

Annex XI

**DECISION 2003/11 ON THE FACILITATION OF PARTICIPATION OF
COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

1. Broad participation by Parties in the activities under the Executive Body is essential to ensure progress in work under the Convention. To facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition which would otherwise not be in a position to take part, Parties are invited to contribute to the Trust Fund for this purpose.

2. The secretariat is authorized to fund, subject to available resources, the participation of one governmentally designated representative from each of the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, to meetings of the Executive Body and its three main subsidiary bodies, giving highest priority to negotiating groups and other meetings directly linked to preparatory or ongoing negotiations. Upon their accession to the Convention and their expressed intention to take part in the work of the Executive Body, the following countries may also qualify for funding: Albania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

3. Participation in other meetings may qualify for funding at the discretion of the Bureau of the Executive Body provided funds are available. However, for task force and expert group meetings Parties are encouraged to sponsor directly the participating experts from countries in the above list.

4. To make efficient use of the limited funds available for travel, Parties are encouraged, to the extent possible, to finance their own participation in activities under the Convention.

5. The countries mentioned in paragraph 2 above that have applied for membership of the European Union and/or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are, in principle, expected to finance their own participation, and should only exceptionally make use of this offer.

6. The secretariat is authorized to decide, in consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Body, on the extent of funding (travel and/or daily subsistence allowance, or lump sum), on the basis of available funds and forecasts for requests and contributions for each year, and taking due account of United Nations regulations.