United Nations A/AC.296/2026/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 January 2026

Original: English

Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement
Third session
New York, 23 March–2 April 2026

Financial rules governing the funding of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the funding of the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies

Further revised aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs

1. The Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/272, considered, at its first session, held from 14 to 25 April 2025, draft financial rules governing the funding of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement and the funding of the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies, on the basis of an aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs (A/AC.296/2025/7). At its second session, held from 18 to 29 August 2025, the Commission considered a revised aid to discussions and negotiations concerning the draft financial rules prepared by the Co-Chairs (A/AC.296/2025/13) and, subsequently, completed a reading of a refreshed text of the draft financial rules (A/AC.296/2025/CRP.4), circulated during the second session, on 25 August 2025. At the end of the second session, the Commission agreed that the Co-Chairs would prepare a further revised aid for consideration by the Commission at its third session.

2. The annex to the present document contains the further revised aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs concerning the draft financial rules. The current draft financial rules are based on the refreshed text circulated during the second session and include further updates that incorporate the views expressed during the second week of the second session of the Preparatory Commission, as well as additional written input provided by delegations within the indicated timeline following the conclusion of the second session. In the further revised aid to discussions and negotiations, the Co-Chairs have sought to capture the state of discussions and negotiations at the conclusion of the second session, with efforts made to streamline options and reduce the use of brackets and to ensure consistency with the wording of the Agreement. Editorial changes have also been made for consistency and clarity. Square brackets have been used to indicate the following: (a) alternative formulations within a paragraph; (b) where support was expressed for a “no text” option, either within a paragraph or with regard to a paragraph or section as a whole; and (c) new language proposed following the issuance of the refreshed text of the draft financial rules. Alternative formulations for entire paragraphs are presented according to the following structure:

Option I (for multiple paragraphs) or A (for single paragraphs)

[…]

Option II or B

[…]

3. The aim of the further revised aid to discussions and negotiations annexed hereto is to assist delegations in advancing text-based negotiations at the third session and to facilitate the prompt finalization of the work of the Preparatory Commission on the matter. Delegations are encouraged to study it, consult with one another and exercise flexibility, with a view to reaching consensus on outstanding issues in a timely manner.

4. The content of the annex to the present document is without prejudice to the position of any delegation on any of the matters referred to therein. Furthermore, the elements and options contained in the annex are not exhaustive and do not preclude the consideration of matters that have not been addressed therein.

Annex

Further revised aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs concerning draft financial rules governing the funding of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the funding of the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies

1. Scope

1.1 The present rules shall govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies established under the Agreement.

1.2 **Option A** (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm/Minamata models*): In respect of matters not specifically provided for by the present rules, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall apply.

Option B (*Convention on Biological Diversity model*): The present rules shall apply in conjunction with the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of [*United Nations entity designated as Trustee*] and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

2. Financial period

The financial period shall be a biennium consisting of two consecutive calendar years [of which the first year shall be an even year]. [The first year of the financial period shall normally be the year when an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties is being held.]

3. Budget

3.1 The head of the secretariat shall prepare a budget proposal for the following financial period, which shall be presented in United States dollars. The budget proposal shall show the projected income and expenditures for each calendar year. [Any expected miscellaneous income shall be estimated conservatively.] For ease of reference, the budget proposal should also include the actual income and expenditures for each year of the previous financial period, as well as estimates of actual expenditure in the current financial period.

3.2 The budget proposal shall be divided into parts and sections and shall address, when appropriate, administration and programmes, with the part on programmes further subdivided into subprogrammes, outputs, objectives and expected achievements. The proposal shall be accompanied by such information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be necessary for the consideration of the budget, including a statement on the main changes to the content in comparison with the previous financial period, as well as its programmatic content where applicable, and such further annexes or statements as the head of the secretariat may deem necessary and useful.

3.3 [(a) [The budget proposal, including any supporting documentation, shall be transmitted to the members of the Finance Committee on financial resources at least forty-five days prior to the Committee meeting at which the proposed budget is to be considered. After considering the budget proposal, the Committee shall prepare a report on it, which shall include the Committee's recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.] [The budget proposal, including any supporting documentation, may be reviewed by the Finance Committee on financial resources, which may provide non-binding observations or technical input, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties].]

