



# National Implementation Plans and National Action Plans:

## Key Elements to Consider in the Context of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

### Introduction:

Treaties, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), provide obligations for States to undertake either individual or joint action to implement international legal instruments.

Implementation refers to the process by which countries establish national policies that reflect their treaty obligations.<sup>1</sup> Implementation provisions in treaties are designed to ensure effectiveness of the treaty and generally require the adoption of national measures in order to fulfill the obligations laid out in a treaty instrument (e.g., regulation, procedural measures, and economic measures).

While implementation measures encompass a large range of topics, including national reporting, compliance mechanisms, periodic assessments, technology transfer, and finance, this brief will focus on national implementation plans (NIPs), national action plans (NAPs), and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This focus derives from the mandate for the negotiations of the international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (plastics treaty) in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14<sup>2</sup> and builds on State positions articulated before and during the first two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which have highlighted NIPs, NAPs, or NDCs as potential implementation measures.

UNEA resolution 5/14, along with the UN Environment Programme's options paper, *Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument*,<sup>3</sup> proposed the inclusion of

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1. Escobar-Pemberthy, N., Ivanova, M., "Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Rationale and Design of the Environmental Conventions Index", Global Environmental Policy and Governance in Sustainability, (2020), at p. 2.

2. United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14, paras. 3 (d) and (e).

3. Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, UNEP/PP/INC.2/4, para. 29 and following.

provisions that “develop, implement and update national action plans reflecting country-driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the instrument.”<sup>4</sup> Many State pre-submissions for the second session of the INC mentioned NAPs<sup>5</sup> or a combination of NIPs and NAPs.<sup>6</sup> A minority of submissions also refer to nationally determined action plans or actions<sup>7</sup> or voluntary approaches that reflect national circumstances and allow States to determine their content rather than using a prescribed, uniform format.<sup>8</sup> More broadly, during INC-2, many States mentioned the need to have implementation measures.<sup>9</sup> In particular, during the discussions of Contact Group 2 at INC-2, States provided different reflections on NAPs,<sup>10</sup> and “some [negotiating States] preferred the terminology National Implementation Plan to capture the role of the plan in national implementation of the instrument.”<sup>11</sup> While these terms seem similar, they imply different mechanisms, different legal effects, and different compliance and evaluation systems.

This brief clarifies the difference between NIPs and NAPs and provides a list of key recommendations to inform the negotiation of a plastics treaty. The brief also touches on NDCs and concepts of “nationally determined” targets and actions or “voluntary approaches that reflect national circumstances,” building on lessons learned from existing MEAs to inform the negotiations and the implementation of the plastics treaty.<sup>12</sup> The brief concludes that far from being mutually exclusive, NIPs and NAPs should be seen as complementary forms of implementation of the future plastics treaty.

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4. UNEA resolution 5/14, paras. 3 (d); United Nations, “Potential options for elements towards and international legally binding instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14”, UNEP/PP/INC.2/4, at para. 3(d).
  5. See for example, INC-2 pre-submission of Armenia, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Yemen, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Nigeria, Singapore, Palau, Palestine, Cook Islands, Egypt, Iran, Bahrain, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Japan, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Morocco, Norway, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Monaco, Rwanda, United States, Kenya, Canada, New Zealand, Uruguay, Australia, Peru, Ecuador, Thailand, Africa Group, AOSIS, Uganda, Russian Federation, Turkey, Iceland.
  6. See for example, INC-2 pre-submission of the European Union and the Republic of Korea.
  7. See for example, INC-2 pre-submission of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.
  8. See for example INC-2 pre-submission of the United States of America.
  9. See for example, INC-2 Country Statements by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Iran, Jamaica, Mexico, Pacific Small Island Developing States, United Republic of Tanzania, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Joint Submission of Chile, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, the Federated States of Micronesia, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda on Means of Implementation.
  10. See Co-facilitators report on discussions in Contact Group 2.
  11. See Co-facilitators report on discussions in Contact Group 2, at footnote 2.
  12. Looking at nationally determined targets and obligations, many economists have, for example, warned about past failures in the content of MEAs. For example, the Kyoto Protocol was signed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1997, and criticisms were made about its lack of ambition. Many have called it the “wrong solution at the right time” because the agreement relies on an open-ended scope that promised the possibility of renewing national targets. “Kyoto’s failure, therefore, is a true liability, because it has cost the global community something that cannot be replaced: time,” Rosen, A., “The Wrong Solution at the Right Time: The Failure of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change,” Webster University, (2015).

## I. NAPs and NIPs: Differences, Limitations, and Complementarity

States are responsible for complying with their obligations under international treaties to which they are party.<sup>13</sup> Complying with such obligations requires national implementation measures and monitoring, with these efforts then being reported to the appropriate treaty body.<sup>14</sup> As a result, MEAs typically include implementation provisions in the operative part of the text. Those provisions can and often do vary between MEAs and can be formulated as an obligation to develop NIPs, NAPs, or, more recently, under the Paris Agreement, NDCs. The design of these implementation measures has different implications and, accordingly, requires special attention to ensure that the future plastics treaty acknowledges the multifaceted nature of plastic pollution and the numerous intersections between the implementation of the treaty and national laws and rules.

