

Questions submitted by Parties in writing after the first meeting of the contact group on SBI 60 item 19 (Administrative, Financial and Institutional Matters) and responses by the secretariat

Introductory response from the Secretariat

The Secretariat is pleased to provide the following introductory response to questions submitted by Parties, on Wednesday 5th June, up to 10am on Thursday 6th June.

We thank Parties for their questions and fully share your keen interest in ensuring our budget process is as efficient, responsive, collaborative and transparent as possible. As always, the foundational principles of all our responses are accuracy and transparency.

The Executive Secretary would like to reiterate his full commitment to making further improvements to our budget process and products, and he welcomes the questions from Parties and feedback provided on Wednesday, as valuable inputs to help guide those improvements.

As there were several matters raised by multiple Parties, allow us to address some of these matters up-front.

Timely submission of budget information:

We have fully heard and recognize the issues raised around the need for earlier submission of budget information, and the comments by some Parties expressing a desire for more user-friendly budget information on the website. The Executive Secretary commits to ensuring that all relevant documents are provided in a timely manner as agreed by Parties of the next Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) conference and all future SBs. He also commits the secretariat to propose improvements to the accessibility of budget information on the website and looks forward to guidance from Parties.

We currently update the status of core contributions on a monthly basis and provide programme of work updates after each relevant session of the subsidiary and governing bodies. If useful to Parties, the Secretariat will include more detailed budget information as an annex to the Quarterly Reports the Secretariat has been delivering in an effort to improve transparency.

Digital platform:

The secretariat has fully heard and recognizes the concerns raised by some Parties on this issue, also in the context of our broader budgetary challenges. Unfortunately, with the budgetary constraints, the digital platform implementation for SB60 was not possible.

Regardless of these challenges, the Executive Secretary commits to working with the incoming COP29 Presidency on a digital platform for COP29.

On Regional Climate Weeks (RCW)

We have also fully heard and appreciate the points raised by some Parties on this issue.

We take this opportunity to further note that the RCWs are being temporarily paused this year, while we explore alternative and better ways to engage at a regional level, with appropriate funding, which track more closely against our broader process, as well as the needs of Parties as you move into this era of implementation and acceleration, how the Secretariat can support them most

efficiently without an excessive drain on resources, reducing the ability to deliver on mandated issue.

In doing so, we are also keeping front of mind the key principles of inclusiveness and streamlining – including in how we work with all parts of the UN system to deliver a more cohesive and impactful set of practical supports for Parties, and constructive engagements with Non-Party stakeholders.

The secretariat recognizes Parties did not feel they were notified in a timely manner on specific non-mandated areas that were negatively affected by the constrained budget received by the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary commits to more explicitly highlight areas which the Secretariat may be unable to deliver in full, due to lack of funding.

We emphasise that all mandated activities have been delivered, even when they have been agreed but not been funded, by Parties.

Optimizing our processes and products – the role of the incoming Deputy Executive Secretary

As in all elements of the secretariat's work in support of Parties, it is essential for our shared success and for the efficacy of the Convention, that our budget products and processes are continuously improved and optimized. We hope the steps, updates and clarifications laid out above give you confidence in my – and the secretariat's – commitment to doing so.

In addition to these steps, optimizing our shared budget process will also be a paramount priority the incoming Deputy Executive Secretary, whom the UN Secretary-General announced last week.

Optimizing our processes and products – the importance of timely delivery of funds pledged

Finally colleagues, allow us to respectfully note that an equally important aspect of optimizing the budget process, so that it supports our shared success, is the timely delivery of agreed funds pledged by Parties.

We are very pleased and privileged to fulfil all our existing and expanding new mandates - including the 20% increase in mandated events at this SB60. As noted, we take that expansion as a welcome vote of confidence that our services are effective and valued.

As you would be aware, following up with Parties on funds pledged but not delivered, seeking diversified non-Party funding sources, and in dividing our existing resources and stretching our staff and existing workloads, requires very considerable use of time and resource.

As we seek further efficiencies across the secretariat, we recognise it is very much in our shared interests that the secretariat can focus our existing resources on fully delivering on all the existing and new mandates you have given us, and on any process or product improvements – including on budgeting – needed to support this delivery of our mandates.

