

4. With respect to decisions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, if a Party or member of the Commission, as the case may be, is absent from the meeting in question and has not sent a notification in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article, the Director shall notify such Party or member of the decision taken at the meeting. If, within thirty (30) days of the receipt by the Party or member of such notification, the Director has not received a response from such Party or member, that Party or member shall be deemed to have joined the consensus on the decision in question. If, within such 30-day period, such Party or member replies in writing that it cannot join the consensus on the decision in question, the decision shall have no effect, and the Commission shall seek to reach consensus at the earliest opportunity.

5. When a Party or member of the Commission that was not present at a meeting notifies the Director, in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article, that it cannot join the consensus on a decision taken at that meeting, that member shall not be able to oppose consensus on the same issue if it is not present at the next meeting of the Commission at which that issue is on the agenda.

6. If a member of the Commission is not able to attend a meeting of the Commission due to extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances outside its control:

- (a) It shall so notify the Director, in writing, prior to the start of the meeting if possible or otherwise at the earliest possible opportunity. Such notification shall be effective upon acknowledgement of its receipt by the Director to the member concerned; and
- (b) Subsequently and as soon as possible, the Director shall notify the member of all the decisions taken at that meeting in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article;
- (c) within thirty (30) days of the notice referred to in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, the member may notify the Director in writing that it cannot join the consensus on one or more of these decisions. In such cases, the relevant decision or decisions shall have no effect, and the Commission shall seek to reach consensus at the earliest opportunity.

7. The decisions adopted by the Commission pursuant to this Convention shall be binding for all members forty-five (45) days after their notification, unless otherwise specified in this Convention or agreed when a decision is taken.