**NAPs are policy documents in which a State articulates its priorities, policies, and plans for action to facilitate the implementation of international, regional, or national obligations or commitments.**<sup>15</sup> The elaboration of a NAP gives a government the opportunity to review the past and current extent of its implementation on a specific topic at the national level (and, where appropriate, at the sub-national level) and identify gaps and reforms needed to improve coherence with existing commitments and policy frameworks. NAPs tend to be broad, not legally binding, and may be adopted in connection with a particular treaty requirement (as a separate national undertaking that reflects relevant treaty obligations on the topic or that originates in a specific MEA).<sup>16</sup> NAPs limitations include (i) lack of performance because they are not necessarily legally binding;<sup>17</sup> (ii) frequent insufficient ambition, potentially reflecting their status as political priority statements;<sup>18</sup> (iii) being too broad in scope, vague, or open-ended, potentially leading to difficulties in justifying funding

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13. Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) refers to the principle of *Pacta Sunt Servanda* ('every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith').

14. Koirvurova, T., "Introduction to International Environmental Law", Routledge, (2014), at p. 18. Generally speaking, States may implement their international environmental obligations in three distinct phases. First, by adopting national implementing measures; second, by ensuring that national measures are complied with by those subject to their jurisdiction and control; and third, by fulfilling obligations to the relevant international organizations, such as reporting the measures taken to give effect to international obligations.

15. National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, "[What are national action plans?](#)" (2017-2023).

16. Any State can adopt a national action plan (for example on plastic pollution) independently of a given treaty. As an example, in 2011, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, John Ruggie, proposed the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs), which were endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council. The UN Working Group (UNWG), established by the Human Rights Council and other stakeholders of the UNGPs, called upon governments to establish NAPs as a means to implement the principles. The main objective of these NAPs is to provide for: "(1) greater coordination and coherence within Governments on the range of public policy areas that relate to business and human rights; (2) an inclusive process to identify national priorities and concrete policy measures and action; (3) transparency and predictability for interested domestic and international stakeholders; (4) a process of continuous monitoring, measuring, and evaluation of implementation; (5) a platform for ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue; and (6) a flexible yet common format that facilitates international cooperation, coordination, and exchanges of good practices and lessons learned", UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, "[Guidance on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights](#)," (2016). They can later tie it to the implementation of a given treaty. At the same time, some treaties require NAPs in their texts (i.e., the Paris Agreement), while others adopt them as requirements later through Conference of the Parties (COP) actions or additional instruments (i.e., the [decisions taken to enhance the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans \(NBSAP\) under the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\) throughout different COPs](#)).

17. March, A., Nieminen, L., Arora, H., Walker, T.R., Shejuti, S.M., Tsoza, A., Winton, S., "[Effectiveness of national plans](#)," Global Plastics Treaty Policy Brief, Global Plastics Policy Centre and Dalhousie University.

18. *Ibid.*

for their implementation;<sup>19</sup> (iv) lack of effective monitoring and evaluation;<sup>20</sup> and (v) lack of compliance.<sup>21</sup>

While the term NAP has often been used interchangeably with NIP, **NIPs are requirements under MEAs that are intended to outline how a country will meet its obligations under the treaty, including the policies, legislation and regulation, and resources it will use to do so.**<sup>22</sup> NIPs seek to identify gaps and actions needed to comply with treaty obligations in a deliberate and proactive manner<sup>23</sup> by articulating a State's plans to fulfill its obligations under an MEA. NIPs usually identify sources of non-compliance (e.g., laws, institutions, lack of capacity, social norms, public and private sector considerations, etc.), and encompass (i) methods for addressing these gaps, (ii) monitoring the implementation of these methods, and (iii) identifying resources available to implement the actions identified in NIPs.<sup>24</sup> NIPs are usually revised periodically to incorporate new findings and adapt to policy successes or failures. The preparation of NIPs provides State Parties with an opportunity to consult with national stakeholders, including civil society organizations, local authorities, municipalities, and licensing agencies and entities. NIPs can also provide for the establishment or designation of a national implementation agency or organization that works with the MEA Secretariat to ensure implementation.<sup>25</sup> However, NIPs provisions may be silent on such issues, in which case they can be amplified in subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) or similar entities established for treaty governance.

In addition to promoting the objectives of MEAs, NIPs can assist States in many ways, including by identifying legal, policy, and institutional strengths and weaknesses.<sup>26</sup> While NIPs are not a guarantee of compliance with international treaty obligations, they often serve to catalyze national action and mobilize resources in a way that differs from NAPs (but can be complementary and compatible with them).

