Article 26. Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to this Protocol

1. The Conference of the Parties shall serve as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.

2. Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the proceedings of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, decisions under this Protocol shall be taken only by those that are Parties to it.

3. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, any member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing a Party to the Convention but, at that time, not a Party to this Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to this Protocol.

4. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall keep under regular review the implementation of this Protocol and shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Protocol and shall:
   (a) Make recommendations on any matters necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
   (b) Establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
   (c) Seek and utilize, where appropriate, the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies;
   (d) Establish the form and the intervals for transmitting the information to be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of this Protocol and consider such information as well as reports submitted by any subsidiary body;
   (e) Consider and adopt, as required, amendments to this Protocol and its Annex, as well as any additional annexes to this Protocol, that are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol; and
(f) Exercise such other functions as may be required for the imple-
mentation of this Protocol.

5. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and financial
rules of the Convention shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, under this
Protocol, except as may be otherwise decided by consensus by the
Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this
Protocol.

6. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meet-
ing of the Parties to this Protocol shall be convened by the Secretariat
and held concurrently with the first meeting of the Conference of the
Parties that is scheduled after the date of the entry into force of
this Protocol. Subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the
Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be
held concurrently with ordinary meetings of the Conference of the
Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties
serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.

7. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the
meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held at such other times
as may be deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties serving
as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, or at the written request
of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being
communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at
least one third of the Parties.

8. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International
Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State member thereof or observ-
ers thereto not party to the Convention, may be represented as observ-
ers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting
of the Parties to this Protocol. Any body or agency, whether national or
international, governmental or non-governmental, that is qualified in
matters covered by this Protocol and that has informed the Secretariat
of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the
Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to this Protocol as an
observer, may be so admitted, unless at least one third of the Parties
present object. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the admis-
sion and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of pro-
cEDURE, as referred to in paragraph 5 above.