[(b)] The budget proposal, including any supporting documentation, [and the [report] [non-binding observations or technical input] of the Finance Committee on financial resources] shall be transmitted to all Parties at least [90] [45] days prior to the opening of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

3.4 The Conference of the Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget proposal [, as well as the [report] [non-binding observations or technical input] of the Finance Committee on financial resources,] and adopt the budget in accordance with article 47, paragraph 6 (e), of the Agreement.

3.5 The head of the secretariat shall provide the Conference of the Parties with cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions, prior to the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties. Such cost estimates shall be transmitted to all Parties sufficiently in advance to allow adequate time for consideration. [The head of the secretariat shall also provide a justification of the unavoidability of such costs.]

[3.6 (a) Supplementary budget proposals may be submitted by the head of the secretariat [when the expenditures associated with such proposals are covered by additional voluntary contributions and] [if exceptional circumstances make this necessary [, including]] [only] [:] [.]

[(i) When they are required to finance activities which the head of the secretariat considers to be of the highest urgency and which could not have been foreseen at the time the initial budget proposal was prepared;

(ii) In respect of a decision by the Conference of the Parties;

(iii) When they cover activities mentioned in the initial budget proposal for the respective financial period as budget items for which later submissions would be made;

(iv) When they involve [substantial] changes in expenditure requirements associated with inflation and currency fluctuations [that make activities adopted by the Conference of the Parties otherwise financially unviable].]

(b) Such proposals shall be prepared in a format consistent with the approved budget and shall include a justification of the unavoidability of the expenditure and an explanation of the circumstances set out in rule 3.6 (a).

(c) The present rules shall be applicable to the proposed supplementary budget.

[(d) [Any supplementary budget proposal shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee on financial resources, which shall provide a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the proposal.] [Any supplementary budget proposal may be reviewed by the Finance Committee on financial resources, which may provide non-binding observations or technical input.]]

(e) Any supplementary budget proposal shall be approved by the Conference of the Parties.]

3.7 (a) The adoption of the budget by the Conference of the Parties shall constitute an authorization to the head of the secretariat to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the Conference of the Parties, commitments are covered by related received funds.

(b) The head of the secretariat may enter into commitments for future financial periods, provided that such commitments do not affect the current budget and:

(i) Are for activities which have been approved by the Conference of the Parties and are expected to continue beyond the end of the current financial period; or

(ii) Are authorized by specific decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

(c) In the event that the [Secretary-General of the United Nations] [*head of United Nations entity*] [Trustee] anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, it shall notify the head of the secretariat, who shall adjust the budget so that commitments are at all times fully covered by the funds received.

[3.8 (a) Appropriations shall be available for obligations during the financial period to which they relate.

(b) Appropriations shall remain available for 12 months following the end of the financial period to which they relate, to the extent that they are required to discharge obligations in respect of goods supplied and services rendered in the financial period and to liquidate any other outstanding legal obligation of the financial period. The balance of the appropriations shall be surrendered.

(c) At the end of the 12-month period provided for in rule 3.8 (b) above, the then remaining balance of any appropriations retained shall be surrendered. Any unliquidated obligations of the financial period in question shall, at that time, be cancelled or, where the obligation remains a valid charge, transferred as an obligation against current appropriations.]

3.9 The head of the secretariat may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved budget. The [head of the secretariat] [Trustee, on the advice of the head of the secretariat,] may also make transfers between such appropriation lines, up to 15 per cent of the main appropriation line from which the transfer is made [, unless another limit is set by the Conference of the Parties].

3.10 The [head of the secretariat] [Trustee, in consultation with the head of the secretariat,] shall prudently manage appropriations, taking into account the availability of cash balances and the purpose of the budget lines from which the appropriations are being made. [The [Finance Committee on financial resources] [secretariat] shall regularly review the availability and timely disbursement of funds and [submit a report on this matter to the Conference of the Parties] [prepare a report on this matter, which shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee on financial resources and thereafter be submitted to the Conference of the Parties]].

4. Funds

4.1 **Option A** (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm/Minamata and International Seabed Authority models*): A general trust fund for the Agreement shall be established [or designated] by the [Secretary-General of the United Nations] [*head of United Nations entity*] [and managed by the head of the secretariat] [for the purpose of funding the institutions established under the Agreement].

Option B (*Convention on Biological Diversity model*): The Conference of the Parties shall designate an organization (hereinafter referred to as the Trustee) which shall establish [or designate] and manage the general trust fund for the [Agreement] [purpose of funding the institutions established under the Agreement] in accordance with the present rules.