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19. As a corollary, the funding aspects of NAPs must be understood to be twofold. Initially, there is the issue of funding to undertake the creation of NAPs themselves, as this requires scientific and technical data and planning as well as legal and regulatory preparation. The secondary funding issue arises in the situation of implementing and, ultimately, evaluating NAPs at the national and sub-national levels. Both aspects of funding have been asserted to be potentially onerous for many States, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the context of the Plastics Treaty, thus treaty-related funding mechanisms are an important topic for discussion in order to facilitate methods of implementing the plastics treaty's requirements.

20. March, A., Nieminen, L., Arora, H., Walker, T.R., Shejuti, S.M., Tsouza, A., Winton, S., "[Effectiveness of national plans](#)," Global Plastics Treaty Policy Brief, Global Plastics Policy Centre and Dalhousie University.

21. Ibid.

22. See for e.g., Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

23. UN Environment Programme, "[Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)," UNEP, (2006), at p. 120.

24. Ibid.

25. Ibid.

26. Ibid, p. 121.

Financing is crucial for the success of the national implementation of an MEA. Both NAPs and NIPs require funding for their creation, implementation, and evaluation. **Under some MEAs, the establishment of clear plans might be required to access implementation funding.**<sup>27</sup> As noted above, funding for multiple stages of implementation is crucial and, for many States, will require commitments of national financial resources as well as international funding (and possibly private sector investment). As NAPs are typically strategic policy documents that outline a State’s goals and actions for achieving particular policy objectives, and NIPs are detailed road maps for achieving goals outlined in MEAs, NIPs may include more specific budget lines or funding mechanisms tied to specific actions. Notably, NIPs are usually about operational details, while NAPs have a broader strategy component and may be connected with several sets of national policies, laws, or regulations. Additionally, the elaboration of NIPs and NAPs can assist States in identifying and evaluating the costs of implementation.<sup>28</sup>

As implementation of MEA obligations may impose significant economic burdens at different stages, States may wish to assess costs for all stages in the process to allow for sufficient planning and budgeting. In that respect, NIPs can assist States in identifying priorities for requests to international donors, as well as necessary allocations of domestic budgetary resources to implement the MEA.<sup>29</sup>

**NIPs and NAPs are neither equivalent in nature nor necessarily exclusive in their use. NIPs can include action plans within their framework and can contain legal and regulatory elements that facilitate the success of NAPs.** A single provision that requires State Parties to adopt national plans based on NIPs with the addition of measures that are traditionally associated with NAPs would be a good strategy for the success of plastics treaty, given the many elements of law, policy, science, and economy that will be involved in successfully achieving its goals. NAPs are broader and voluntary by nature. NIPs are more precise, and dedicated to the implementation of a specific MEA by laying out a “road map” for each State to use in transcribing their international obligations into national measures, including legislation and institution-building. NIPs are usually part of an MEA’s text, making it legally binding for States to implement them. While the plastics treaty may have precise obligations, it can define national plans in a way that combines the specificity and legal characteristics of NIPs with measures traditionally associated with NAPs. In this way, the plastics treaty can use national plans as a tool to ensure that other voluntary approaches are also implemented and can be assessed in terms of compliance. They can even help inspire or guide States to include measures that go beyond what is required under the plastics treaty.

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27. See for e.g., Stockholm Convention, Article 13.

28. UN Environment Programme, “[Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)”, UNEP, (2006), at p. 121.

29. Ibid.

## II. Nationally Determined Goals, Obligations, and Implementation Measures: Risks and Challenges

**In addition to more established international treaty law mechanisms such as NIPs and NAPs, the 2015 Paris Agreement adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) elaborated a new model for the implementation system in the form of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).** Under NDCs, countries can put forward their own ambition or capabilities to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement only requires countries to report their NDCs transparently on schedule and in accordance with the rules subsequently adopted at COP24 in 2018.<sup>30</sup> The scope and robustness of NDCs are determined by countries themselves. Even if fully implemented, States' NDCs under the Paris Agreement remain woefully inadequate to limit warming to 1.5° C.<sup>31</sup> The fact that the NDCs are not collectively agreed, but unilaterally determined by individual States based on their own level of ambition and national capabilities, is proving challenging under the Paris Agreement and should therefore not be used as a model for the plastics treaty.

In the context of the plastics treaty, while a small number of countries have mentioned NDCs or nationally determined targets as a framework for treaty obligations and implementation, only ambitious, collective commitments, precise and concise language, and ambitious, legally binding obligations will ensure successful achievement of the treaty's goals. While it is key for States to retain some flexibility in order to adapt their internal regulations and policies to meet treaty obligations, national circumstances are indeed taken into consideration in the establishment of national plans. Therefore, States should rely on legally binding targets and commitments, translated into robust plans based on NIPs, and including elements traditionally associated with NAPs that take into account individual national circumstances.

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30. Katowice climate package (2018). Taken together, the decisions adopted at UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, in 2018 are often referred to as the 'Katowice Rulebook.'

31. IPCC, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.), "[Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)", IPCC, 2023, Geneva, Switzerland, p 57.

