

DRAFT TEXT

on

SBI 49 agenda item 20: Administrative, Financial and Institutional matters

Version 07/12/2018 01:27

Decision -/CP.24

Administrative, financial and institutional matters

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 11 of the financial procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its subsidiary bodies and its permanent secretariat,¹

Having considered the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat on administrative, financial and institutional matters,²

Noting that notifications to Parties of their contributions for 2019 were sent to them on 30 September 2018,

Budget performance for the biennium 2018–2019

1. *Takes note* of the information contained in the report on budget performance for the biennium 2018–2019 as at 30 June 2018³ and the note on the status of contributions to the trust funds administered by the secretariat as at 16 November 2018;⁴
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Parties that made contributions to the core budget in a timely manner;
3. *Expresses concern* regarding the high level of outstanding contributions to the core budget for the current and previous bienniums, which has resulted in difficulties with cash flow and the effective implementation of activities;
4. *Strongly urges* Parties that have not made contributions to the core budget for the current and/or previous bienniums to do so without further delay;
5. *Calls upon* Parties to make their contributions to the core budget for 2019 in a timely manner, bearing in mind that contributions are due on 1 January of each year in accordance with the financial procedures for the Conference of the Parties;
6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process and to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities received from Parties, including those contributions that allow for greater flexibility in allocation;
7. *Urges* Parties to further contribute to the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process in order to ensure the widest possible participation in the negotiations in 2019, and to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities;
8. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for its annual voluntary contribution to the core budget of EUR 766,938 and its special contribution of EUR 1,789,522 as Host Government of the secretariat;

¹ Decision 15/CP.1, annex I.

² FCCC/SBI/2018/16 and Add.1 and 2, FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.11 and Add.1, FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.12, FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.16, FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.17, FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.18 and FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.19.

³ FCCC/SBI/2018/16 and Add.1 and 2.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.12.

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take further measures to recover outstanding contributions, such as by introducing voluntary payment plans, as appropriate, as a means of encouraging Parties to pay those outstanding contributions as soon as possible;

Audit report and financial statements for 2017

10. *Takes note* of the audit report of the United Nations Board of Auditors⁵ and the financial statements for 2017, which include recommendations, and the comments of the secretariat thereon;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations for arranging the audit of the accounts of the Convention;

12. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the auditors for the valuable observations and recommendations and the presentation made thereon to Parties;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to implement the recommendations of the auditors, as appropriate, [in particular those related to outstanding contributions and the policies on hiring consultants and individual contractors,] and to update Parties on progress in the next audit report;

[Option 1: Other budgetary matters]

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the outcome of its review of the secretariat's operations and structure, including on the synergy and prioritization of its activities, with a view to reducing redundancies and increasing cost-efficiency, in the context of the programme budget for 2020–2021;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, regularly update and publish before each session of the subsidiary bodies brief reports on standard costs and, if available, options for reducing the cost of typical activities where practicable;

16. *Recognizes* the administrative effort required to produce such reports, which can have staffing and financial implications;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide budgetary cost implications in pre-session documents if they include suggestions for new mandates to the secretariat and if sufficient information is available on the details of the proposed activities;

18. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to provide any other such information to Parties as may be required to ensure that the budgetary implications of decisions and conclusions, including those proposed in pre-session documents, can be taken into account in advance of decision-making.]

[Option 2: Other budgetary matters]

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the outcome of its review of the secretariat's operations and structure, including on the synergy and prioritization of its activities, with a view to reducing redundancies and increasing cost-efficiency, in the context of the programme budget for 2020–2021;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to provide information to Parties as may be required to ensure that the budgetary implications of decisions and conclusions can be taken into account in advance of decision-making, including:

(a) Regularly updated reports on standard costs, to be published before each session of the subsidiary bodies;

(b) Options for reducing the cost of typical activities where practicable, if available;

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.11 and Add.1.

(c) Budgetary cost implications in pre-session documents if they include suggestions for new mandates to the secretariat and if sufficient information is available on the details of the proposed activities;

16. *Recognizes* the administrative effort required to produce the information referred to in paragraph 15 above, which can have staffing and financial implications.