We also note that the Trust Fund for Participation was established by the Parties, that it serves a crucial purpose of ensuring all Parties have a meaningful seat at the table, and that it receives voluntary contributions to this end, for eligible Parties. Allow me to also reiterate that it is a separate funding mechanism, and needs to receive contributions in a timely and consistent way, so that it can serve its intended purpose.

We fully hear and will act on your feedback and concerns, and we recommit to working closely with Parties to ensure we provide all products and services in a consistently timely manner and user-friendly format.

A question about the following item in the Work Program Update (FCCC/SBI/2024/INF.1, published June 3rd). F. Means of Implementation division: Para 14. (e) *Preparing a report on secretariat activities conducted in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, and bilateral, regional and multilateral channels relating to ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, including their technological and capacity-building needs, in a country-driven manner and in translating climate finance needs into action under the Needs-based Finance project, to be made available at COP 29. Can you please tell us what the mandate is for this report and who in the secretariat is managing this activity?*

Response: The mandate at COP28 under the Long-term Climate Finance agenda for the secretariat to report on activities relating to assisting developing countries assess their needs and priorities and in translating these needs into actions is provided by multiple COP decisions over the years, specifically decision 6/CP.23, paragraph 10 that requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, and bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. This decision was reiterated in decisions 4/CP.26, paragraph 22 and 13/CP.27, paragraph 11. At COP28 Parties further reiterated the previous decisions (decision 4/CP.28, paragraph 17) and requested the secretariat to prepare a report on its activities referred to in paragraph 17 of the same decision, to be made available to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session (November 2024) (decision 4/CP.28, paragraph 17). This activity is coordinated by the Climate Finance subdivision of the Means of Implementation Division.

Could the secretariat share information on the current processes, rules of procedures, and practices for providing Parties with cost estimates of new mandates and how these estimates are calculated? We note there are many factors to consider when calculating these estimates. Understanding the existing process would be helpful for Parties aiming to provide constructive feedback.

Response: Pursuant to rule 15 of the draft rules of procedure being applied contained in FCCC/CP/1996/2 *the secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the session, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received the report of the secretariat on the administrative and budgetary implications.*

Furthermore, COP 9 (decision 16/CP.9, paragraph 20) requested *the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the draft rules of procedure being applied, to provide Parties with an indication of the administrative and budgetary implications of decisions to be referred by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and/or the Subsidiary Body for Implementation for adoption by the Conference of the Parties, which may have administrative and budgetary implications that cannot be met from existing resources within the core budget;*

In line with the above rule and decision, the secretariat teams supporting work by Parties on developing texts for conclusions and decisions are required:

- To inform (co-)chairs/(co-)facilitators about any provision in draft texts with financial implications not covered by the core budget.
- To inform the (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s) of the secretariat practice to explicitly refer to such implications in related draft text;
- To encourage the (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s) to inform the group of financial implications early in the negotiation process and to provide an oral statement at the final meeting of the group before it forwards the draft conclusions/decision to the closing plenary meeting for adoption.

The (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s), or on his/her/their request, the secretariat, should specify the following:

- Costs which are **covered** by the core budget (e.g. staff time to organize a workshop);
- Costs which can be **absorbed** by the secretariat (showing its efforts to increase cost-efficiency);
- Costs that are **additional** and need to be funded from supplementary contributions.

Can the secretariat clarify the spending and staff resources to-date and planned on the Recognition and Accountability Framework?

Response:

Consultation on the Recognition and Accountability Framework in the second half of 2023 and early 2024 was conducted by independent co-chairs. Support for co-chairs was provided by pro-bono assignments and some individual consultants contracted by the secretariat on behalf of the co-chairs with a total cost of under USD300,000. The funds to support this were received from non-Party stakeholders.

The secretariat continues to operate GCAP as a portal to reflect a wide range of non-Party commitments and track progress on their implementation. In the period Jan-May 2024, it amounted to USD775,000 covering staff (6 positions), non-staff costs, development of IT tools, operation costs, etc. This work is funded by supplementary resources received from non-Party stakeholders.

The secretariat is considering the recommendations received from the co-chairs of the consultation process and will use these recommendations to inform considerations on the future evolution of GCAP. We are currently examining any cost implications, and note that any costs would only come from supplementary non-Party funding.

