15 June 2026

Response to a question from a group of Parties received during the Informal consultations held on 13 June 2026 on Administrative, financial and institutional matters

What criteria does the secretariat apply to determine the activities that are most in need of resources?

Answer:

The secretariat applies a criteria-based approach to identify activities most in need of resources, including alignment with mandates, funding gaps, and the risks of non-delivery.

Within this framework, support for participation in mandated meetings is consistently given priority, recognizing its critical importance for inclusive participation, in particular for SIDS and LDCs, and for the effective functioning of the process.

In practice, this requires difficult trade-offs, for example between supporting participation and funding other mandated activities, or between competing participation requests when resources are insufficient.

The secretariat also pursues efficiencies, including by clustering activities where possible; however, the scope for further efficiency gains is limited as mandates continue to expand.

At the same time, unearmarked resources remain limited and cannot meet all participation needs or other unfunded mandates, and this constraint would intensify if flexible resources were to decline.