### III. Conclusion and Recommendations

- NIPs processes are typically more precise than NAPs and NDCs. Nationally determined targets, obligations, and commitments should be avoided. National plans combining the specificity and legal characteristics of NIPs with measures traditionally associated with NAPs could be key for the success of the plastics treaty.
- National plans should be based on clear and targeted language in order to ensure compliance.<sup>32</sup>
- National plans should be designed to ensure that States are accountable for meeting their treaty obligations in terms of content as well as timeframe. For this reason, an effective monitoring and compliance mechanism is crucial for success.
- National plans should be designed in a way that encourages States to increase their ambition and review their plans to incorporate new findings and adapt to policy successes or failures. It would be preferable that national plans be communicated at the same time, rather than on staggered timelines.
- Where appropriate, State Parties may consult their national stakeholders (e.g., civil society organizations, local authorities, municipalities, licensing agencies and entities, etc.), in order to facilitate the development, implementation, and updating of their national plans.
- National plans should be designed in a way that ensures equitable and fair treaty implementation, considering States' national circumstances and capabilities, as well as obligations under other relevant MEAs. Additionally, given the close connections between plastic pollution, climate change, biodiversity, and other issues addressed in existing MEAs, information from national plans for the plastics treaty may also be useful in reporting on implementation mandated by other MEAs, thus reducing the time and financial burdens on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- National plans should be supported by technical and financial assistance to ensure successful implementation and compliance. This will require technical and financial assistance from international sources, including a funding mechanism under the plastics treaty, as well as regional and national sources.
- Below is a non-comprehensive list of examples of NIPs, NAPs, NDCs, and other implementation provisions in MEAs.

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<sup>32</sup>. Koivurova, T., "Introduction to International Environmental Law", Routledge, (2014), at p. 18.

## ANNEX

### Examples of NIPs, NAPs, NDCs, and Other Implementation Provisions in MEAs

<b>Green</b>	Provisions on national implementation plans (NIPs)
<b>Blue</b>	Provisions on national action plans (NAPs)
<b>Purple</b>	Means of implementation or general implementation provisions
<b>Red</b>	National circumstances or nationally determined circumstances (NDCs)

<p><u><a href="#">Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</a></u></p>	<p><b>Article VIII - Measures to be taken by the Parties</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>7. Each Party shall prepare periodic reports on its implementation of the present Convention and shall transmit to the Secretariat:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) an annual report containing a summary of the information specified in subparagraph (b) of paragraph 6 of this Article; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of the present Convention.</p> <p>8. The information referred to in paragraph 7 of this Article shall be available to the public where this is not inconsistent with the law of the Party concerned.</p> <p><b>Article XI - Conference of the Parties</b></p> <p>1. The Secretariat shall call a meeting of the Conference of the Parties not later than two years after the entry into force of the present Convention.</p> <p>2. Thereafter the Secretariat shall convene regular meetings at least once every two years, unless the Conference decides otherwise, and extraordinary meetings at any time on the written request of at least one-third of the Parties.</p>
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	<p>3. At meetings, whether regular or extraordinary, the Parties shall review the implementation of the present Convention and may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) make such provision as may be necessary to enable the Secretariat to carry out its duties, and adopt financial provisions;</li> <li>(b) consider and adopt amendments to Appendices I and II in accordance with Article XV;</li> <li>(c) review the progress made towards the restoration and conservation of the species included in Appendices I, II and III;</li> <li>(d) receive and consider any reports presented by the Secretariat or by any Party; and</li> <li>(e) where appropriate, make recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the present Convention. [...]</li> </ul> <p><b>Article XII - The Secretariat</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to arrange for and service meetings of the Parties;</li> <li>[...]</li> <li>(d) to study the reports of Parties and to request from Parties such further information with respect thereto as it deems necessary to ensure implementation of the present Convention;</li> <li>[...]</li> <li>(g) to prepare annual reports to the Parties on its work and on the implementation of the present Convention and such other reports as meetings of the Parties may request;</li> <li>(h) to make recommendations for the implementation of the aims and provisions of the present Convention, including the exchange of information of a scientific or technical nature; [...]</li> </ul>
<p><u><a href="#">Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer</a></u></p>	<p><b>Article 2 - General Obligations</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>2. To this end the Parties shall, in accordance with the means at their disposal and their capabilities: [...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) Adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures and co-operate in harmonizing appropriate policies to control, limit, reduce or prevent human activities under their jurisdiction or control should it be found that these activities have or are likely to have adverse effects resulting from modification or likely modification of the ozone layer;</li> <li>(c) Co-operate in the formulation of agreed measures, procedures and standards for the implementation of this Convention, with a view to the adoption of protocols and annexes;</li> </ul>