Can the secretariat clarify the spending and staff resources to-date and planned on the Global Innovation Hub?

Response: Costs of pavilion at COP and of Systemic Innovation Workshop are directly covered (in-kind contribution) by non-Party stakeholders. Innovation Hub related events in Bonn are covered by non-Party stakeholders supplementary contributions, and in term of staff resources: One staff overseeing work and two staff supporting (equivalent to one FTE). The secretariat receives supplementary contributions from non-Party stakeholder to fund this level of effort. In-kind contribution of time of around 100 experts is provided from various organizations. The full quantum

of all costs are directly covered by non-Party stakeholders' partners. Independent of the funding source of individual staff positions the secretariat ensures that services delivered against each funding source are commensurate with the funding received.

With regard to the online platform, are these costs part of the core budget or the supplementary budget?

Response: The costs for the platform are not part of the core budget. The costs are covered by a combination of Supplementary funding for SBs and Host Country support for COPs.

In general, how and where can the Party find out whether a particular project (regional week etc) is core or supplementary budget?

Response: Information on the funding sources for the outputs planned to be delivered by the secretariat is contained in programme budget documents, in the COP decision on the programme budget, in the budget performance reports, in the work programme and its updates, and in the fundraising letters.

For the biennium 2024-2025 relevant published documents include:

- FCCC/SBI/2023/2. Programme budget for the biennium 2024–2025. Proposal by the Executive Secretary;
- FCCC/SBI/2023/2/Add.1/Rev.1. Revised work programme of the secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025;
- FCCC/SBI/2024/INF.1. Work programme of the secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025: update as at 1 January 2024;
- Decision 19/CP.28 on the programme budget for the biennium 2024-2025.

Specifically, about the regional climate weeks, there are three separate kinds of funding sources. 1) logistics, venue and local costs are provided by the host government. These costs are not reported to the Secretariat but are in the range USD 300,000 to 1.5 million per climate week. 2) Operational cost, which mostly refers to costs for staff and consultants and some travel, which amounts to some USD 1.5 million for four climate weeks. These costs are mostly covered from non-core funding, such as CDM funding and supplementary funding for activities undertaken at the climate weeks, such as the regional DNA Forums (CDM) and training for transparency, capacity building, CTCN trainings etc. The nominal operational budget for four climate weeks organized over a biennium is USD 1.275.000. 3) Costs for bringing supported participants to the climate weeks. This refers mostly to mandated events and events by core partners (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank), which entirely depends on what events are organized at each climate week. Participants supported for attending UNFCCC events have their costs covered by the relevant project and funding source reflected in the approved budget. However, we do not have information about the costs covered by our partner organizations to bring participants to the regional climate weeks. It may be noted that the climate weeks also provide significant cost avoidance for UNFCCC by organizing several mandated events in the same location, at the same time, and with venue and operational costs covered. The 80 mandated events organized at the climate weeks in 2023 are estimated to have been USD 1.4 million more expensive (cost avoidance) if they had been organized as free-standing events.

Regarding the Trust Fund for Participation, what are the rules in implementing the support, including i) eligibility criteria for financial support, ii) number of delegates, and (iii) rules on airline tickets and DSA? How can we find out such a policy on the UNFCCC website?

Response: Information on the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC process is available in the document published on 2 October 2017¹. The document outlines the background, eligibility criteria and other relevant information.

Eligibility Criteria:

Based on UNCTAD statistics for 2011, Parties with a GDP per capita of less than USD 14,000, and USD 18,000 for SIDS (Small Island Developing States) and for Parties that provide officers to the Bureau are supported through this Trust fund.

Number of Delegates:

For sessions of the subsidiary bodies, financial support is provided for one delegate from each eligible Party, with an additional delegate for SIDS and LDCs.

For COP sessions, financial support is provided for two delegates from each eligible Party, with an additional delegate for SIDS and LDCs.

