

(k) Consider and, if approved, adopt proposals for any amendment of or addition to this Protocol or any annex thereto; and

(l) Exercise such other functions as are required for the implementation of this Protocol, including any functions assigned to it by the Conference of the Parties.

38.1 The secretariat shall convene the first Meeting of the Parties not later than one year after the date of the entry into force of this Protocol and, if feasible, in conjunction with a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Thereafter, ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held every year in conjunction with sessions of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

38.2 Extraordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Meeting of the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of such a request being communicated to the Parties by the secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

38.3 The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not party to this Protocol, may be represented at any Meeting of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Protocol and which has informed the secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Meeting of the Parties as an observer, may be so 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 Parties at their first Meeting.

38.4 The first Meeting of the Parties shall adopt by consensus financial rules, in accordance with guidance received from the Conference of the Parties, to ensure that any additional funds for the operation of this Protocol are provided by the Parties to this Protocol.

B. Secretariat

39. The secretariat established by Article 8 of the Convention shall serve as the secretariat to this Protocol.

39.1 Arrangements made for its functioning under Article 8.3 of the Convention shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Protocol.

39.2 The costs of secretariat services for this Protocol shall be met only by Parties thereto to the extent that these are distinct.

C. Subsidiary Bodies

40. [The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Subsidiary Bodies") shall serve as the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the Protocol. [Their functioning with respect to the Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Protocol].