

## Article 21 - Secretariat

1. A secretariat is hereby established.
2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be to:
  - a. Prepare and arrange for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and subsidiary bodies, and to provide them with services as required;
  - b. Facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing country Parties, on request in the implementation of the Instrument;
  - c. Assist Parties, in the exchange of information related to the implementation of the Instrument taking into account the differing circumstances, responsibilities and capabilities of the Parties and their respective commitments;
  - d. Enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions; and
  - e. Perform the other Secretariat functions specified in this Instrument and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Conference of the Parties may decide, by a three fourths majority of the Parties present and voting, to entrust the Secretariat functions to one or more other international body or bodies as it may be determined.

*No work is envisaged during the interim period between DipCON and COP-1.*