

5. The first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall be convened after the date of entry into force of this Protocol in conjunction with the ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Subsequent ordinary sessions shall be held every year and in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties.

6. Extraordinary sessions shall be held at such times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties serving as 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.

7. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any state member thereof, or observers thereto not Party to the Convention may be represented at sessions of the 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 this 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 Conference of the Parties.

8. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1 to 7 above, the Parties to this Protocol may also meet at any such times as may be deemed necessary by the Parties to this Protocol.

Article 16

Replace the second sentence of Article 16.1 with the following:

"Their functioning with respect to the Convention shall apply except for Article 10.2 (a) of the Convention, *mutatis mutandis* to this Protocol."

Article 17 (bis)

Add the following paragraph:

There shall be a periodic evaluation, for the period 2001-2005, 2006-2010, 2011-2015, and 2016-2020, of the compliance to each Annex I Party with its QELROS.