	<p>(d) Co-operate with competent international bodies to implement effectively this Convention and protocols to which they are party.</p> <p>3. The provisions of this Convention shall in no way affect the right of Parties to adopt, in accordance with international law, domestic measures additional to those referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, nor shall they affect additional domestic measures already taken by a Party, provided that these measures are not incompatible with their obligations under this Convention.</p> <p>4. The application of this article shall be based on relevant scientific and technical considerations.</p> <p><b>Article 5 - Transmission of information</b></p> <p>The Parties shall transmit, through the secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties established under article 6 information on the measures adopted by them in implementation of this Convention and of protocols to which they are party in such form and at such intervals as the meetings of the parties to the relevant instruments may determine.</p> <p><b>Article 6: Conference of the Parties</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>4. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this Convention, and, in addition, shall:</p> <p>(a) Establish the form and the intervals for transmitting the information to be submitted in accordance with article 5 and consider such information as well as reports submitted by any subsidiary body;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(k) Consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of this Convention.</p> <p>[...].</p>
<p><b><u>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</u></b> <b><u>Basel Convention (Basel Convention)</u></b></p>	<p><b>Article 5 - Designation of competent authorities and focal point</b></p> <p>To facilitate the implementation of this Convention, the Parties shall:</p> <p>1. Designate or establish one or more competent authorities and one focal point. One competent authority shall be designated to receive the notification in case of a State of transit.</p> <p>2. Inform the Secretariat, within three months of the date of the entry into force of this Convention for them, which agencies they have designated as their focal point and their competent authorities.</p> <p>3. Inform the Secretariat, within one month of the date of decision, of any changes regarding the designation made by them under paragraph 2 above.</p> <p><b>Article 15 - Conferences of the Parties</b></p> <p>[...]</p>

	<p>5. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under continuous review and evaluation the effective implementation of this Convention, and, in addition, shall:</p> <p>(a) Promote the harmonization of appropriate policies, strategies and measures for minimizing harm to human health and the environment by hazardous wastes and other wastes;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(e) Establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Convention. [...]</p> <p><b>Article 16 - Secretariat</b></p> <p>1. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(c) To prepare reports on its activities carried out in implementation of its functions under this Convention and present them to the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>[...]</p>
<p><u><a href="#">United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</a></u></p>	<p><b>Article 4 - Commitments</b></p> <p>1. All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(b) Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(e) Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(j) Communicate to the Conference of the Parties information related to implementation, in accordance with Article 12.</p> <p>2. The developed country Parties and other Parties included in Annex I commit themselves specifically as provided for in the following:</p> <p>(a) Each of these Parties shall adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change, by limiting its anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and protecting and enhancing its greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs. These policies and measures will demonstrate that developed countries are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions consistent with the objective of the Convention, recognizing that the return by the end of the present</p>

decade to earlier levels of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol would contribute to such modification, and taking into account the differences in these Parties' starting points and approaches, economic structures and resource bases, the need to maintain strong and sustainable economic growth, available technologies and other individual circumstances, as well as the need for equitable and appropriate contributions by each of these Parties to the global effort regarding that objective. These Parties may implement such policies and measures jointly with other Parties and may assist other Parties in contributing to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and, in particular, that of this subparagraph;

(b) In order to promote progress to this end, each of these Parties shall communicate, within six months of the entry into force of the Convention for it and periodically thereafter, and in accordance with Article 12, detailed information on its policies and measures referred to in subparagraph (a) above, as well as on its resulting projected anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol for the period referred to in subparagraph (a), with the aim of returning individually or jointly to their 1990 levels these anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. This information will be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties, at its first session and periodically thereafter, in accordance with Article 7;

(c) Calculations of emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases for the purposes of subparagraph (b) above should take into account the best available scientific knowledge, including of the effective capacity of sinks and the respective contributions of such gases to climate change. The Conference of the Parties shall consider and agree on methodologies for these calculations at its first session and review them regularly thereafter;

(d) The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, review the adequacy of subparagraphs (a) and (b) above. Such review shall be carried out in the light of the best available scientific information and assessment on climate change and its impacts, as well as relevant technical, social and economic information. Based on this review, the Conference of the Parties shall take appropriate action, which may include the adoption of amendments to the commitments in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above. The Conference of the Parties, at its first session, shall also take decisions regarding criteria for joint implementation as indicated in subparagraph (a) above. A second review of subparagraphs (a) and (b) shall take place not later than 31 December 1998, and thereafter at regular intervals determined by the Conference of the Parties, until the objective of the Convention is met;

(e) Each of these Parties shall: (i) coordinate as appropriate with other such Parties, relevant economic and administrative instruments developed to achieve the objective of the Convention; and (ii) identify and periodically review its own policies and practices which encourage activities that lead to greater levels of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol than would otherwise occur;

[...]

3. The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1. They shall also provide such financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, needed by the developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures that are covered by paragraph 1 of this Article and that are agreed between a developing country Party and the international entity or entities referred to in Article 11, in accordance with that

Article. The implementation of these commitments shall take into account the need for adequacy and predictability in the flow of funds and the importance of appropriate burden sharing among the developed country Parties.

[...]

5. The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II shall take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly developing country Parties, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. In this process, the developed country Parties shall support the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties. Other Parties and organizations in a position to do so may also assist in facilitating the transfer of such technologies.

