

Secretariat responses to questions received by 24 June 2019, 6 pm

24 June 2019, 11 pm

Please provide further information on:

1. How the EUR 2.7 million for category 1 and 2 activities for constituted bodies could be accommodated in a revised ZNG scenario

Response

The proposed budget has been developed on the basis of ensuring effective connections and synergies between the work of the programmes and operations departments and the cross-cutting divisions, across different thematic areas and between different objectives. The proposed core budget has further been developed to ensure that all of the required resources needed to ensure an effective flow of work across these different but interconnected areas of the work programme can be delivered in a cost effective and integrated manner. The ZNG scenario contained in the official documentation required the secretariat to deviate from the applied methodology to ensure basic level of service to all recurring or long-term elements of the work programme (category 2).

Removing EUR 2.7 million worth of activities from the core budget (roughly 5.5% of total appropriations) to accommodate all of the category 1 and 2 work of the constituted bodies would be a different approach than the methodology employed.

Should Parties wish to deviate from the applied methodology to arrive at the suggested ZNG scenario there could be two possible approaches; removing 5.5% from all other areas or focusing on one specific area.

- A. *Reductions in all areas:* A 5.5% reduction in the current ZNG to accommodate full support for category 1 and 2 activities for constituted bodies is likely to require a reduction of approximately 10 staff of the existing approved ZNG positions. This would jeopardize having the necessary anchors in core from which to ensure fundraising for and implementation of supplementary activities. Likewise, raising supplementary resources for staff is more difficult than for non-staff costs. Removing this level of staffing and associated funding across all divisions would impact all areas of service delivery.
- B. *Reductions focused in one area:* Removing any one element of the operations department (legal affairs, conference affairs, ICT or secretariat wide costs) could achieve the EUR 2.7 million reduction in core but would put the secretariat at risk of non-delivery of its work programme as all other aspects of the work programme rely on the delivery of these foundational services. A similar approach in either cross-cutting division could also achieve the same reductions but would have a similar impact.

Therefore, Parties could choose to take one of the following courses of action without undermining the entire work programme:

- Those aspects of the adaptation work programme related to the established processes, data and information management, and engagement;
- Those aspects of the mitigation work programme related to the established processes, data and information management; and engagement
- Those aspects of the means of implementation work programme related to the established processes, data and information management, and engagement;

- Those aspects of the transparency work programme related to intergovernmental engagement and one of the existing MRV processes (inventories, IAR or ICA).

While taking any such course of action would result in an organization which could remain broadly operational it is the secretariat's view that such an action would undermine the balanced outcome negotiated by Parties in Paris and Katowice and ultimately undermine global efforts to address climate change.