

Secretariat responses to requests from Parties for information and clarification received at the budget contact group meetings on 7 and 10 June 2023¹

- 1. Request:** When we work on the decision texts of the COP, we request to outline the budgetary implications right away, so that all mandated activities immediately included in core budget.

➤ **Response:**

The secretariat is mandated to provide Parties with an indication of budgetary implications before decisions and conclusions are adopted (see decision 16/CP.9, para. 20 and rule 15 of the draft rules of procedure being applied). To ensure that conclusions and recommended decisions with financial implications are adopted by Parties in the full knowledge of the costs, informal groups (contact groups, informal consultations) need to be informed of financial implications. Secretariat support teams inform (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s) of any provisions that have financial implications and where related costs are not covered by the core budget. They furthermore inform the (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s) of the practice to explicitly refer to such implications in related draft text, albeit without specific cost estimates. Finally, the teams encourage the (co-)chair(s)/(co-)facilitator(s) to inform their respective 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 secretariat provides an oral summary report on budgetary implications in the closing plenary meetings of the of the subsidiary and governing bodies after they have adopted conclusions and decisions. The cost of newly mandated activities that cannot be absorbed within the approved core budget can only be funded from the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities. Resource requirements in future budgetary periods are treated in line with the established budgetary process (e.g. category 2 activities are included in actual needs scenarios and a certain share of them also in other scenarios). The secretariat is considering options to further enhance the timely provision of clear, realistic and updated costing information at the time that new mandates are considered by Parties so these can be factored into the decision.

¹ Responses to other requests received by the secretariat will be provided as soon as they become available.