

4. The accounts of the Commission shall be subjected to an annual independent financial audit.

ARTICLE XV

Contributions

1. The amount of the contribution of each member of the Commission to the budget shall be determined in accordance with the scheme which the Commission shall adopt, and amend, as required, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of this Convention. The scheme adopted by the Commission shall be transparent and equitable for all members and shall be set out in the financial regulations of the Commission.
2. The contributions agreed pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall enable the operation of the Commission and cover in a timely manner the annual budget adopted in accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 1, of this Convention.
3. The Commission shall establish a fund to receive voluntary contributions for research on and conservation of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and, as appropriate, associated or dependent species, and for the conservation of the marine environment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IX of this Convention, unless the Commission decides otherwise, if a member of the Commission is in arrears in the payment of its contributions by an amount equal to or greater than the total of the contributions due from it for the preceding twenty-four (24) months, that member shall not have the right to participate in decision-making in the Commission until it has fulfilled its obligations pursuant to this Article.
5. Each member of the Commission shall meet its own expenses arising from attendance at meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies.

ARTICLE XVI

Transparency

1. The Commission shall promote transparency in the implementation of this Convention in its decision-making processes and other activities, *inter alia*, through:
 - (a) the public dissemination of pertinent non-confidential information; and