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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION, HELD IN NAIROBI
FROM 17 TO 28 OCTOBER 2005**

Addendum

**PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION**

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I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision 1/COP.7

Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Africa

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) places priority on Africa,

Having reviewed with appreciation the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its third session, which builds upon the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention in Africa and the recommendations from the three subregional workshops held in Africa and the consultations of the Parties covered by the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa held in Bonn,

Aware that African country Parties continue to face considerable difficulties, notably in accessing funding to support national undertakings to eradicate poverty and diversify livelihoods while combating desertification, land degradation and rural poverty,

Welcoming the renewed commitment of the international community to strengthen its support for eradicating poverty in Africa and *underlining* the potential of the Convention in this regard,

Welcoming further the increased efforts made by developing country Parties to integrate the objectives of the Convention into their overall sustainable development strategies,

Recognizing the need for effective legislative frameworks, including land tenure regimes, in the fight against land degradation,

Capacity-building

1. *Encourages* African country Parties to decentralize and devolve rights and management responsibilities in respect of natural resources to appropriate local levels through institutional arrangements, technical and enterprise support and adequate financing mechanisms;
2. *Urges* African country Parties to strengthen national coordinating bodies through budgetary and human resource support and by integrating them into the administrative structure at an appropriate level of authority with a view to effectively influencing policy-making processes in order to deliver coordination and mainstreaming functions;
3. *Invites* Parties to enhance approaches for civil society participation and to strengthen organizational, technical and financial mechanisms and structures at field level for addressing jointly environmental management and poverty eradication;

4. *Calls on* African country Parties, with the support of international organizations, to strengthen the capacities of Government and civil society, and to support agencies in the delivery of services for the formulation, execution and evaluation of participatory local area development programmes under the national action programme (NAP), including community/private/public partnerships;
5. *Encourages* African country Parties to enhance and improve their national reports, including their country profiles, as a tool to access and utilize data and information on the implementation of the Convention;
6. *Invites* African country Parties to synergistically implement the three Rio conventions and other relevant instruments;
7. *Urges* Parties and international organizations, with a view to developing an enabling environment, to increase cross-sectoral coordination and partnership development for pro-poor investments in the drylands, and to support capacity-building in a predictable and sustainable manner in all areas relevant to the implementation of the NAPs by African country Parties, including:
 - (a) Policy, programme and project planning and development, as well as negotiations skills;
 - (b) Adaptive natural resource management;
 - (c) Socio-economic analysis and development;
 - (d) Research, monitoring and information management;
 - (e) Analysis, documentation and dissemination of best practices; and
 - (f) Enterprise development and community/private partnerships;

Partnership building, mainstreaming, mobilization and channelling of resources for the implementation of NAPs in Africa

8. *Encourages* African country Parties to reflect national budgetary allocations for rural development and related initiatives that contribute to UNCCD activities and to indicate national shortfalls;
9. *Also encourages* developed country Parties and multilateral organizations to make information available on financial expenditures relating to the UNCCD process with information on agencies through which support was directed;
10. *Urges* developed country Parties and multilateral organizations to respond in a timely fashion to requests from African country Parties for financial resources relating to the implementation of the NAPs, including partnership building, mainstreaming, synergistic activities, development of local funding initiatives and intersectoral coordination, and to back efforts to achieve greater coherence for sustainable land management;
11. *Invites* Parties to systematically develop incentive frameworks linking conservation with productivity and income in rural areas and to target local entrepreneurs;

12. *Urges* the Global Mechanism (GM), together with the members of its Facilitation Committee, to expedite resource mobilization for the implementation of NAPs and sustainable land management;

13. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a financial mechanism of the Convention to provide support to developing country Parties for the implementation of NAPs and to report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session in this regard;

Enabling environment for knowledge sharing and for access to appropriate technologies, know-how and traditional knowledge

14. *Invites* developed country Parties and international organizations to support UNCCD programmes in Africa in promoting sustainable land management and poverty alleviation and in assisting the efforts of developing country Parties to disseminate and use traditional knowledge and to upscale good practices;

15. *Urges* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to pay particular attention to meeting the knowledge needs of African country Parties, including local communities, to combat desertification and poverty and to manage land sustainably by applying a mixture of traditional knowledge and modern technology, including information technology;

16. *Invites* the CST to consult with the GEF and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and its Implementing and Executing Agencies, to facilitate coherence and consistency in the elaboration of a compendium of benchmarking approaches for sustainable land management, to support the standardization of UNCCD-relevant benchmarks and to strengthen related information systems and processes that should devolve to, and assist African country Parties in, monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 2/COP.7Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Underlining the potential of the Convention as a tool for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability),

Recalling decision 2/COP.6 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the UNCCD,

Having reviewed document ICCD/COP(7)/6 on the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD,

Noting with appreciation the advocacy activities relating to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the Convention undertaken by the Executive Secretary and his efforts to promote, and raise awareness of, the UNCCD and its contribution to meeting the MDGs in this context, as reflected in the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit (High-level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly) held at United Nations Headquarters in September 2005,

Recognizing the importance of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for strengthening international awareness of and commitment to the implementation of the Convention through their thematic focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and the need for timely and substantive preparations for UNCCD input to this process,

1. *Reiterates* its call to all development partners to make use of the Convention in their strategies to achieve the MDGs;
2. *Invites* Parties, the Executive Secretary and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for, and participate in, the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the CSD with a view to demonstrating that the development and promotion of new and renewable energy sources in drylands constitute a critical sustainable development issue, access to energy and energy efficiency; and that the implementation of UNCCD action programmes can make a significant contribution in this context;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include an agenda item on the preparation of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD in the agenda of the eighth session of the COP, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a background paper, drawing in particular on the

4. *Invites* Parties and other relevant stakeholders to emphasize the desertification/poverty nexus in their activities to celebrate the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), and to increase their efforts to implement the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the important linkage between land degradation, desertification, poverty and other socio-economic aspects of land degradation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its eighth session on the activities carried out to implement this decision.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 3/COP.7Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and strategy development to foster the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System (JIU) commissioned in decision 23/COP.6,

Noting that the report presents Parties and stakeholders with a unique opportunity to provide strategic guidance and direction in order to foster the full and effective implementation of the Convention,

Stressing the need for strategic guidance and targets in order to foster the implementation of the Convention as stated in article 4 of the UNCCD, for the Parties to implement their obligations under the Convention, individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate, emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long-term strategy at all levels,

Recognizing the need for an in-depth analysis, time and process to determine the actions required to give effect to the recommendations contained in the JIU report,

Recognizing also the need to define the process and modalities for dealing with the JIU report in order to foster the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing furthermore the sense of urgency to commence with this process as soon as possible,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with the mandate to review the JIU report in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD by addressing, inter alia, the recommendations of the JIU report;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the Parties and the working group with comments and views on the JIU report, including his management response to the recommendations pertaining to the secretariat contained in the report, in accordance with article 11(4)(d) of the Statute of the JIU, and *invites* the Executive Secretary to provide additional comments and views to further the work of the working group;
3. *Calls upon* the Parties to submit views and comments on the JIU report to the working group as early as possible after the closure of COP 7, and no later than 1 March 2006;
4. *Invites* the Parties as well as other stakeholders to submit views and comments to the working group to assist it in the development of the strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD;

