

RESOLUTION 2.6

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE

Recalling that, pursuant to article VI paragraph 9 (e) of the Agreement the Meeting of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies, as it deems necessary to assist in the implementation of the Agreement, in particular for coordination with bodies established under other international treaties, conventions and agreements with overlapping geographic and taxonomic coverage,

Recalling further that, at its first session, the Meeting of the Parties established a Technical Committee to provide scientific and technical advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to Parties,

Recognizing that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for the administration of the Secretariat,

Noting that no provisions have been made to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on policy, financial and administrative matters, which the Secretariat may need to raise between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties,

Considering the usefulness of a small permanent committee for matters relating to the organization of meetings and for the continuous implementation of the Agreement,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* to establish a Standing Committee, which, within the policy agreed by the Meeting of the Parties shall;

(a) Carry out between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, such interim activity on behalf of the Meeting as may be necessary;

(b) Make recommendations for consideration at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties;

(c) Oversee, on behalf of the Parties, the development and execution of the Secretariat's budget as derived from the Trust Fund and other sources, and also all aspects of fund-raising undertaken by the Secretariat in order to carry out specific functions authorized by the Meeting of the Parties;

(d) Oversee, as the representative of the Meeting of the Parties, the implementation of policy by the Secretariat and conduct of the Secretariat's programmes;

(e) Provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of the Secretariat's functions brought to it by the Secretariat;

(f) Represent the Meeting of the Parties, vis-à-vis the Government of the host country of the Secretariat's headquarters, the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organizations for consideration of matters relating to the Agreement and its Secretariat;

(g) Act as bureau at the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties;

(h) Report to the Meeting of the Parties on the activities that have been carried out between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;

(i) Perform any other functions that may be entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties;

2. *Determines* the following principles for the composition of and the procedures to be followed by the Standing Committee:

(a) The Committee shall consist of not more than seven Contracting Parties, which shall be appointed by the Meeting of the Parties. For at least five of these members, the appointment shall be based upon the principle of balanced geographical distribution, reflecting two representatives from the Europe and Central Asia region, one representative from the Middle East and Northern Africa region, one representative from the Western and Central Africa region, and one representative from the Eastern and southern Africa region. The remaining two members shall comprise the host country for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties and a representative from the Depositary;

(b) The Meeting of the Parties shall appoint an alternate member for a member described in subparagraph 2 (a) above. Any such alternate shall attend at meetings as a regional member only in the absence of a representative of the member for which it is the alternate;

(c) If an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties is held between two ordinary sessions, the host Party of that extraordinary session shall participate as an observer in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organization of the extraordinary session;

(d) Contracting Parties which are not members of the Standing Committee shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by an observer who will have the right to participate at their own expense but not to vote;

(e) The Chairman may invite any person or representative of any other country or organization and the Chairman of the Technical Committee to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer without the right to vote;

(f) The membership of the Committee shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the meeting. The term of office of the members nominated on a geographical basis shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following that at which they have been nominated;

(g) The Committee should meet at least once between the Meetings of the Parties, normally at the seat of the Secretariat;

(h) The Secretary for the Committee shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement;

(i) The Secretariat shall inform all Parties of the date and venue of the Standing Committee meetings;

(j) The Committee shall draw up and adopt its own rules of procedure.

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to make provision in future budgets for the payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of appointed Standing Committee members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the policy agreed by the Meeting of the Parties. In this regard:

(a) Members should make every effort to pay their own travel expenses;

(b) The Secretariat may refund to the Chairman of the Standing Committee all reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for travel undertaken on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat;

(c) Travel arrangements for sponsored Standing Committee members will be made by the Secretariat in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and, where applicable, claims for refund must be supported by receipts, and submitted to the Secretariat within 30 days after completion of travel;

4. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Agreement to be represented at meetings of the Standing Committee by an observer.