4.2 The general trust fund shall be used to fund the institutions established under the Agreement, namely the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies. The financial resources specified in rule 5.1 shall be credited to the general trust fund, unless such resources have been earmarked to be credited to another fund established under the Agreement. All budget expenditures that are made pursuant to rule 3.7 (a) shall be charged to the general trust fund.

4.3 Within the general trust fund [there shall be maintained] a working capital reserve [[shall] [may] be authorized in specially justified cases where there are financial benefits for the Parties,] at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties [by consensus]. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be [to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash] [determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties]. [The Conference of the Parties shall provide further guidelines to ensure that the working capital reserve is used in a transparent and sustainable manner.]

4.3 bis [The following rules shall apply to the working capital reserve] [If a working capital reserve is established, the following rules shall apply]:

[(a) The source of moneys of the working capital reserve shall be advances from Parties made in accordance with [the indicative scale adopted by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to] rule 5.1 (a). These advances shall be carried to the credit of members which have made such advances;]

(b) The available funds in the working capital reserve may not be used to cover outstanding contributions by Parties;

(c) Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored [from contributions] as soon as possible [and no later than the end of the following year];

(d) Income derived from investments of the working capital reserve shall be credited to miscellaneous income;

(e) The working capital reserve shall be subject to review by the Conference of the Parties every [xx] calendar years, including with regard to its level;

(f) If the working capital reserve is terminated, the funds remaining in the reserve at the time of termination shall be [credited to miscellaneous income] [redistributed to the Parties to the Agreement on a pro rata basis according to the scale of assessments] [credited to the special fund].

4.4 The present rules are applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to article 52, paragraph 4, of the Agreement, subject to the terms of reference for that fund.

4.4 bis The voluntary trust fund shall be managed by the head of the secretariat. The fund shall facilitate the participation of representatives of developing States Parties, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in the [ordinary, extraordinary and intersessional] meetings of the bodies established under the Agreement [, as well as of any ad hoc groups, working groups or subcommittees established under such bodies]. The financial resources specified in rule 5.1 (b) and (c) that are earmarked to this fund shall be credited to the fund.

[4.4 ter The procedures for facilitating the participation of representatives of developing States Parties [and members from developing States Parties] in the meetings of the bodies established under the Agreement [, as well as of any ad hoc groups, working groups or subcommittees established under such bodies] shall ensure the full eligibility of, and give priority to, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and shall be guided by established United Nations practice.]

4.4 quater Separate budget lines shall be established for the funding of participation by developing States Parties for each body [or committee] established under the Agreement. The composition of each body [or committee] will determine the percentage of the overall resources of the voluntary trust fund that will be allocated to each, on the basis of an indicative number of developing State Party participants in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of developing State Party representatives on each subsidiary body [or committee].

[4.4 quinquies The Conference of the Parties may establish a voluntary funding mechanism to facilitate the participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the [ordinary, extraordinary and intersessional] meetings of the bodies established under the Agreement, as well as of any ad hoc groups, working groups or subcommittees established under such bodies. The present rules shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to such a funding mechanism, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties in consultation with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The funding mechanism shall be managed by the head of the secretariat and be guided by established United Nations practice.]

4.5 The Conference of the Parties may establish additional administrative funds. The purpose and limits of each fund shall be clearly defined by the Conference of the Parties. Unless provided otherwise by the Conference of the Parties, such funds shall be administered in accordance with the present rules. Should a fund so established result in additional liability to the general trust fund, that liability must be quantified and approved in advance by the Conference of the Parties.

[4.5 bis The present rules shall not apply to any additional funds established in accordance with article 52, paragraph 5, of the Agreement, unless otherwise provided by the Conference of the Parties.]

4.6 In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate the general trust fund or another fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise the [Secretary-General of the United Nations] [*head of United Nations entity*] [Trustee] at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The general trust fund may be terminated only if, prior to the termination date, a new fund has been established to ensure the funding of the institutions established under the Agreement. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with the [Secretary-General of the United Nations] [*head of United Nations entity*] [Trustee], on the distribution of any uncommitted balance after all liquidation expenses have been met.

