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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform:
budget and expenditure for 2014–2018, including report
on the funding of experts and meeting participants****Budget and expenditure for 2014–2018****Addendum****Comparative study on established practices on the funding of
experts and meeting participants****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. In its decision IPBES-3/2 on financial and budgetary arrangements, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to provide to the Plenary at its fourth session a report on established practices of multilateral environmental organizations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other relevant forums on the funding of experts and meeting participants to facilitate the adoption by the members of the Platform of an informed decision on the eligibility criteria to be used. The present note, which has been prepared by the secretariat in response to that request, is presented to the Plenary at its fourth session for its consideration.

**II. Comparative study on established practices on the funding of
experts and meeting participants**

2. The secretariats of the following entities provided information by e-mail in response to a request by the secretariat: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

3. The Barcelona Convention, which is a regional instrument, was not included in this comparative analysis as it is not comparable to the other above-mentioned entities.

* IPBES/4/1

4. The following observations could be made for the other above-mentioned entities:

- (a) None of the entities provide support for experts from developed countries. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change does fund, however, on an exceptional basis only, the participation of experts from developed countries in expert meetings, if their participation is considered essential for the purposes of the meeting, there is a written request for support and the relevant national focal point confirms that the country is unable to provide the required resources;
- (b) All the entities provide support for experts from developing countries;
- (c) There is a variety of interpretations of what constitutes a developed or a developing country, and different criteria are used to make decisions on the provision of support:
 - (i) The secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced for consideration at its forty-second session, in October 2015, a document entitled “Guidance on developed and developing countries categories” (IPCC-XLII/INF. 16), in which it is stated that the office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations has confirmed that no overall definitions are available, but that the Statistical Annex to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2015 report could be used as the basic guiding source. The Statistical Annex was issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel, based on the Statistical Annex, includes three lists as follows: 41 developed countries, 17 countries with economies in transition, and 137 developing countries. The guidance was not formally discussed or adopted by the Panel at its forty-second session;
 - (ii) In its resolution 8.3, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species agreed to set the threshold of eligibility for funding delegates to attend the Convention’s meetings at 0.200 per cent on the United Nations scale of assessment. Countries from the European Union, European countries with strong economies and/or countries that have payments in arrears of more than three years are excluded from this support. This resolution serves as a general guideline to decide on support;
 - (iii) Several of the entities maintain a list of supported developing countries, and provide support to a varying total number of countries as follows: Convention on Biological Diversity: 134; Vienna Convention: 147; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: 137; Montreal Protocol: 148;
 - (iv) In addition, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change maintain a separate list of countries with economies in transition - 18 and 17 countries, respectively – bringing the total number of countries supported to 152 for the Convention on Biological Diversity and 154 for the Intergovernmental Panel, in comparison with the numbers cited above for the Vienna Convention (147) and the Montreal Protocol (148);
- (d) None of the entities provide support to members of the European Union;
- (e) Some of the entities provide support to experts from the Russian Federation (Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), while others do not (Montreal Protocol, Vienna Convention).