

Resolution No. 7

Application of Article 6.1 of the Agreement

Recalling Article 6.1 of the Agreement concerning Meetings of the Parties, which provides that the Parties shall meet not less than once every three years;

Noting that, unlike the terms of the majority of multilateral environmental agreements, no discretion is given to the Parties, as an alternative, to meet at such other time as they may decide upon;

Noting the need for the Secretariat and Parties to have adequate time during the intersessional period for the effective implementation of the resolutions and decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties;

Considering therefore that there is a need to apply the Agreement in such a way so as to give greater discretion to the Parties in the scheduling of their meetings;

Further considering that this can be achieved by means of a subsequent agreement of the Parties in line with Article 31(3)(a) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties that would not be contrary to the object and purpose of the Agreement;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

1. *Agrees* that the phrase "not less than once every three years" in Article 6.1 shall be applied in such a way that meetings shall be held every three years or at such other time as the Parties may otherwise decide upon, that other time being within a period of not more than one year either side of that third year;

2. *Requests* those Parties to the Agreement that were not present at the adoption of this resolution to give their consent to this agreement on the application of Article 6.1 to the Depositary of the Agreement by 23 January 2013 to enable this resolution to enter into force, failing which this resolution shall have no effect.