5. Contributions

5.1 The following financial resources are available to fund the institutions established under the Agreement:

(a) The assessed contributions of the Parties that are to be paid according to article 52, paragraph 2, of the Agreement shall be determined on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by the Conference of the Parties and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly [, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 20 per cent of the total [and that no contribution from a least developed country Party or a small island developing State Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total]];

(b) Voluntary contributions made by Parties in addition to those under subparagraph (a) above [including those made by the Government hosting the secretariat];

(c) Funding provided through public and private sources, both national and international, including, but not limited to, contributions from States, international financial institutions, existing funding mechanisms under global and regional instruments, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons, and through public-private partnerships;

(d) The uncommitted balance of income received from previous financial periods;

(e) Miscellaneous income [, including income from the investment of contributions not immediately required as set out in rule 5.7].

5.2 The Conference of the Parties shall, in adopting the indicative scale referred to in rule 5.1 (a), make adjustments to take account of assessed contributions of Parties that are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

5.3 In respect of assessed contributions of the Parties made pursuant to rule 5.1 (a) [and advances to the working capital reserve], the following rules apply:

(a) Assessed contributions [and advances to the working capital reserve] shall be paid annually. [They are due on [1 January] [31 March] of each calendar year and should be paid promptly and in full [, or in instalments if this is not possible].] Parties should be notified of the amount of their contributions [, namely, assessed contributions and advances to the working capital reserve,] for a given year by 15 October of the previous year. [Contributions shall be paid in a timely manner.] As of [1 January] [31 March] of the following calendar year, the unpaid balance of such contributions [and advances] shall be considered to be [one year] in arrears;

(b) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the assessed contribution, inform the head of the secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and of the projected timing of that contribution [, which may be aligned with the Parties’ financial cycle at the national level];

(c) If the assessed contributions [and advances to the working capital reserve] of a Party are in arrears, the head of the secretariat shall write to that Party to impress upon it the importance of the timely payment of such contributions [and advances] and remind it of the measures that may be taken in accordance with rule 5.3 (f). The head of the secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the consultations with such Parties;

(d) The head of the secretariat [shall] [may] extend the payment deadline, [by up to two years] as appropriate, for [developing States Parties, including] least developed countries [or] [and] small island developing States that have been affected by force majeure, including natural disasters and public health emergencies [or other external factors that negatively affect their ability to fulfil their financial commitments]. An appropriate payment schedule [may] [shall] be agreed between the head of the secretariat and the Party so affected [. The head of the secretariat must report any such payment schedule to the Bureau and to the Conference of the Parties];

(e) If the amount of a Party's arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years, the head of the secretariat shall agree with that Party on a payment schedule to permit it to clear all outstanding arrears within a maximum of four years, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party, and to pay future contributions by their due dates [, taking into account the needs of developing States Parties]. The head of the secretariat shall report to the Bureau and to the Conference of the Parties at their next meetings on progress under any such schedule;

(f) **Option A:** If the amount of a Party's arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years, a payment schedule according to rule 5.3 (e) is not jointly decided or respected and the Party's payment deadline has not been extended according to rule 5.3 (d), the Conference of the Parties shall decide on appropriate measures [, taking into account the specific needs and special requirements of developing States Parties, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States];

Option B:

(i) If the amount of a Party's arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years, a payment schedule according to rule 5.3 (e) is not jointly decided or respected and the Party's payment deadline has not been extended according to rule 5.3 (d), no representative of that Party shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties [and that Party may not nominate a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties]. [This provision shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States];

(ii) If the amount of a Party's arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding four full years, a payment schedule according to rule 5.3 (e) is not jointly decided or respected and the Party's payment deadline has not been extended according to rule 5.3 (d), no representative of that Party shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Conference of the Parties, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise;

[(g) The Secretariat shall, upon request by the Party in arrears, facilitate the conduct of the process outlined in rule 5.3 (f) and support the Conference of the Parties in its deliberations on such matters.]

(h) Assessed contributions from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Agreement after the beginning of a financial period shall be made *pro rata temporis* for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

5.4 Contributions made pursuant to rule 5.1 (b) and (c) shall [be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objective of the Agreement [and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations], as may be agreed between the head of the secretariat and the contributors] [be accepted only if the purposes for which such contributions are made are consistent with the objectives and general principles and approaches of the Agreement] [be subject to consideration and prior approval by the Conference of the Parties]. [At each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the head of the secretariat shall present a report on such contributions received and expected, as well as on their sources, amounts, purposes and conditions.] [If the acceptance of such contributions involves further financial liability, directly or indirectly, for the institutions established under the Agreement, it shall require the prior approval of the Conference of the Parties.]

