

Colombia and Peru on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, European Union and its 27 Member States, Grenada, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Pacific Islands and Small Developing States, Panama, Philippines, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

Article 20

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. A Conference of the Parties is hereby established.
2. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the interim secretariat no later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held every two years unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
4. The Conference of the Parties shall agree upon by consensus and adopt at its first meeting rules of procedure and financial rules for itself and any of its subsidiary bodies, as well as financial provisions governing the functioning of the Secretariat.
5. **The Conference of the Parties shall make every effort to adopt decisions by consensus. Except as otherwise provided in this Convention, if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, decisions on questions of procedure shall be adopted by a majority of the parties present and voting, and decisions on questions of substance shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting.**
6. The Conference of the Parties shall keep the implementation of the Convention under continuous review. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Convention and, to that end, shall:
 - (a) Establish such subsidiary bodies as it considers necessary for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Cooperate, where appropriate, with competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies;
 - (c) Review and adopt decisions related to the implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Undertake other functions identified in this Convention or as may be required for its implementation.
7. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not a Party to this Convention, may be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or nongovernmental, that is qualified in matters covered by this Convention and has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.