6. In the implementation of their commitments under paragraph 2 above, a certain degree of flexibility shall be allowed by the Conference of the Parties to the Parties included in Annex I undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, in order to enhance the ability of these Parties to address climate change, including with regard to the historical level of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol chosen as a reference.

7. The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties.

8. In the implementation of the commitments in this Article, the Parties shall give full consideration to what actions are necessary under the Convention, including actions related to funding, insurance and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, especially on:

- (a) Small island countries;
- (b) Countries with low-lying coastal areas;
- (c) Countries with arid and semi-arid areas, forested areas and areas liable to forest decay;
- (d) Countries with areas prone to natural disasters;
- (e) Countries with areas liable to drought and desertification;
- (f) Countries with areas of high urban atmospheric pollution;
- (g) Countries with areas with fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems;
- (h) Countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products; and
- (i) Landlocked and transit countries.

Further, the Conference of the Parties may take actions, as appropriate, with respect to this paragraph.

[...]

10. The Parties shall, in accordance with Article 10, take into consideration in the implementation of the commitments of the Convention the situation of Parties, particularly developing country Parties, with economies that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of the implementation of measures to respond to climate change. This applies notably to Parties with economies that are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products and/or the use of fossil fuels for which such Parties have serious difficulties in switching to alternatives.

#### **Article 9 - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and technological Advice**

[...]

2. Under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, and drawing upon existing competent international bodies, this body shall: [...]

(b) Prepare scientific assessments on the effects of measures taken in the implementation of the Convention; [...]

#### **Article 10 - Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

1. A subsidiary body for implementation is hereby established to assist the Conference of the Parties in the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention. This body shall be open to participation by all Parties and comprise government representatives who are experts on matters related to climate change. It shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on all aspects of its work.

2. Under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, this body shall:

(a) Consider the information communicated in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 1, to assess the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by the Parties in the light of the latest scientific assessments concerning climate change;

(b) Consider the information communicated in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2, in order to assist the Conference of the Parties in carrying out the reviews required by Article 4, paragraph 2(d); and

(c) Assist the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, in the preparation and implementation of its decisions.

#### **Article 12 - Communication of Information Related to Implementation**

1. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, the following elements of information:

(a) A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention; and

(c) Any other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the

	<p>objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends.</p> <p>2. Each developed country Party and each other Party included in Annex I shall incorporate in its communication the following elements of information:</p> <p>(a) A detailed description of the policies and measures that it has adopted to implement its commitment under Article 4, paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b); and</p> <p>(b) A specific estimate of the effects that the policies and measures referred to in subparagraph (a) immediately above will have on anthropogenic emissions by its sources and removals by its sinks of greenhouse gases during the period referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2(a).</p> <p>3. In addition, each developed country Party and each other developed Party included in Annex II shall incorporate details of measures taken in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.</p> <p>4. Developing country Parties may, on a voluntary basis, propose projects for financing, including specific technologies, materials, equipment, techniques or practices that would be needed to implement such projects, along with, if possible, an estimate of all incremental costs, of the reductions of emissions and increments of removals of greenhouse gases, as well as an estimate of the consequent benefits.</p> <p>5. Each developed country Party and each other Party included in Annex I shall make its initial communication within six months of the entry into force of the Convention for that Party. Each Party not so listed shall make its initial communication within three years of the entry into force of the Convention for that Party, or of the availability of financial resources in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3. Parties that are least developed countries may make their initial communication at their discretion. The frequency of subsequent communications by all Parties shall be determined by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the differentiated timetable set by this paragraph.</p> <p>6. Information communicated by Parties under this Article shall be transmitted by the secretariat as soon as possible to the Conference of the Parties and to any subsidiary bodies concerned. If necessary, the procedures for the communication of information may be further considered by the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>7. From its first session, the Conference of the Parties shall arrange for the provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support, on request, in compiling and communicating information under this Article, as well as in identifying the technical and financial needs associated with proposed projects and response measures under Article 4. Such support may be provided by other Parties, by competent international organizations and by the secretariat, as appropriate.</p> <p>8. Any group of Parties may, subject to guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and to prior notification to the Conference of the Parties, make a joint communication in fulfillment of their obligations under this Article, provided that such a communication includes information on the fulfillment by each of these Parties of its individual obligations under the Convention.</p> <p>9. Information received by the secretariat that is designated by a Party as confidential, in accordance with criteria to be established by the Conference of the Parties, shall be aggregated by the secretariat to protect its confidentiality before being made available to any of the bodies involved in the communication and review of information.</p> <p>10. Subject to paragraph 9 above, and without prejudice to the ability of any Party to make public its communication at any time, the secretariat shall make communications by Parties under this</p>
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	<p>Article publicly available at the time they are submitted to the Conference of the Parties.</p>
<p><u>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</u></p>	<p><b>Article 6. General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use</b></p> <p>Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:</p> <p>(a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and</p> <p>(b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.</p> <p><b>Article 7. Identification and Monitoring</b></p> <p>Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, in particular for the purposes of Articles 8 to 10:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(f) Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies:</p> <p><b>Article 20. Financial Resources</b></p> <p>1. Each Contracting Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Article 23 - Conference of the Parties</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>4. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under review the implementation of this Convention, and, for this purpose, shall:</p> <p>(a) Establish the form and the intervals for transmitting the information to be submitted in accordance with Article 26 and consider such information as well as reports submitted by any subsidiary body;</p> <p>(b) Review scientific, technical and technological advice on biological diversity provided in accordance with Article 25;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(h) Contact, through the Secretariat, the executive bodies of conventions dealing with matters covered by this Convention with a view to establishing appropriate forms of cooperation with them; and</p> <p>[...]</p>