5. *Decides* that the working group will consist of 18 members, comprising the President of COP 7, the Chairperson of the CRIC, the Chairperson of the CST and three members from each of the five regional groups to be nominated no later than 1 February 2006. The working group may decide to draw upon the expertise of resource persons and institutions, as it may deem necessary, for the fulfilment of its mandate;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of COP 7, by 1 February 2006, to develop terms of reference covering the mandate and functioning of the working group, as outlined in this decision;
7. *Further requests* the working group to develop a work programme to implement its mandate by 3 April 2006;
8. *Requests* the working group to report periodically to the Bureau of COP 7 on its activities and on progress made, and to transmit periodic reports and other outputs to the secretariat for posting on the UNCCD website;
9. *Requests* the working group to consult with Parties, as well as other stakeholders, in order to further its work, making use of planned Convention-related meetings whenever possible;
10. *Requests* the Bureau of COP 7 to consider, inter alia, the following issues in further developing the terms of reference for the working group:
 - (a) How to enhance Parties' capacities to integrate UNCCD objectives into regional, subregional and national development plans and strategies;
 - (b) How to engage the international community in setting benchmarks and defining indicators for progress;
 - (c) How to make the Convention a centre of excellence in scientific and technical knowledge and best practices;
 - (d) Synergies:
 - (i) How to enhance synergies between combating desertification and land degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
 - (ii) How to ensure that enhanced synergies contribute to fulfilment of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to implementation of the MDGs, as agreed at the Millennium Summit;
 - (e) How to improve political will and commitment to the Convention;
 - (f) How to improve the engagement and commitment of Parties to the Convention;
 - (g) How to ensure a better balance between the resourcing of the secretariat and the core functions that the Parties are asking it to perform;

- (h) Resource mobilization:
- (i) How to ensure better targeting of existing resources and how to mobilize new resources for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (ii) How to build capacities of affected developing country Parties to access financial resources, especially the GEF, for funding activities to combat desertification and land degradation;
 - (iii) How to improve resourcing for activities to combat desertification and land degradation, especially through the GEF;

11. *Urges* Parties to contribute on a voluntary basis either to the Supplementary Fund or in kind to cover the cost of the activities of the working group, and *authorizes* the Executive Secretary to seek contributions;

12. *Directs* the working group, by 1 June 2007, to complete its work and transmit its report and the draft strategic plan and framework to COP 8 for appropriate action.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 4/COP.7

Necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to its implementation and to the obligations of the Parties,

Recalling also its decision 8/COP.3 regarding the Recife Initiative: Towards enhancing the implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling decisions 8/COP.4 and 4/COP.6 regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention,

Having reviewed the report of the CRIC on its third session, including the outcome of the panel discussions on selected strategic areas for action, namely sustainable use and management of rangelands, reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes, and desertification monitoring and assessment; and *sharing* the concerns expressed over the fate of pastoralism;

Reiterating that successful implementation of the identified strategic areas for action mentioned in the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention, as contained in the annex to decision 8/COP.4, remains essential for the achievement of the Convention goals and objectives and the continuity of the measures undertaken to combat desertification within the framework of national sustainable development policies;

1. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties and any other affected country Party that has notified the secretariat pursuant to article 9 of the Convention to develop NAPs as a tool to help identify investment priorities and channel resources to eradicate rural poverty and to reach the primary users of natural resources;
2. *Invites* affected country Parties to continue taking necessary measures to include, as appropriate, in their national development strategies important elements to combat desertification, inter alia, sustainable agriculture, forest, pastoral and drylands management, sustainable use and management of rangelands, and desertification monitoring and assessment;
3. *Encourages* the CST to continue efforts, with the support of the international community, for promoting benchmarks and indicators, which should result in quantified, time-bound and costed targets relating to combating land degradation and desertification in a long-term perspective, and *requests* the GM to prepare a document on options for financing instruments, institutions and processes for international and domestic finance for financing these targets, starting with NAPs and possible future consideration of subregional and regional action

programmes, in collaboration with the members of its Facilitation Committee, and to report to the COP at its eighth session;

4. *Invites* all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to transmit to the secretariat no later than the end of 2006 their written suggestions on policy options and practical measures to monitor, on a regular basis, progress in the strategic areas of implementation with a view to outlining intermediary targets in a long-term perspective, and *further requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation document for COP 8;

5. *Calls upon* all Parties, relevant international and non-governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to continue supporting efforts towards the successful implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 5/COP.7

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Recalling also paragraphs 23, in particular subparagraphs 23 (a) and (b), and 24, subparagraphs 25(a) and 56 (b), of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document,

Recalling further its decision 1/COP.6 by which it urged that resource mobilization must be based on national and local needs and priorities and aim at NAP implementation in the context of a broader development framework,

Acknowledging the efforts of affected developing country Parties to mainstream their NAPs into national development frameworks such as the poverty reduction strategies in order to channel investment for the eradication of rural poverty and to reach the end-users of natural resources,

Recalling its decisions 5/COP.6 and 6/COP.6,

1. *Emphasizes* that country-driven processes, specifically the mainstreaming of NAPs into national development strategies, will lead to the mobilization of the needed financial resources in a more predictable and coordinated manner, to tackle land degradation;
2. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention and their multilateral partners to ensure clear linkages with the priority-setting of NAPs to guide the implementation of these instruments and to continue joint efforts at NAP mainstreaming with the aim of creating the best possible options in addressing environmental sustainability, economic potential, and poverty reduction in dryland areas and those prone to desertification;
3. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with support from their bilateral and multilateral partners, to effectively mainstream and implement their NAP in line with ongoing national development initiatives and poverty eradication processes;
4. *Urges* developed country Parties to mainstream Convention objectives into their development cooperation policies and programming instruments and, in consultation with recipient countries, to coordinate their country-level support with recipient country NAPs that have been mainstreamed into national development strategies;
5. *Requests* the GM to intensify its interactions with the international financial institutions such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the GEF and the World Bank, multilateral institutions, bilateral donors, NGOs and the private sector with the aim of increasing

financial resources for UNCCD implementation, inter alia through mainstreaming of the UNCCD objectives;

6. *Acknowledges* the actions undertaken by the GM to comply with the requests made in decision 5/COP.6 on review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM, and *encourages* the GM to further strengthen its support to affected developing country Parties by means of the implementation of the consolidated strategy and enhanced approach as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(4)/4;

7. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with support from their bilateral and multilateral partners, to foster the conclusion of partnership agreements for the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Invites* multilateral organizations and agencies, particularly the GEF, to simplify their procedures for access to funding in order to facilitate NAP implementation, and *invites* the GM and the members of its Facilitation Committee to mobilize funds and make available information on points of entry into processes and modalities of multilateral funding for NAP implementation.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 6/COP.7

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/CRIC(4)/5,

Recalling articles 6, 20, in particular paragraph 2(b), and 21 of the Convention,

Recalling further its decision 6/COP.6 on collaboration with the GEF, by which it accepted the GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention,

Recognizing the complementary roles of the GEF and the GM in the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling the GEF Council decision adopted at its June 2005 meeting, by which it requested the CEO/Chairman of the GEF to transmit a proposed Memorandum of Understanding to the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD for submission to the COP at its seventh session with a view to its consideration and adoption in order to enhance collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD,

