

- (b) seek the advice of non-governmental organizations or persons, including independent experts; and
- (c) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

6. All decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be taken by mutual agreement, except as the Council may otherwise decide or as otherwise provided in this Agreement.

7. All decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made public, except as the Council may otherwise decide or as otherwise provided in this Agreement.

#### **Article 10 : Council Functions**

1. The Council shall be the governing body of the Commission and shall:

- (a) serve as a forum for the discussion of environmental matters within the scope of this Agreement;
- (b) oversee the implementation and develop recommendations on the further elaboration of this Agreement and, to this end, the Council shall, within three years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, review its operation and effectiveness in the light of experience;
- (c) oversee the functions assigned to the National Secretariats within the scope of this Agreement;
- (d) address questions and differences that may arise between the Parties regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
- (e) approve the annual program of work and budget of the Commission; and
- (f) promote and facilitate cooperation between the Parties with respect to environmental matters.

2. The Council may consider, and develop recommendations regarding:

- (a) comparability of techniques and methodologies for data gathering and analysis, data management and electronic data communications on matters covered by this Agreement;
- (b) pollution prevention techniques and strategies;
- (c) approaches and common indicators for reporting on the state of the environment;