Rules on Airline Tickets and DSA:

- The arrangements for the travel of and the actual payment of the entitlements (Daily Subsistence Allowance -DSA and Terminal Expenses – TE), for participants is made by the secretariat in accordance with the UN Travel and Financial Rules.
- Travel by air is the standard mode of transportation, and travel entitlement is in economy class.
- The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) promulgates a consolidated list of DSA, which is intended to account for lodging, meals, incidentals/miscellaneous expenses of UN travelers.
- TE are a flat rate entitlement and the amount determined by the ICSC and intended to cover transportation costs between the point of departure/arrival and place of stay (home/hotel).

We are not in a position to note document “FCCC/SBI/2024/9”, titled “2023 secretariat activities, programme delivery highlights and financial performance” as it incorrectly captures the GST Outcome outlined in paragraph 28 of decision 1/CMA.5 paragraph 28. This incorrect reflection of the GST Outcome is featured in section II subsection B paragraph 10 as featured below:

“Under the outcome of the first GST agreed at COP 28, Parties committed to ratcheting up climate action by the end of the decade, with the overarching aim of keeping the global temperature limit of 1.5 °C within reach. Parties were called on to contribute to global efforts to, inter alia, triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvements by 2030, accelerate efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power, phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner,5 with developed countries continuing to take the lead.”

- The above paragraph incorrectly frames paragraph 28 due to cherry-picking of the sub-bullets under paragraph 28 out of context of the chapeau, which clearly outlines the emissions-basis for achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goals and underscores that countries’ contributions to global efforts are driven by the Paris Agreement, national circumstances, pathways and approaches.

We therefore suggest the following alternative paragraph:

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/trust_fund_for_participation_in_the_unfccc_process.pdf

Under the first outcomes of the first GST agreed, Parties recognized the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 °C pathways and called on Parties to contribute to global efforts, in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways and approaches”

We are not in a position to take note of document “FCCC/SBI/2024/7”, titled “Budget performance for the biennium 2022–2023 as at 31 December 2023” as it incorrectly captures the GST Outcome outlined in paragraph 28 of decision 1/CMA.5 paragraph 28. This incorrect reflection of the GST Outcome is featured in section IV subsection D paragraph 98 as reflected below:

“At COP 28, Parties responded to the results of the first global stocktake by adopting a package of 47 decisions aimed at accelerating action to reduce GHG emissions, enhance resilience to a changing climate and provide financial and technological support to vulnerable nations by 2030. This included a call to national Governments to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, such as wind and solar power, through enhanced climate commitments.”

- The above paragraph incorrectly frames paragraph 28 due to introducing new unagreed language and re-negotiating the premise of paragraph 28. The GST outcome is a comprehensive and balanced outcome text, which is based on CBDR-RC, national circumstances and country priorities. This is within the wider context of other decisions concluded at COP28. The above paragraph also positions the wider package of decisions as a response to the global stocktake, which is inaccurate considering their respective mandates to be concluded at COP28.

We therefore suggest the following alternative paragraph: *At COP 28, Parties responded to the results of the first Global Stocktake by adopting a package of 47 decisions. This included decisions on the first Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme, the Loss & Damage Fund, and many more.”*

Response: The Annual Report is not intended to be, nor is it mandated to be, a duplication of any negotiated decision texts. The issues raised by the Party relates to a two-sentence paragraph in the annual report of approximately 12 pages, so we will focus our response on that paragraph. That paragraph is not intended to be, nor capable of being, an exhaustive overview of the 196 paragraphs of content contained in Decision 1/CMA.5. Of course, every paragraph cannot accommodate the priorities and preferences of every Party, which is why the paragraph in question notes that the points mentioned in it are some of the key points from the decision, *among others* ("inter alia"). We also note the annual report in totality reflects key outcomes across all major workstreams referenced in the Decision, and thereby is reflective of the priorities of all Parties in this way.

Request for a brief on all re-appropriation decisions taken in the first half of 2024.

Response: Secretariat has not undertaken any re-allocations for the 2024-2025 biennium in the first half of 2024. Re-allocations are not normally done or necessary during the first half of the first year of the current biennium. If allocations are made they are based on the Conference of the Parties (COP) by decision 22/CP.26 that authorized the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the appropriation lines set out in table 1 of the decision, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, while ensuring no negative impact on the activities under each division.