Having considered the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding which is annexed hereto,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the GEF Council for its continued support for the implementation of the Convention and its focus on enhancing sustainable land management policies and initiatives;
2. *Decides* to conclude with the Council and adopt the attached Memorandum of Understanding as proposed by the GEF Council at its meeting in June 2005;
3. *Invites* the GEF and UNCCD secretariats to make appropriate arrangements to implement the Memorandum;
4. *Expresses its understanding* that all eligible affected country Parties are covered by the present Memorandum of Understanding in conformity with the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF;
5. *Welcomes* therefore the Country Pilot Partnerships of the GEF and the TerrAfrica initiative of the World Bank as potential tools for strengthening partnership building for the implementation of the Convention, and *recommends* coordination between these processes and consideration of their expansion if found to be successful;
6. *Also welcomes* the “Least-Developed Countries – Small Island Developing States Targeted Umbrella Project for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management” implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the

medium-sized project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Global Support to Facilitate the Early Development and Implementation of Land Degradation Programmes and Projects;

7. *Invites* the GEF to take duly into account the relevant decisions taken by the COP when financing activities in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding;

8. *Invites* the GEF to consider supporting activities, within its mandate, undertaken in the framework of the IYDD (2006);

9. *Invites* the GEF to make financial resources available for capacity-building activities in affected country Parties implementing the Convention and to facilitate coordination between the GEF and UNCCD focal points at country level to enable the GEF to better respond to the needs of the UNCCD process;

10. *Invites* GEF donors to strive for a successful replenishment, where possible;

11. *Welcomes* the GEF Council decision taken at its May 2003 meeting, by which it recognized that in the framework of capacity-building projects to be funded under Operational Programme 15 (OP 15), the elaboration of national, subregional and regional action programmes and national reports are considered as components, and *invites* the GEF to implement that decision when assisting developing country Parties;

12. *Also welcomes* the GEF Council decision taken at its May 2003 meeting by which it was agreed that in the implementation of OP 15, the process of determining incremental costs should be made more transparent and its application more pragmatic, and *invites* the GEF to ensure its appropriate application;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF in his capacity as CEO/Chairman of a financial mechanism of the Convention to report to the COP at its eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Annex

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY ON ENHANCED COLLABORATION**

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the CEO/Chairman of the Global Environment Facility,

Recalling Article 21 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (hereinafter the UNCCD) which provides that “the Conference of the Parties shall promote the availability of financial mechanisms and shall encourage such mechanisms to seek to maximize the availability of funding for affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to implement the Convention”;

Recalling Article 20 (b) of the UNCCD which provides that developed country Parties, while giving priority to affected African country Parties without neglecting affected developing country Parties in other regions, undertake to promote the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Instrument establishing the GEF;

Recalling the Beijing Declaration of the Second GEF Assembly that confirms that the GEF will be available as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to paragraph 21 of the Convention, should the Conference of the Parties so decide;

Also recalling the decision of the Second GEF Assembly to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF to include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as one of the six focal areas of the GEF and to include as a function of the GEF Secretariat, coordination, on behalf of the Council, with the Secretariat of the UNCCD;

Recalling further decision 6/COP.6 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD at its sixth session that accepts the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2 (b) and article 21 of the Convention and in accordance with the GEF Instrument as amended;

Recognizing the role of the Global Mechanism of the Convention to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties, and that the Global Mechanism functions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and is accountable to it;

Having consulted with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism;

Have agreed as follows:

Definitions

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding:

- (a) “Assembly” means the Assembly of the GEF as defined in the paragraph 13 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;
- (b) “Conference of the Parties” means the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa defined in article 22 of the Convention;
- (c) “Convention” means the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
- (d) “Council” means the Council of the GEF as defined in paragraphs 15 to 20 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;
- (e) “Focal areas of the GEF” means the focal areas provided in paragraph 2 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;
- (f) “GEF” means the Global Environment Facility established pursuant to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;
- (g) “GEF Instrument” means the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as amended;
- (h) “Global Mechanism” means the Global Mechanism established in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 4 of the Convention;
- (i) “Implementing and Executing Agencies” means the Implementing Agencies as defined in paragraph 22 of the GEF Instrument and Executing Agencies benefiting from expanded opportunities pursuant to the decisions of the Council;
- (j) “Party” means Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; and

- (k) “UNCCD” means the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

Purpose

The purpose of the present Memorandum of Understanding is to enhance collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD.

Coherence between the UNCCD and the GEF

The coherence between the objective of the GEF Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management¹ and the objective of the UNCCD² is recognized as a basis for mutually beneficial collaboration. This coherence of objectives will serve as a basic principle in developing policies, strategies, programs and projects for sustainable land management.

The UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat will collaborate on substantive matters that the Conference of the Parties and the Council agree should be pursued to strengthen this coherence and collaboration between the UNCCD and the GEF.

Strategies, programmes and projects concerning desertification

In formulating strategies, programs and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification under its focal area of land degradation or through activities that combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in other focal areas, the GEF, through its Secretariat and Implementing and Executing Agencies, will duly take into account the provisions of the UNCCD and the relevant decisions of its Conference of the Parties relating to policies, strategies and programme priorities.

Reporting

The GEF will prepare a report for information to be submitted to each regular session of the Conference of the Parties through the UNCCD Secretariat on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification. This report will include:

¹ The objective of the Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management is “to mitigate the causes and negative impacts of land degradation on the structure and functional integrity of ecosystems through sustainable land management practices as a contribution to improving people’s livelihoods and economic well-being.”

² The UNCCD provides in article 2, “Objective”, that “the objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas, “and that “achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions in particular at the community level.”

- (a) information on discussions within the GEF Council on GEF strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification;
- (b) a synthesis of projects approved by the Council during the reporting period concerning desertification with an indication of the GEF and other resources allocated to such projects;
- (c) a listing of projects approved by the Council concerning desertification, with an indication of the cumulative financial resources allocated in the GEF to such projects;
- (d) information on GEF's experience in integrating activities to address land degradation in other focal areas and synergies among the focal areas;
- (e) information on GEF replenishment agreements and the funding programmed for land degradation;
- (f) information on GEF monitoring and evaluation activities related to projects concerning desertification.

The UNCCD will prepare a report for information to be submitted to the GEF Council through the GEF Secretariat after each regular session of the Conference of the Parties, on the decisions taken by the Parties of relevance to the GEF. The report shall contain information on discussions within the Conference of the Parties on GEF activities for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification.

Cooperation between secretariats

The UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat will communicate and cooperate with each other and consult on a regular basis to promote incremental cost funding from the GEF to assist affected developing country parties to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought pursuant to Article 20 (b) and Article 21 of the Convention.

The Secretariat of the UNCCD and the Secretariat of the GEF will consult on proposed strategies, programmes and projects concerning desertification. In particular, the Secretariats of the Convention and of the GEF will reciprocally consult with each other on draft texts of documents relevant to the Convention and the GEF prior to issuing the texts of such documents for consideration by the Conference of the Parties or the Council.

In accordance with the GEF project cycle, the UNCCD Secretariat will be invited to comment on project proposals related to desertification under consideration for inclusion in a proposed work programme, especially with regard to advising how such project proposals are consistent with the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties relating to policies, strategies and programme priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Official documentation of the GEF, including information on project activities, will be made available on its website. Official documentation of the Convention will be made available on its website.

Reciprocal representation

On a reciprocal basis, the GEF Secretariat will be invited to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the UNCCD Secretariat will be invited to attend meetings of the Council and Assembly.

Cooperation with the Global Mechanism

The GEF Secretariat will be invited to participate as an observer in the Facilitation Committee meetings of the Global Mechanism.

The GEF Secretariat will inform the Facilitation Committee of project proposals concerning desertification that have entered the GEF pipeline with a view to assisting the Global Mechanism to identify opportunities to mobilize and channel co-financing resources for such proposed projects.