5.5 All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or the equivalent in a convertible currency. They shall be paid into a bank account to be designated by the [Secretary-General of the United Nations] [*head of United Nations entity*] [Trustee] [, in consultation with the head of the secretariat]. In conversion of currencies into United States dollars, the United Nations operational rate of exchange shall be used.

5.6 The head of the secretariat shall acknowledge promptly the receipt of all pledges and contributions and shall inform the Parties [, twice a year,] by publishing on the website of the Agreement up-to-date information on the status of pledges and payments of [assessed and host country] contributions.

5.7 Contributions not immediately required for the purposes of the general trust fund shall be used to restore any drawdown from the working capital reserve and to fulfil payment obligations to the budget, starting with the oldest obligation. Any remaining contributions that are not immediately required shall be invested in such a way as to place primary emphasis on minimizing the risk to the general trust fund while ensuring the liquidity necessary to meet the cash-flow requirements of the institutions established under the Agreement. In addition, investments shall be selected on the basis of achieving the highest reasonable rate of return and shall accord with the principles of the United Nations. The Conference of the Parties may develop additional guidelines for investments. Income derived from investments shall be credited to the [relevant fund established under the Agreement] [general trust fund].

[5.8 Any expected miscellaneous income shall be estimated conservatively, and lower-than-expected income should be offset by reduced expenditures during the applicable budget cycle.]

6. Auditing and accounts

Option I for draft rules 6.1 and 6.2

6.1 The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations [as laid down in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations].

6.2 **Option A** (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm/Minamata models*): An interim statement of accounts for the [first year of the] financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties [during the second year of the period], and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible after the accounts for the financial period are closed.

Option B (*Convention on Biological Diversity model*): At the end of each calendar year, the Trustee shall transfer any balance to the following calendar year and submit to the Conference of the Parties, through the head of the secretariat, the certified and audited accounts for that year as soon as practicable.

Option II for rules 6.1 to 6.6 (*International Seabed Authority model*)

Accounts

6.1 The head of the secretariat shall submit accounts [for the financial period] [for every calendar year]. In addition, the head of the secretariat shall maintain, for management purposes, such accounting records as are necessary [, including interim accounts for the first calendar year of the financial period].

6.2 The accounts of the funds established under the Agreement shall be presented in United States dollars. Accounting records may, however, be kept in such currency or currencies as the head of the secretariat may deem necessary.

6.3 Appropriate separate accounts shall be maintained for all funds, reserve and special accounts.

6.4 The accounts for the financial period shall be submitted by the head of the secretariat to the auditor not later than 31 March [following the end of the financial period] [of each calendar year].

Audits

6.5 The Conference of the Parties shall appoint [, by consensus,] an internationally recognized independent auditor with experience in the audit of international organizations. The independent auditor shall be appointed for a period of four years and may be reappointed for one term. The auditor shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of the audit.

6.6 The audit shall [be conducted on an annual basis and] be conducted in conformity with generally accepted common auditing standards and, subject to any special directions of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with additional terms of reference as may be developed by the Conference of the Parties.

7. Administrative support costs

7.1 **Option A** (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm/Minamata models*): The Conference of the Parties shall reimburse the [United Nations] [*United Nations entity*] [Trustee] for the services provided to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat from the [relevant fund established under the Agreement] [general trust fund], on such terms as may from time to time be agreed upon between the Conference of the Parties and the [United Nations] [*United Nations entity*] [Trustee] or, in the absence of such agreement, in accordance with the general policy of the United Nations.

Option B (*Convention on Biological Diversity model*): It is for the Conference of the Parties and the Trustee to agree on an administrative support charge to be paid to the Trustee.

[7.2 [Developed] States not Party to the Agreement shall contribute to the expenses of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies in which they participate as observers, at rates to be determined by the Conference of the Parties, unless the Conference of the Parties decides with respect to any such State to exempt it from this requirement. Such contributions shall be treated as funding provided in accordance with rule 5.1 (c).]

8. General provisions

8.1 Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. [Such amendments shall not create retroactive financial obligations for Parties.]

[8.2 The present rules shall become effective on the date they are approved by the Conference of the Parties and shall apply to the financial period [*to be specified*] and to subsequent financial periods.]

8.3 All officials involved in the management of the financial resources for the Agreement shall be guided by the principles of effective and efficient financial management and the exercise of economic prudence.