

## Article 23

### **Amendment of the Convention and Protocols**

**1. Any Party may propose amendments to this Convention or to any protocol thereto.** Such amendments shall take due account, inter alia, of relevant scientific, technical, and socio-economic considerations.

**2. Amendments to this Convention shall be adopted at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Amendments to any protocol shall be adopted at a meeting of the Parties to the protocol in question.** The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated by the Secretariat to the Parties **at least six months** before the meeting at which it is to be considered. The Secretariat shall also communicate the proposed amendment to the signatories to this Convention and, for information, to the Depositary.

**3. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on any proposed amendment by consensus.** If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the amendment shall, **as a last resort**, be adopted by a **three-fourths majority vote** of the Parties present and voting at the meeting. In the case of an amendment to a protocol, adoption shall require a **two-thirds majority** of the Parties to that protocol present and voting.

**4. An adopted amendment shall be submitted by the Depositary to all Parties for ratification, acceptance, approval or formal confirmation.**

**5. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or formal confirmation of amendments shall be deposited with the Depositary.** An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall enter into force **on the ninetieth day** after the date of deposit of the instruments by **at least three-fourths of the Parties to the Convention (or two-thirds for protocols)** that were Parties at the time the amendment was adopted. Thereafter, it shall enter into force for any other Party **on the ninetieth day** after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or formal confirmation.