Monitoring and evaluation

The GEF will provide the Conference of the Parties with the reports of the GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation relevant to GEF activities in the area of land degradation.

Interpretation

If differences arise in the interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF will jointly inform the Conference of the Parties and the Council and will invite them to advise on a mutually acceptable solution.

Entry into effect

The present Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect after consideration and approval of this text by the Conference of the Parties and the Council.

Amendments

Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding may be approved by the Conference of the Parties and the Council. Proposed amendments will be submitted jointly, for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties and the Council, by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF after consultation and agreement between them.

Withdrawal

Either the UNCCD Secretariat or the GEF Secretariat may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at any time upon written notification to the other, after approval by the Conference of the Parties or the Council, as appropriate. The withdrawal will take effect six months after notification and will not affect the validity or duration of activities initiated before such termination.

Decision 7/COP.7

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties
in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 22 (a) and (b) and 26 of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 1/COP.5 and 7/COP.6 on the consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/3,

Acknowledging the outcome of the sessions of the CRIC held so far,

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the CRIC as a subsidiary body of the COP up to and including the eighth session of the COP;
2. *Decides also* that the mandate and functions of the Committee as stated in paragraph 1 (b) of its terms of reference shall be subject to revision and renewal at the eighth session of the COP, in the light of lessons learned during the full cycle of review by the Committee;
3. *Invites* Parties and relevant CRIC stakeholders, including civil society, to submit their responses to the questions contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/3 to the secretariat no later than six months before COP 8, and *requests* the secretariat to compile this information for consideration by the Parties at COP 8;
4. *Decides further* that the review of the terms of reference of the Committee, its operations and its schedule of meetings will take place at the eighth session of the COP with a view to making any necessary modifications, including reconsidering the modalities of the Committee as a subsidiary body;
5. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CRIC, to prepare the agenda and the organization of work of the Committee at its fifth session in accordance with decision 1/COP.5, in such a way as to maximize exchanges of best practices, experiences and lessons learned between Parties and observers, while paying due regard to improving the cost-effectiveness and time efficiency of its meetings.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 8/COP.7

Improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d), as well as article 26 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 11/COP.1, 5/COP.2, 10/COP.4, 1/COP.5, 3/COP.5, 10/COP.5, 1/COP.6 and 4/COP.6,

Noting with appreciation the information provided by African and developed country Parties, as well as by the organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in their reports submitted to COP 7 through CRIC 3,

Aware that the third cycle of communication of information is to be completed at COP 8,

Acknowledging the need to streamline the reporting process under the Convention in such a manner that it provides all stakeholders, and in particular decision-makers, with adequate and qualitative factual information to assess progress and identify targets in attaining the objectives of the Convention in a long-term perspective,

Recognizing the need to provide more substantive information on lessons learned regarding achievements and constraints, on best practices and the most effective options, as well as on assessment of the impact of approaches and actions taken and results achieved, in the reports to be submitted by Parties and observers,

Recalling the need to strengthen the collection and accessibility of reliable, standardized qualitative data and information, when appropriate, on the status of land degradation and combating desertification, as well as on actions taken in implementing the Convention, in the reports to be submitted by country Parties,

Recognizing further the need for comparable, compatible and harmonized data and information on support provided for the implementation of the Convention in the reports to be submitted by developed country Parties and by the organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group to improve the procedures for communication of information, particularly at the national level, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention;
2. *Decides also* that the ad hoc working group shall convene Parties' representatives appointed with due attention to equitable geographical representation. No more than five representatives, who should be experienced in reporting, shall be nominated per region. The

Chairpersons of the CRIC and the CST, as well as a representative of the GM, shall provide advice to the ad hoc working group;

3. *Further decides* that the ad hoc working group shall work primarily by electronic and documentary means and that members should also take advantage of regional preparatory meetings to CRIC 5 and the CRIC 5 session;

4. *Decides furthermore* that following CRIC 5, the ad hoc working group shall continue its work outlined in the annex primarily by electronic/documentary means. A technical meeting of the ad hoc working group shall be convened between CRIC 5 and COP 8, depending on the availability of voluntary contributions, to facilitate progress and prompt completion of its work, including a timely submission of the report of the group to COP 8 through the secretariat;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the work of the ad hoc working group;

6. *Welcomes* the formulation and improvement of country profiles in the national reports of affected country Parties as tools to: (a) monitor and assess in a participatory manner the status of land degradation and combating desertification covering both the bio-physical and the socio-economic parameters; (b) ensure comparability of results over the years in areas of specific importance to the Convention; (c) strengthen preparedness and the effectiveness of measures taken to implement the Convention; (d) enhance civil society participation in the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Invites* the CST to advance progress in standardization of systems and data and information for the monitoring and assessment of land degradation and desertification, and to assist in establishing standardized formats for bio-physical and socio-economic indicators to be used in the formulation of country profiles;

8. *Invites* developed country Parties and international organizations to develop and/or support capacity-building activities at national level in addressing agricultural, environmental and natural resource management in order to enhance the Parties' capacity to monitor the processes under the Convention, bridge the information and research gaps, collect relevant statistics data and submit national reports in time, and promote partnerships conducive to participatory assessment processes at all levels;

9. *Also invites* the GEF and other organizations that have sponsored the national reports submitted by the country Parties of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa to further assist in the completion of the CRIC review cycle by providing timely support for the formulation and submission of national reports of country Parties of other Regional Implementation Annexes, before the fifth session of the CRIC in 2006;

10. *Further decides* that the review of ways and means for improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP, will take place at COP 8, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP on the measures taken to implement this decision.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON IMPROVING THE PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION, AS WELL AS THE QUALITY AND FORMAT OF REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Rationale

The CRIC noted that procedures for communication of information have evolved and become increasingly complex since the Convention was adopted. Rationalization and clarification towards the improvement of reporting procedures are therefore a priority for improving reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

Objectives

- Provision of guidance to the COP on simplified, consistent reporting procedures and formats for reports after the completion of the third reporting cycle;
- Clarification and standardization of terms and issues targeted in current reporting with a view to their eventual application in the new formats of reports;
- Facilitation of a more substantive assessment of the implementation of the Convention at national level through the review of reports by Parties and observers.

Expected results

A report shall be prepared for submission to COP 8 on the findings and recommendations for improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP. This document is intended to provide information for decision-making at COP 8. Some of the areas to be considered include:

- Proposal of a selection of simplified, consistent and efficient measurable indicators for reporting by affected and developed country Parties;
- Clarification of the role of benchmarks and indicators in reporting;
- Clarification of the role of country profiles in national reporting and possible improvements in their use;
- Proposal on how to integrate the best practices related to the implementation of the identified strategic areas for action (decision 8/COP.4);
- Identification of ways and means for facilitating assessment of the implementation of the Convention at the national level.

Composition

The working group will be composed according to the provisions provided in operative paragraph 2 of this decision.

Organization of work

Phase 1

The group shall start working immediately after COP 7 using the means defined in operative paragraph 3 of this decision, with English as the only working language. The nomination of representatives shall be effected by 1 December 2005.

The group shall take advantage of regional preparatory meetings to CRIC 5, with the assistance of regional coordinators who shall be nominated by their respective regional groups. It shall also, as appropriate, take into account relevant outputs from the working group on the JIU report including the long-term vision and strategic plan for the UNCCD and relevant work of CST.

The group members shall submit to the secretariat prior to CRIC 5 documents describing technical issues experienced in the national reporting process, and suggestions for improvement. The secretariat shall compile and categorize these submissions in an official document for consideration at CRIC 5.

