

PART FIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Article 16: Cooperative Activities

1. The Parties recognize that cooperation is an effective way to achieve the objectives and fulfill the obligations under this Agreement. Accordingly, and subject to the availability of appropriate financial resources, the Parties may develop programs of cooperative activities based on regional and national priorities.

2. The Parties agree to strive to strengthen their cooperation on environmental issues in other bilateral, regional and multilateral for a in which they participate.

3. The Parties may involve the public and interested stakeholders or any other entity that the Parties deem appropriate.

4. The Parties agree to identify priority areas for cooperative activities and to establish a work program which shall be prepared without delay after the entry into force of this Agreement. The priority areas listed in Annex II to this Agreement shall be considered for the initial Work Program.

5. The Parties agree to make best efforts to find appropriate resources to effectively implement a Work Program. The Work Program may be implemented:

- (a) through technical cooperation programs in accordance with terms decided by the Parties, including information sharing, exchange of experts and training; and
- (b) through financial cooperation for priority projects submitted by the Parties.

The resources may come from, *inter alia*, public entities or agencies from the Parties, or when appropriate from private institutions, foundations or international public organizations.

6. The Parties may cooperate with any State not party to this Agreement, where appropriate, to maximize available resources. When appropriate, the Parties agree to cooperate to identify and to secure resources from external sources.