

**ARTICLE 20**  
**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, INCLUDING ABILITY TO ESTABLISH SUBSIDIARY GROUPS**

[1. A Conference of the Parties is hereby established.

2. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme 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 at regular intervals to be decided by the Conference **at its first meeting.**

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 by consensus agree upon 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.

**4bis. The Conference of the Parties shall make every effort to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, decisions and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties on questions of substance shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, and decisions on questions of procedure shall be adopted by a majority of the Parties present and voting.**

5. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under continuous review and evaluation the implementation of this Convention ~~It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Convention and, to that end~~ **and for this purpose**, 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) Take decisions on convening meetings;
- (d) Review, evaluate and adopt decisions **and recommendations** related to the implementation of the Convention;
- (e) ~~Consider and take any action necessary to achieve the objectives of the Convention including adopting procedures or requirements in~~ **and adopt, as necessary, additional annexes to this Convention;**
- (f) Consider matters related to compliance;
- (g) Request and consider scientific and technical assessments or reviews from the subsidiary bodies to the Convention or any independent body linked to the Convention;
- (h) Oversee the work of subsidiary bodies;
- (i) Review information made available to it, including through national reporting and subsidiary bodies;
- (j) With the help of the subsidiary bodies, provide guidance on financial needs for the implementation of measures;
- (k) Consider amendments to the Convention proposed by the Parties;
- (l) Consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention in light of experience gained in its operation.**

6. 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 object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.]