CRIC 5 shall consider the aforementioned document under the appropriate agenda item. Adequate time shall be given to this agenda item for exchange of views and open discussion. The ad hoc working group should meet in the margins of CRIC 5 to discuss issues raised at CRIC 5.

Phase 2

Following CRIC 5, the group shall take on board the relevant outcomes of CRIC 5, as presented in the report of the CRIC on its fifth session. It shall continue its work primarily by electronic/documentary means. A technical meeting shall be convened between CRIC 5 and COP 8, depending on the availability of voluntary contributions, with the aim of facilitating progress and prompt completion of the work of the group, including a timely submission of the report of the group to CRIC 6, through the secretariat.

Output

CRIC 6 shall review the report of the CRIC on its fifth session and make further recommendations in the form of draft decision(s) on improved format for national reporting on the implementation of the Convention, for the consideration by COP 8.

Decision 9/COP.7

Programme of work of the fifth session of the Committee for the Review
of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h), of the Convention,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Recalling further its decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of the implementation,

Recalling paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 10 of its decision 1/COP.5 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention, as well as paragraphs 1 and 9 of the annex to the same decision,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of the fifth session of the CRIC:
 - (a) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention, as well as decision 1/COP.5, paragraph 10;
 - (i) Review of the reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes;
 - (ii) Review of the reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;
 - (iii) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of regions other than Africa;
 - (b) Consideration of necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention;

(c) Review of available information regarding the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support by multilateral agencies and institutions with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mechanism and its Facilitation Committee;

(d) Consideration of ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, as well as of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and interested institutions and organizations;

(e) Consideration of ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the fifth session of the CRIC a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraph 1 above.

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28 October 2005*

Decision 10/COP.7Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee for
the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c), of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 1/COP.5 and 7/COP.6 concerning additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention and decision 9/COP.7 on the programme of work of the fifth session of the CRIC,

1. *Accepts with gratitude* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host the fifth session of the CRIC;
2. *Decides* that the fifth session of the CRIC shall be held in September 2006 for a duration of eight working days;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Argentina with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the fifth session of the Committee in Argentina and to meet the related costs.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 11/COP.7

Rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 6/COP.5 on the consideration of the regional coordination units (RCUs) initiative,

Recalling also decision 11/COP.6 on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and the feasibility and possible terms of reference of the RCUs,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(7)/7 on rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the RCUs,

Noting the request of Central and Eastern European country Parties to explore the possibility of the establishment of regional coordination arrangements, inter alia an RCU,

Noting with appreciation the efforts that existing RCUs are making to assist, inter alia in elaborating programmes and networks in their respective regions with regard to the implementation of regional action programmes,

Welcoming in this regard the efforts made by institutions hosting the RCUs, various country Parties and multilateral agencies to support the activities of the RCUs,

1. *Invites* hosting organizations to continue supporting the running costs of the existing RCUs;
2. *Invites also* the developed country Parties and multilateral agencies to continue contributing on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the activities of the RCUs;
3. *Considers* that, until this agenda item is considered by COP 8, funding for this RCUs initiative, inter alia for the salaries of existing posts and the funds for necessary activities, shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund;
4. *Decides* to establish an open-ended group to review available reports and information received from Parties and other entities and make recommendations to COP 8 on options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing RCUs and other relevant regional and subregional entities, and take a decision at COP 8 on the role of, and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to, the RCUs;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the President of the COP, to facilitate the consultations among the members of the open-ended group by using, inter alia, the informal opportunities arising at any meetings, in particular at the fifth session of the CRIC, and *invites* Parties to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the activities of the open-ended group.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 12/COP.7

Activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference the Parties,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(7)/5 and Add.1,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.5 and 12/COP.6 on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies,

Noting the output of the Joint Liaison Group meetings on fostering synergies,

Reaffirming decision 12/COP.6, which called on the secretariat to contribute with other partners to strengthening the capacity of low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation,

Noting the report of the Viterbo workshop “Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions”,

Noting also the efforts to develop synergies at national level, including through the national synergy workshop programme and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), the GEF Training Workshop and other initiatives,

Noting further the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to foster cooperative initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recognizing that the operationalization of funds for climate change adaptation offers additional opportunities to strengthen synergies among the Rio conventions,

1. *Invites* Parties to review the paper prepared jointly by the secretariats of the UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.19 entitled “Options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions”, and *further invites* Parties to submit comments to the secretariat prior to the eighth session of the COP;
2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD to take into consideration UNCCD COP decisions relating to synergies in their deliberations;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the secretariats of the CBD and the UNCCD for the work undertaken in developing their Joint Work Programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, and *encourages* Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Invites* the Executive Secretaries of the UNCCD and the CBD to strengthen the Joint Work Programme, including their efforts to achieve the relevant 2010 biodiversity targets, and *welcomes* the attention to be given to this matter by the COP to the CBD at its eighth session to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006;
5. *Encourages* country Parties to strive for coordinated implementation of relevant conventions;
6. *Invites* further efforts in capacity-building and in developing operational synergies through national synergy workshops and GEF training workshops;
7. *Encourages* affected Parties to integrate sustainable land management issues within the UNFCCC national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs);
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations and closer collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other interested organizations with a view to fostering joint initiatives related to sustainable forest management, and *invites* Parties and interested organizations to provide financial and technical support to such joint initiatives;
9. *Invites* Parties and civil society, NGOs and research institutions to submit success stories of field activities on synergies to the secretariat, and *also requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation of the submissions received and submit it to the COP at its eighth session as an information document;
10. *Further requests* the secretariat to establish a web page on cooperation and synergies among Rio conventions under the secretariat's website, similar to those available for the UNFCCC and the CBD¹, upon availability of voluntary funding;
11. *Also encourages* Parties and relevant institutions to explore opportunities to promote sustainable forest management, including forest conservation and sustainable use of forests, as an effective additional means of addressing relevant objectives of the three conventions;
12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

¹ http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/cooperation_with_international_organisations/items/2970.php
<http://www.biodiv.org/cooperation/default.shtml>

Decision 13/COP.7

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Having reviewed the roster of independent experts as revised by the secretariat in accordance with decision 13/COP.6 based on submissions received from Parties, and the report prepared by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/10,

Bearing in mind the important role played by NGOs and local communities in the implementation of the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form,

Noting also the recommendations of the Bureau of the CST on the roster of independent experts,

Recalling decision 13/COP.6 inviting the CST, through its Group of Experts (GoE), fully to utilize the roster in carrying out the programme of work of the GoE,

1. *Encourages* Parties, through their national focal points, to revise and update the database on their national experts already on the roster of independent experts, and to propose new candidates in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, of social scientists, of women, of NGOs, and of all individuals with expertise in the field of desertification;
2. *Invites* Parties that have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster to do so, via regular diplomatic channels, no later than six months before the next session of the COP;
3. *Requests* the Parties to incorporate in their national report an annex with an updated list of their experts on the roster, with their contact details, including complete postal and, if available, e-mail address;
4. *Invites* Parties to actively promote the use of independent experts at the national level;
5. *Invites* Parties to encourage active participation of the experts on the roster in the implementation of the thematic programme networks (TPNs);
6. *Encourages* all organizations, institutions and bodies that will organize events scheduled for the IYDD to use the knowledge and expertise of the experts on the roster of independent experts;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to establish an e-mail network for distribution among the experts on the roster of independent experts, at appropriate times, of information on the CST and GoE activities, the IYDD and progress made in the implementation of the Convention;
8. *Invites* the CST to evaluate progress made on revising and using the roster at its next session.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 14/COP.7