Core budget allotments and expenditures as of 31 May 2024

	Budgeted	Allotted	Allotment v Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure v Budget
Executive	2,268,253	1,728,306	76%	630,119	28%
PC	355,332	270,747	76%	120,507	34%

Adaptation	3,819,153	2,864,192	75%	1,636,326	43%
Mitigation	2,195,438	1,681,220	77%	625,262	28%
MOI	3,629,286	2,885,850	80%	975,859	27%
Transparency	7,582,099	3,870,478	51%	2,857,078	38%
OC	789,167	595,374	75%	257,736	33%
SWC	1,793,946	1,323,785	74%	867,850	48%
AS/HR/ICT	2,227,701	1,810,929	81%	823,987	37%
CA	1,525,865	1,156,589	76%	480,803	32%
LA	1,455,228	1,116,290	77%	395,770	27%
ISCP	2,479,003	1,776,335	72%	924,246	37%
C&E	2,414,551	1,759,133	73%	712,306	30%
IPCC	244,755	251,003	103%	244,755	100%
Total	32,779,777	23,090,231	70%	11,552,604	35%

All mandates are decisions of Parties and no prioritization has been undertaken by the secretariat. 70% of appropriations have been allotted as of 31 May 2024 and variances reflected different rates of expenditure in divisions as the work programmes are not implemented linearly. The overall core expenditure rate 35% is slightly behind a linear rate of 42% as of end of May. The sessional period in June accounts for this lower than linear rate of expenditure.

With the UNFCCC process moving into a different phase following the outcomes of COP 27 and COP 28 and with the arrival of a new Deputy Executive Secretary (DES), a re-alignment of organizational structures was performed in the first quarter of 2024 to increase operational efficiency and facilitate better use of human and financial resources. The changes relate to the organizational re-alignment of the following divisions: Executive, Operations Coordination, AS/HR/ICT, Legal Affairs, Transparency, Communications and Engagement (C&E) and Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress (ISCP). None of these adjustments in reporting lines impacted the levels of resources assigned to these areas of work.

More specifically the re-alignment included: Resource Mobilization and Legal Affairs reporting to the Deputy Executive Secretary rather than the Senior Director for Operations. Human Resources reporting to the Deputy Executive Secretary rather than the Director of Administration. Follow-up to the GST will be overseen by the Senior Director for Programmes. Operation and further development of the Global Climate Action portal will be undertaken in the Transparency division rather than the Communications and Engagement division, the human and supplementary financial resources previously assigned to the Communications and Engagement division for this work have been reallocated to the Transparency division.

No mandated activities have been canceled. All efforts have been made to deliver on critical mandates. Some activities have been delayed, downscaled or combined.

For example, the mandated meeting of Party experts to assess progress on NAPs before SBI 60 could not be organized as a stand-alone activity with support to all eligible Parties. Instead, the meeting was held as part of the NAP Expo, and Expo participants participated in the meeting with curtailed representation. Likewise, instead of stand-alone events, the first dialogue and investment forum under the Mitigation Work Programme in 2024 as well as the first dialogue under the Just Transition Work Programme had to be organized in the SB60 pre-sessional week instead of stand-alone events.

In addition, activities have been downscaled, for example participation of funded participants in the Adaptation Forum had been downscaled to participation by regional groups instead of negotiation groups.

Some of the delayed programmatic activities include:

- The implementation aspects of Article 6.2, in particular (a) the launch of the Article 6.2 centralized review related work, (b) implementation of the infrastructure related to reporting and tracking of the international transferred mitigation outcomes, namely the International registry, centralized accounting and reporting platform and the Article 6 database.
- Similarly, work on Article 6.8 has also been delayed, including finalizing the non-markets platform, the operational procedures and the development and update of a manual on process for submitting and recording info within the non-markets approaches platform.
- Development of a web-based user interface for selecting tools and methodologies on response measures.
- Mandated reports for gender and ACE.

Travel costs of the Executive Secretary and his accompanying team for 2023 and the first half of 2024.

Response: During his official missions, the Executive Secretary is typically accompanied by one personnel (a senior advisor or programme officer).

Every event the Executive Secretary attends and every speech he makes is in support of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The cost and number of missions undertaken by the current Executive Secretary and their accompanying team are generally consistent with those of the previous Executive Secretary, after adjusting for inflation and the increased ticket costs in the post-COVID period.

