

2. The Council shall make every effort to take decisions on the basis of consensus. For the purpose of this Convention, consensus means the absence of a formal objection.
3. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement has been reached, decisions of the Council may be adopted by a three-quarters majority vote of the Contracting Parties present and voting.
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, consensus shall be required for the following:
  - (a) the establishment of permanent or ad hoc scientific groups and committees;
  - (b) the appointment of an Executive Secretary;
  - (c) the adoption of the annual budget of the Organization;
  - (d) recommendations for amendment of this Convention;
  - (e) the holding of any meeting of the Council other than the annual meeting;  
and
  - (f) other matters of substance that the Council may agree upon.

#### Article VIII

##### The Secretariat

The Council shall appoint an Executive Secretary on such terms and with such duties as it may determine. The staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Executive Secretary in accordance with such rules, procedures, and requirements as may be determined by the Council.

#### Article IX

##### Financial Provisions

1. The Council shall adopt an annual budget for the Organization.