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 19/COP.6 on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and noting that the MA has been completed,

Taking note of the presentations made by representatives of the MA as well as of the information contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/9 and the comments made by the CST at its seventh session,

Acknowledging that the Convention could especially benefit from the MA findings in its further consideration of benchmarks, indicators, and monitoring and assessment activities,

1. *Encourages* the Parties to consider the findings, conclusions and response options contained in the “Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Desertification Synthesis”, and to make the best possible use of them in addressing the problems of land degradation;
2. *Invites* the CST to take the findings of the MA into consideration in its programme of work, inter alia in the GoE’s activities for the remainder of their term.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 15/COP.7Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 15/COP.6 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST,

Recalling also decision 1/COP.6, in particular as it relates to information and communication,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the GoE in completing the tasks assigned to it within its work programme, as contained in documents ICCD/COP(7)/CST/3, Add.1 and Add.2,

Bearing in mind that decision 1/COP.6 invited the secretariat, with the support of relevant institutions, to provide more support for activities such as training at universities, internships and scholarships with reference to the action programmes,

Noting the recommendations made by the Bureau of the CST on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST,

Bearing in mind decision 17/COP.5, in particular paragraphs 8 and 15 of the annex thereto, which recognizes that the programme of work of the GoE should be pluri-annual in nature, for a maximum of four years,

Noting that the current mandate of the GoE will come to an end before the eighth session of the CST,

1. *Requests* the GoE to continue its priority activities, including the development of a communication and information strategy (THEMANET), of a land degradation and poverty strategy, and of benchmarks and indicators, and to submit its report to the eighth session of the CST;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the GoE up to the eighth session of the CST;
3. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to review the functions and the work of the GoE and to report to the CST at its eighth session;
4. *Requests* that members of the GoE who have not responded to letters of enquiry regarding their commitment to participate in the GoE be replaced before the next GoE meeting;
5. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to prepare revised procedures for renewal of the membership of the GoE for consideration by the CST at its eighth session, taking into account the recommendations of the CST review of the functions and the work of the GoE;

6. *Encourages* country Parties to select a science and technology correspondent to the CST under the coordination of the national focal point;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication linkages between the GoE and the Bureau of the CST;
8. *Invites* the CST Bureau to establish a need for a specific UNCCD fellowship programme taking account of NCSA reports and existing fellowship programmes, and to present its findings to CST 8;
9. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the CST at its next session on the implementation of this decision.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 16/COP.7Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming article 17, paragraph 1(c), and article 18, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Recalling decision 16/COP.6, in particular on how traditional knowledge can contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the work carried out by the secretariat and the CST on traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices,

Bearing in mind also the report contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/5,

Taking note of the state of progress in the Iconographic System of Traditional Knowledge and Innovative Use (SITTI) presented during the seventh session of the CST,

1. *Encourages* Parties to develop initiatives on traditional knowledge in collaboration with other institutions and organizations;
2. *Invites* Parties to protect, promote and use traditional knowledge, involving local experts and local communities;
3. *Further invites* Parties to foster integration of traditional and modern knowledge in combating desertification.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 17/COP.7

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2, 11/COP.3, 11/COP.4, 11/COP.5 and 17/COP.6,

Noting with satisfaction the work carried out by the Parties, as well as the reports contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/6,

Mindful of the report of the CRIC on its third session,

Acknowledging the need to improve the country profile as a promising tool for presenting data on the implementation of the Convention, as recommended by the CRIC,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Bureau of the CST and the recommendations of the GoE,

Noting the work of the GoE in providing assistance for the development of appropriate benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of desertification,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant actors in the field, to facilitate the assimilation and/or development of regional or country-specific benchmarks and indicators;
2. *Encourages* the Parties and interested organizations, including NGOs, to involve all stakeholders in the development, where required, and in the use of benchmarks and indicators at appropriate scales;
3. *Requests* the CST, through the GoE, to develop consistent and relevant guidelines on utilizing benchmarks and indicators in the preparation of national reports and to provide guidance on the inclusion of benchmarks and indicators in the country profile;
4. *Requests* the GoE to give high priority to work on benchmarks and indicators and take into consideration all relevant initiatives, and to present the final report to the CST at its eighth session;
5. *Further requests* the GoE to give special attention to participatory and integrated approaches to benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of socio-economic and bio-physical aspects of desertification, and to present the final report to the COP through the CST at its eighth session;

6. *Encourages* Parties to develop and use indicators to assess the impact of intervention measures in order to indicate progress in implementing the Convention.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 18/COP.7

Early warning systems

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the ad hoc panels on early warning systems as well as the recommendations of the Bureau of the CST,

Recognizing that benchmarks and indicators, and monitoring and assessment work have been identified as integral components of early warning systems for drought and desertification,

Noting that scientific research, including work on models, is an essential part of developing operational drought and desertification early warning systems,

Noting further the importance of disseminating the outputs of early warning systems to local governments, communities and NGOs,

Recalling that early warning systems are often constrained by bio-physical conditions, land use systems and their variability,

Bearing in mind the assistance provided by the GoE for the development of short- and long-term early warning systems,

Taking into account the observations and recommendations made by the CST and its GoE during the seventh session of the CST,

1. *Invites* relevant United Nations organizations, international bodies, agencies and developed country Parties to assist developing country Parties in the development of early warning systems by providing technological and financial support;
2. *Requests* the GoE, as far as possible, to carry out its work programme on early warning systems by integrating relevant benchmarks and indicators, as well as monitoring and assessment components, and to report to the CST at its eighth session.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 19/COP.7Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of decision 19/COP.6 on Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA),

Noting with appreciation the initiatives in respect of the LADA undertaken by various international organizations and institutions, with the collaboration of the secretariat,

Taking note of the presentations made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the information contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/8,

Taking note also of the comments provided by the CST at its seventh session,

1. *Encourages* the continuation of work on the LADA and the involvement of experts from the roster of independent experts in assessments;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the LADA;
3. *Invites* the GoE to take the necessary action to strengthen the links between the GoE and the work of the LADA;
4. *Also invites* the LADA to involve, and take account of the needs of, the UNCCD national focal points in its further work;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the CST at its eighth session on progress in the LADA.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 20/COP.7

Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, and in particular paragraph 18 of the annex to that decision, which concerns the review process,

Recalling also decisions 16/COP.3, 16/COP.4, 16/COP.5 and 20/COP.6 on the programme of work of the CST,

Taking into account the observations and recommendations made by the CST and its Group of Experts during the seventh session of the CST, in particular the need to focus and prioritize work,

Taking note of the interest by the CST in the relationship between climate and land degradation, monitoring and assessment, soil and water conservation, renewable energies, vulnerability and livelihood improvement,

1. *Decides* that the priority theme for discussion by the CST at its eighth session will be “The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement”;
2. *Welcomes* the offer of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to organize and find the necessary funding for an international workshop on climate and land degradation in 2006 to mark the IYDD, and *invites* the CST to assist the WMO in bringing together experts for the workshop and to present the workshop’s results to the COP at its eighth session;
3. *Encourages* Parties and all accredited organizations to prepare concise reports concerning this priority theme and to transmit them to the secretariat no later than six months before the next session of the CST;
4. *Requests* the CST Bureau to select three representative submissions for presentation to, and discussion by, the Parties at the eighth session of the CST;
5. *Further decides* that work on benchmarks and indicators (decision 17/COP.7) is the most urgent activity for the next two-year period, taking into account the results achieved in the framework of the relevant TPNs;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give priority to the activities identified in paragraph 5 when allocating funds within the Science and technology budget line;