Travel costs of the Executive Secretary and his accompanying team

Year	Mission Count ^a	Mission cost
2023	27	348,358
2024	10	140,004

^a Missions may include participation in more than one event

Given resource constraints, any travel of the Executive Secretary is carefully considered as to whether it:

- Supports the achievement of mandated activities and helps in moving the intergovernmental process forward
- Helps in securing resources to support implementation of the Party agreed work programme¹
- Requires UNFCCC participation at highest level rather than Director level (Noting that the UNFCCC had been without a Deputy for a little over a year)
- Can be avoided via virtual participation
- Possibility to combine events to economize travel costs

Since the ES has assumed his position in 2022, his office has logged about **480 invitations for the ES**. After careful consideration the ES has **taken up 52 in-person invites (around 11%)**.

These travels include, for instance:

- Engagement at Ministerial level (Copenhagen Climate Dialogue, Petersberg Climate Dialogue, UNGA, pre-COP but also the high-level segments of last year's Regional Climate Weeks in Nairobi and [Riyadh](#))
- Strategy meetings with COP Presidencies
- Engagement in key UNFCCC events such as NAP Expo to garner political attention to issues getting less exposure
- Strategic missions to secure resources from Parties and non-Party stakeholders (example travel to spring meeting of the WB/IMF and associated meetings with non-Party stakeholders resulting in financial resources for the secretariat).

In the document FCCC/SBI/2024/INF.1, para 36, table 22, the change in resource requirements in 2024-2025 for the Executive division is +296%. We would like to understand the reason for this maximal increase.

Response: No changes were made to the approved core budget (2024-25) appropriation to the Executive Division. Adjustments were only made for the supplementary resource requirements. The revised requirements for 2024-25 are largely consistent with the supplementary expenditure of the Executive Division for the biennium 2022-23 (considering inflation).

A minimal initial amount was erroneously included while the needs of the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) and Organizational Development and Oversight sub-division (ODO) were assessed and quantified which resulted in a preliminary 75% cut in determined requirements for delivering on the 2024-25 work programme, in comparison with the biennium prior (€457,870 for 2024-25 compared to €1,804,425 for 2022-23). The secretariat undertook a rigorous review at the beginning of the year regarding the supplementary resources in light of the additional mandates contained in decisions adopted at COP28. Upon completion of the review, the revised figure (€1,811,479), reflected the actual requirements for OES and ODO and is comparable with supplementary requirements for 2022-23.

The correction had to be made to restore supplementary funding to the approximate level of the prior biennium, to ensure the work of the Executive Secretary and his office could be carried out, as well as that of the ODO, part of the Executive division.

Supplementary funding is needed to ensure adequate staffing, consultancy and travel resources for the office of the ES and the DES. This funding supports coherent follow-up to the UAE consensus across the UN and enable the increasing number of engagements and advocacy activities required by the ES due to the growing number of new mandates, as well as advance strategic outreach to key stakeholders to facilitate and promote an ambitious global response to climate change.

We note and emphasise that no substantive changes have been made to levels of staffing, nor to the extent or costs of travel, or any other budget expense lines, relative to 2022-23 levels.

The level of existing resources is also required for the urgent implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as requested by COP28. These include improving the integration of secretariat-wide planning, enhancing internal control oversight as part of a wider accountability framework and implementing a new enterprise risk management system.

We are pleased to note that we anticipate upcoming Board of Auditor report will show a marked improvement in implementation of its recommendations, rising from 28% for 2021 to approximately 65% for 2023. Adequate resourcing of the Executive division will be an important element of our continuing work to lift this implementation rate higher, in the period ahead.

Executive division budget over the last two budget cycles

2022-2023			2024-2025				Total change compared to the last biennium adjusted for inflation ^a
Core budget	Supplementary activities	Total	Core budget	Supplementary activities (taken note by Parties at COP28)	Supplementary activities (updated as of May 2024)	Total	
€4,005,506	€1,804,425	€5,809,931	€4,536,506	€457,870	€1,811,479	€6,347,985	-4%

^a As per <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1322642/inflation-rate-forecast-germany/>, the inflation in 2022 was 6.9% and in 2023 6.1%