectiveness must be respected, including in ensuring that all the mandates are implemented fully and in an efficient manner, and that the resources needed for core and recurring functions and deliverables are ensured to be predictable and sufficient.
- Deviation from these requirements will result in a decline in efficiency and, ultimately, higher costs in the long run – higher costs in delivering the exact same mandates due to the uncertainties in predictability and sufficiency, or higher costs in terms of the consequences of inadequate climate action in terms of increased climate risks and losses arising from inaction.
- So dear delegates, dear friends, I hope that you will find all the information to be provided today clear and sound. I have asked my team to provide you with all you require as you embark in analyzing this initial proposal towards making informed decisions later during the SBs.
- I know these are difficult times and the decision-making on resourcing the Secretariat will not be easy. However, I trust your judgment and your commitment, as we stand at the juncture of turning the threat of climate change into a tangible opportunity for growth and sustainable development for all.
- I hope that your deliberation today will also be pleasant, that you will be able to have enriching exchanges. Again, I deeply regret not being able to be there with all of you.
- Thank you very much for your attention.

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