7. *Encourages* Parties to support and continue work in other priority areas of the CST programme of work, inter alia the communication and information strategy (THEMANET) and the development of an integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation;
8. *Invites* the CST to work in collaboration with the WMO and other relevant organizations to address the interaction between climate, land degradation and livelihood security.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 21/COP.7

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 21/COP.2 on consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

Taking note of the draft text of rule 47, as amended by decision 21/COP.2,

Taking note also of the report by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/8,

Requests the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure in the agenda of the eighth session of the COP and to report on the status of similar rules of procedure in other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the views of other secretariats on the impact of the said status on the work of their respective MEAs.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 22/COP.7

Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution
of questions on implementation; consideration of annexes containing
arbitration and conciliation procedures

A. Resolution of questions on implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 27 of the Convention, which states that the COP shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 20/COP.3, 20/COP.4, Part A, 21/COP.5, Part A, and 22/COP.6, Part A,

Recalling further the Facilitator's summary of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts at the fifth and sixth sessions of the COP,

Noting that the question of linkages between article 27 and articles 22, paragraph 2, 26 and 28 requires further consideration,

1. *Decides*, for purposes of fulfilling the provisions of article 27 of the Convention, to reconvene, during its eighth session, the open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts to examine further and make recommendations on procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation;
2. *Invites* any Parties wishing to communicate their views on article 27 to do so, in writing, to the secretariat by 31 January 2007;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a new working document on the basis of the submissions by Parties contained in documents ICCD/COP(4)/8, ICCD/COP(5)/8, ICCD/COP(6)/7 and ICCD/COP(7)/9, and those submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above;
4. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts shall take as the basis of its work the new working document to be prepared by the secretariat.

B. Arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the COP in an annex to the Convention as soon as practicable,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the COP in an annex to the Convention as soon as practicable,

Recalling further the Facilitator's summaries of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts at the fifth and sixth sessions of the COP,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.3, 20/COP.4, Part B, 21/COP.5, Part B, and 22/COP.6, Part B,

1. *Decides*, for the purposes of fulfilling the provisions of article 28 of the Convention, to reconvene, at its eighth session, the open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts to examine further and make recommendations on the following issues:

- (a) Annex on arbitration procedures;
- (b) Annex on conciliation procedures;

2. *Invites* any Parties and interested institutions and organizations wishing to communicate their views on the issues referred to in paragraph 1 (a) and (b) above to do so, in writing, to the secretariat by 31 January 2007;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a new working document to include: (i) a compilation of submissions contained in documents ICCD/COP(4)/8, ICCD/COP(5)/8, ICCD/COP(6)/7 and ICCD/COP(7)/9, and those submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above; and (ii) an updated version of the annexes contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/8 to reflect these views;

4. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts shall take as the basis of its work the new working document to be prepared by the secretariat.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 23/COP.7Programme and budget for the biennium 2006–2007

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraphs 3, 9 and 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of Parties (COP),¹

Expressing concern over the financial state of the Convention,

Noting with concern the results of the audit report of the Convention Trust Funds for the biennium 2002–2003, which contains a financial and management audit by the external auditors of the United Nations and the need for a complete management response to the report,

Noting that the secretariat has begun taking steps to implement the recommendations in the auditors' report,

Calling on the secretariat to address as a matter of extreme urgency the outstanding recommendations of the external auditors,

Welcoming the report of the JIU on the activities and operations of the secretariat and having considered the budgetary recommendations in it,

Noting with concern that expenditures in the biennium 2004–2005 are likely to exceed the budget authorized by decision 23/COP.6,

Mindful of the need to address the issue of fluctuations in the euro/United States dollar exchange rate in such a manner as to reduce the risk of exchange rate fluctuations,

Noting recommendation 16 of the JIU report, which asks the COP to consider adopting euro budgeting and a single currency system of assessment, the euro, beginning with the 2008–2009 biennium,

Taking note with appreciation of current and ongoing collaboration with other Convention secretariats and with United Nations organizations located in Bonn on the provision of common services, the strengthening of liaison arrangements and the enhancement of synergies aimed at, among other things, improving efficiency,

Agreeing that budget proposals must be presented in the most informative and transparent way possible,

¹ Decision 2/COP.1.

Noting the need to provide Parties with relevant information to allow considered priority setting, since the budget of the Convention, must adapt to changes in priorities and must be affordable to all Parties,

Noting that there is consensus for more effective implementation of the Convention on the ground, and that this requires concentration of resources on implementation,

Having considered the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2006–2007 submitted by the Executive Secretary,² the report on the performance of the Convention Trust Funds in the biennium 2004–2005,³ the audit report of the Convention Trust Funds for the biennium 2002–2003,⁴ and the report on the status of contributions to the Convention Trust Funds in the biennium 2004–2005,⁵

Noting with appreciation the annual contribution of the host Government of EUR 511,291.88, which offsets contributions from other Parties to the Convention,

A. Budget reform

1. Audit report and financial aspects of the Joint Inspection Unit report

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report within 90 days of the conclusion of COP 7 to the President of COP 7 on all actions taken and all further actions that he may consider necessary to implement all recommendations included in the audit report for the biennium 2002–2003, and to place his report on the UNCCD website;

2. *Notes* the relevant recommendations of the external auditors about procurement, travel, daily subsistence allowances and consultants costs in the biennium 2002–2003 and *requests* the Executive Secretary to take the additional measures necessary to address these recommendations, to ensure that the financial rules are fully respected in the future, and to report on this matter to the meetings of the Bureau and in the 2006–2007 performance report;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to implement the auditors' recommendation on internal audit capability in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, and, in this context, *authorizes* the co-financing of a shared internal auditor at an appropriate level, and *invites* the COP to the UNFCCC to consider such an arrangement;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek guidance from the United Nations on the appropriate accounting for end-of-service and post-retirement benefits and to report to COP 8 on this issue;

5. *Reconfirms* that decisions which affect the overall level of the core budget can only be taken by the COP, where all Parties are represented, by consensus, in accordance with financial rule 4;

² ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.1 and Add.2.

³ ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.3 and Add.4.

⁴ ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.5.

⁵ ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.6.

6. *Decides* not to accept the auditors' recommendation on minimum indicative contributions in the light of decision 6/COP.2;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a detailed management response on the reports of the United Nations external auditors to the COP;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, seeking assistance, as necessary, a report for the COP at its eighth session on the implications of results-based planning, programming and budgeting;

2. Action on the 2004–2005 overspend

9. *Notes* that the Executive Secretary may request an extraordinary session of the COP if faced with unforeseen budgetary difficulties;
10. *Notes* that when required and authorized by the financial rules, the Executive Secretary should draw on reserves for funding both the secretariat and the GM;
11. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent for the Convention or any other international instrument, to draw up to US\$ 1.5 million from unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to cover over-expenditures on contractual commitments for staff costs and, to the extent strictly necessary, unavoidable recurring operating expenses, in headings 1 to 6 of the budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

3. Measures to deal with currency fluctuations

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to determine with the assistance of United Nations Headquarters and United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) the costs of any changes to the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) accounting system and any other related costs to account for the activities of the secretariat in euros, and to report back to the President of COP 7 regarding the costs necessary to implement such changes;
13. *Decides* to introduce the euro as the budget and accounting currency from 2008–2009, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on all necessary changes in the programme and budget document for COP 8;
14. Consequently *authorizes* the Executive Secretary to notify UNOG that until 31 December 2007 contributions received in euros and any interest thereon should be treated as euro assets of the secretariat and accounted for as such; while contributions received in United States dollars and interest thereon should be treated as United States dollar assets of the secretariat and accounted for as such;