	<p><b>Article 25. Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice</b></p> <p>1. A subsidiary body for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice is hereby established to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention. This body shall be open to participation by all Parties and shall be multidisciplinary. It shall comprise government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise. It shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on all aspects of its work. [...]</p> <p><b>Article 26 - Reports</b></p> <p>Each Contracting Party shall, at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties, present to the Conference of the Parties, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.</p>
<p><u>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE IV - Action Plan and Conservation Guidelines</b></p> <p>1. An Action Plan is appended as Annex 3 to this Agreement. It specifies actions which the Parties shall undertake in relation to priority species and issues, under the following headings, consistent with the general conservation measures specified in Article III of this Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) species conservation;</li> <li>(b) habitat conservation;</li> <li>(c) management of human activities;</li> <li>(d) research and monitoring;</li> <li>(e) education and information; and</li> <li>(f) implementation.</li> </ul> <p>2. The Action Plan shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the Conservation Guidelines.</p> <p>3. Any amendment to the Action Plan shall be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, taking into consideration the provisions of Article III of this Agreement.</p> <p>4. The Conservation Guidelines shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its first session, and shall be regularly reviewed.</p>
<p><u>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</u></p>	<p><b>Article 5 - Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production</b></p> <p>Each Party shall at a minimum take the following measures to reduce the total releases derived from anthropogenic sources of each of the chemicals listed in Annex C, with the goal of their continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination:</p> <p>(a) Develop an action plan or, where appropriate, a regional or subregional action plan within two years of the date of entry into force of this Convention for it, and subsequently implement it as part of its implementation plan specified in Article 7, designed to identify, characterize and address the release of the chemicals listed in Annex C and to facilitate implementation of subparagraphs (b) to (e). The action plan shall include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) An evaluation of current and projected releases, including the development and</li> </ul>

	<p>maintenance of source inventories and release estimates, taking into consideration the source categories identified in Annex C;</p> <p>(ii) An evaluation of the efficacy of the laws and policies of the Party relating to the management of such releases;</p> <p>(iii) Strategies to meet the obligations of this paragraph, taking into account the evaluations in (i) and (ii);</p> <p>(iv) Steps to promote education and training with regard to, and awareness of, those strategies;</p> <p>(v) A review every five years of those strategies and of their success in meeting the obligations of this paragraph; such reviews shall be included in reports submitted pursuant to Article 15;</p> <p>(vi) A schedule for implementation of the action plan, including for the strategies and measures identified therein;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(d) Promote and, in accordance with the implementation schedule of its action plan, require the use of best available techniques for new sources within source categories which a Party has identified as warranting such action in its action plan, with a particular initial focus on source categories identified in Part II of Annex C. In any case, the requirement to use best available techniques for new sources in the categories listed in Part II of that Annex shall be phased in as soon as practicable but no later than four years after the entry into force of the Convention for that Party. For the identified categories, Parties shall promote the use of best environmental practices. When applying best available techniques and best environmental practices, Parties should take into consideration the general guidance on prevention and release reduction measures in that Annex and guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices to be adopted by decision of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(e) Promote, in accordance with its action plan, the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices:</p> <p>(i) For existing sources, within the source categories listed in Part II of Annex C and within source categories such as those in Part III of that Annex; and 7</p> <p>(ii) For new sources, within source categories such as those listed in Part III of Annex C which a Party has not addressed under subparagraph (d).</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Article 7 - Implementation plans</b></p> <p>1. Each Party shall:</p> <p>(a) Develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under this Convention;</p> <p>(b) Transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force for it; and</p> <p>(c) Review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties.</p>
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2. The Parties shall, where appropriate, cooperate directly or through global, regional and subregional organizations, and consult their national stakeholders, including women's groups and groups involved in the health of children, in order to facilitate the development, implementation and updating of their implementation plans.

3. The Parties shall endeavour to utilize and, where necessary, establish the means to integrate national implementation plans for persistent organic pollutants in their sustainable development strategies where appropriate.

#### **Article 19 - Conference of the Parties**

[...]

5. The Conference of the Parties shall keep under continuous review and evaluation the implementation of this Convention. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by the Convention and, to this end, shall:

[...]

(c) Regularly review all information made available to the Parties pursuant to Article 15, including consideration of the effectiveness of paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3;

[...]

