

Proposed decisions on the predictability and sustainability of the UN assessed contributions

For adoption under agenda item 9, Financial status of assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14. Version as of 28 November.

Based on the recommendations contained in the President's report on Financial predictability and sustainability of UN assessed contributions APLC/CONF/2019/WP.17, it is proposed that the Conference take the following decisions:

1. The following measures continue to be implemented:
 - a. A 15% contingency line is included in the cost estimates of the Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences in order to help ensure greater financial predictability and liquidity for the planning and holding of meetings.
 - b. Monthly reports on the status of financial contributions are issued and posted on the financial page of the UNOG website and in addition are circulated to all States Parties by the Implementation Support Unit.
 - c. An agenda item on assessed contributions is included in all Convention-related meetings.
 - d. UNOG and UNODA deliver presentations on the status of assessed contributions to inform States on the financial status of the Convention and support them in making informed decisions, including for consideration of cost saving measures in the case of insufficient funding, and to encourage States to pay their dues in compliance with Article 14 as early as possible and well ahead of the three- months deadline.
 - e. UNODA regularly updates the Convention's Coordinating Committee on the financial situation.

The Conference:

2. Requests UNODA to continue to distribute monthly updates on the status of assessed contributions with States Parties to further build awareness and encourage timely payment.
3. Requests the United Nations to close the accounts for each financial period within 12 months of the conclusion of that financial period, at which time a final balance will be determined and any credits or debits arising shall be applied to the calculation of the contributions in the next invoice.
4. Requests the United Nations to send individualised digital invoices to States
5. Requests the United Nations to prepare a multi-year cost-estimate that covers a two-year period for the provisional approval by the States Parties and to issue invoices based on these estimates 90 days before the start of the financial period, to encourage early payment and improve the liquidity in the first half of each year.
6. Requests States in arrears to pay outstanding amounts at the earliest possible date.

7. Decides that arrears for unpaid contributions should remain the amount of the initial assessment invoiced to the relevant State Party for the year in question, unless expenditures are higher than initial cost estimates. Currently the State Party in arrears receives a final invoice reflecting its share of the actual costs which in the majority of cases is lower than the estimated costs. This effectively rewards a State Party for paying after the end of the financial year.
8. Encourages each State whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years to enter into a payment schedule with the President of the Convention, supported by the UN, to permit it to clear outstanding arrears, taking into account its financial circumstances.
9. Requests States in a position to do so to notify the President at the beginning of the year when they expect their assessed contribution to be paid. The President will keep the UN informed to ensure sound financial planning.
10. Requests the President, for the purpose of financial planning throughout the year, to contact States that have not paid their assessed contribution by 30 April to ask States in a position to do so to clarify when it will be paid.