#### **Article 13 - Financial resources and mechanisms**

1. Each Party undertakes to provide, within its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities that are intended to achieve the objective of this Convention in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.

2. The developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill their obligations under this Convention as agreed between a recipient Party and an entity participating in the mechanism described in paragraph 6. Other Parties may also on a voluntary basis and in accordance with their capabilities provide such financial resources. Contributions from other sources should also be encouraged. The implementation of these commitments shall take into account the need for adequacy, predictability, the timely flow of funds and the importance of burden sharing among the contributing Parties.

3. Developed country Parties, and other Parties in accordance with their capabilities and in accordance with their national plans, priorities and programmes, may also provide and developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition avail themselves of financial resources to assist in their implementation of this Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels.

4. The extent to which the developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under this Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under this Convention relating to financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer. The fact that sustainable economic and social development and eradication of poverty are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties will be taken fully into account, giving due consideration to the need for the protection of human health and the environment.

5. The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situation of the least

	<p>developed countries and the small island developing states in their actions with regard to funding.</p> <p>6. A mechanism for the provision of adequate and sustainable financial resources to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition on a grant or concessional basis to assist in their implementation of the Convention is hereby defined. The mechanism shall function under the authority, as appropriate, and guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties for the purposes of this Convention. Its operation shall be entrusted to one or more entities, including existing international entities, as may be decided upon by the Conference of the Parties. The mechanism may also include other entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance. Contributions to the mechanism shall be additional to other financial transfers to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition as reflected in, and in accordance with, paragraph 2.</p> <p>7. Pursuant to the objectives of this Convention and paragraph 6, the Conference of the Parties shall at its first meeting adopt appropriate guidance to be provided to the mechanism and shall agree with the entity or entities participating in the financial mechanism upon arrangements to give effect thereto. The guidance shall address, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The determination of the policy, strategy and programme priorities, as well as clear and detailed criteria and guidelines regarding eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources including monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization;</li> <li>(b) The provision by the entity or entities of regular reports to the Conference of the Parties on adequacy and sustainability of funding for activities relevant to the implementation of this Convention;</li> <li>(c) The promotion of multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements;</li> <li>(d) The modalities for the determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of this Convention, keeping in mind that the phasing out of persistent organic pollutants might require sustained funding, and the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed; and</li> <li>(e) The modalities for the provision to interested Parties of assistance with needs assessment, information on available sources of funds and on funding patterns in order to facilitate coordination among them.</li> </ul> <p>8. The Conference of the Parties shall review, not later than its second meeting and thereafter on a regular basis, the effectiveness of the mechanism established under this Article, its ability to address the changing needs of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, the criteria and guidance referred to in paragraph 7, the level of funding as well as the effectiveness of the performance of the institutional entities entrusted to operate the financial mechanism. It shall, based on such review, take appropriate action, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism, including by means of recommendations and guidance on measures to ensure adequate and sustainable funding to meet the needs of the Parties.</p>
<p><b><u>Paris Agreement</u></b> <b>under the UNFCCC</b></p>	<p><b>Article 4</b></p> <p>1. In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic</p>

emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

2. Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

3. Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

4. Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances.

5. Support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of this Article, in accordance with Articles 9, 10 and 11, recognizing that enhanced support for developing country Parties will allow for higher ambition in their actions.

6. The least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development reflecting their special circumstances.

7. Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans can contribute to mitigation outcomes under this Article.

8. In communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.

9. Each Party shall communicate a nationally determined contribution every five years in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement and be informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake referred to in Article 14.

10. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall consider common time frames for nationally determined contributions at its first session.

11. A Party may at any time adjust its existing nationally determined contribution with a view to enhancing its level of ambition, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.

12. Nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.

13. Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions. In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.

14. In the context of their nationally determined contributions, when recognizing and implementing mitigation actions with respect to anthropogenic emissions and removals, Parties should take into account, as appropriate, existing methods and guidance under the Convention, in the light of the provisions of paragraph 13 of this Article.

15. Parties shall take into consideration in the implementation of this Agreement the concerns of Parties with economies most affected by the impacts of response measures, particularly developing country Parties.

16. Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under paragraph 2 of this Article shall notify the secretariat of the terms of that agreement, including the emission level allocated to each Party within the relevant time period, when they communicate their nationally determined contributions. The secretariat shall in turn inform the Parties and signatories to the Convention of the terms of that agreement.

17. Each party to such an agreement shall be responsible for its emission level as set out in the agreement referred to in paragraph 16 of this Article in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of this Article and Articles 13 and 15.

18. If Parties acting jointly do so in the framework of, and together with, a regional economic integration organization which is itself a Party to this Agreement, each member State of that regional economic integration organization individually, and together with the regional economic integration organization, shall be responsible for its emission level as set out in the agreement communicated under paragraph 16 of this Article in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of this Article and Articles 13 and 15.

19. All Parties should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, mindful of Article 2 taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

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