4. Budget presentation

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the rules of procedure, to provide Parties with an indication of the administrative and budgetary implications of decisions submitted for consideration by the COP at the time the documents elaborating the agenda items are circulated, as well as of decisions referred by the CST and/or the CRIC for adoption by the COP, which may have administrative and budgetary implications that cannot be met from existing resources within the core budget;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare the proposed budget in the programme and budget documents for future COPs in full accordance with financial rule 3;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include data in the budget presentation by programme and by object of expenditure, showing:

(a) approved and projected expenditures for 2006–2007 and approved and actual expenditures for prior biennia;

(b) the proposed expenditures for 2008–2009 prior to re-costing;

(c) the proposed expenditures for 2008–2009 following re-costing; and

(d) cost changes in United States dollars and euros and in percentage terms between these categories;

and *requests* the Executive Secretary to include explanations of the estimates and assumptions that were used to calculate the cost increases applied to each object of expenditure;

18. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of different options. To this end, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include in addition to the proposed budget for the biennium 2008–2009 two alternative scenarios maintaining the core budget at the 2006–2007 level at 0 per cent nominal growth and 0 per cent real growth in both United States dollars and euros;

B. The core budget

19. *Approves* the core budget for the biennium 2006–2007, amounting to US\$ 16,705,000 (EUR 14,283,000 at the prevailing official United Nations rate of exchange at the date at which the Parties are first notified of their contributions for 2006, i.e. 21 November 2005, as stated in paragraph 31 below) for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

20. *Notes* with appreciation the annual contribution of the host Government of EUR 511,292, which offsets planned expenditures;

21. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2006 and 2007 contained in the annex to this decision with the percentages as adjusted in previous COP decisions;

22. *Approves* the staffing tables for the core budget, as contained in tables 2 and 3 below;
23. *Notes* that the operations of the secretariat and the GM must be managed on the basis of the amount of the approved biennium core budget in paragraph 19, and that this takes precedence over all other tables or figures in the budget decision, unless amended by the COP;
24. *Approves* a contingency budget for conference servicing, amounting to US\$ 5,334,000 (EUR 4,350,000) to be added to the programme budget for the coming biennium in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2006–2007 (table 4 below);
25. *Notes* estimated additional costs of up to US\$ 1,808,000 (EUR 1,391,000) (table 5) which will be incurred in the event that the eighth session of the COP is held in Bonn, and *decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for this purpose do not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing as set out in table 4 below;
26. *Requests* the General Assembly of the United Nations to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007, the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;
27. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 - 6 as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditures for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line 1 - 6 shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP on any such transfers;
28. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of the annual estimated expenditures, including overhead charges, of the amount of the core budget;
29. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, for the biennium 2006–2007, to draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes specified up to the amounts in the approved core budget (table 1), for exceptional reasons;
30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give priority in allocating the budget to implementing decisions agreed to by Parties at COP 7, arrangements for sessions of COP and its subsidiary bodies, and facilitation of requests for assistance from affected developing country Parties in the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention;
31. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to notify Parties of their contributions for 2006 by 21 November 2005, and for 2007 by 1 October 2006 to encourage early payment;

32. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in the possible context of inadequate reserves to consult with the Bureau of the COP on any adjustments which may be necessary in the programme of work as foreseen in the core budget for the biennium 2006–2007, in the event that sufficient resources are not available to the secretariat in a timely fashion from the approved budget;

33. *Commends* the Executive Secretary on the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOG on the use of funds from Programme Support to finance administrative operations and requests the Executive Secretary to keep this matter under review;

34. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to COP 8 on developments on current and ongoing management collaboration with other Convention secretariats and with United Nations organizations located in Bonn;

35. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to proceed with the move of the physical location of the secretariat to the United Nations campus facilities in Bonn in 2006, provided that this move, in itself, does not result in additional costs to the core budget of the secretariat and that the Premises Agreement between the United Nations and Germany for the new United Nations campus has been successfully concluded;

C. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

36. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contribution through the Bonn Fund of EUR 511,292 to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

37. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 6 of US\$ 20,652,900 for the biennium 2006–2007; and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of NGOs from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their participation in UNCCD regional conferences or meetings;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

38. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 7 of US\$ 2,929,000 (EUR 2,254,000), US\$ 1,412,500 (EUR 1,087,000) for CRIC 5 and US\$ 1,516,500 (EUR 1,167,000) for COP 8 for the biennium 2006–2007; and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of

the financial rules, in order to support the participation of developing country Parties, and in particular least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies;

39. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its eighth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules.

Table 1. Resource requirements by programme
(amounts in thousands)

Programmes	Total			Total
	2004-2005	2006	2007	2006-2007
Executive direction and management	1,550	841	909	1,750
Substantive support to COP, its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues	2,289	535	566	1,101
Science and technology	-	360	375	735
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	4,009	2,250	2,242	4,492
External relations and public information	900	632	642	1,274
Administration and finance	2,533	1,332	1,261	2,593
Subtotal secretariat	11,281	5,950	5,995	11,945
Global Mechanism	3,701	1,915	1,971	3,886
Total programmes	14,982	7,865	7,966	15,831
Overhead	1,948	1,023	1,035	2,058
Working capital reserve ¹	119	-	12	12
Total resource requirements	17,049	8,888	9,013	17,901
Less: Contribution from host country Government ²	1,110	598	598	1,196
Net required as indicative contributions	15,939	8,290	8,415	16,705

¹ The amount required to bring the working capital reserve up to 8.3 per cent of the total annual programmes cost plus overhead.

² Equivalent to EUR 1,022,584, at the prevailing official United Nations rate of exchange at the date at which the Parties are first notified of their contributions for 2006, i.e. 21 November 2005, as stated in paragraph 31 above.

Table 2. Staffing requirements for the secretariat

	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²
A. Professional category and above			
ASG	1	1	1
D-1	2	2	2
P-5	10	10	10
P-4	8	8	8
P-3	5	5	5
P-2	4	4	4
Subtotal A	30	30	30
B. General Service category			
Total (A + B)	43	43	43

¹ During 2005 five core budget posts were left vacant.

² In 2006 there will not be sufficient funding to fill approximately 13 posts.

Table 3. Staffing requirements for the Global Mechanism

	2004-2005 ¹	2006	2007
A. Professional category and above			
D-2	1	1	1
D-1	1	1	1
P-5	4	4	4
P-4	1	1	1
P-3	2	2	2
Subtotal A	9	9	9
B. General Service category			
Total (A + B)	14	14	14

¹ Posts as approved by decision 23/COP(6).

Table 4. Estimates for contingency for conference services
(in the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions
of the COP and its subsidiary bodies in its regular budget)
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	2006		2007		Total 2006-2007	
	US\$	EUR	US\$	EUR	US\$	EUR
Conference services	1,920	1,570	2,800	2,280	4,720	3,850
Overhead	250	204	364	296	614	500
Total resource requirements	2,170	1,774	3,164	2,576	5,334	4,350

Table 5. Operating costs of holding the eighth session of the COP in Bonn
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	Estimate for COP 8 (2007)	
	US\$	EUR
Logistic costs	1,454	1,119
Contingencies	146	112
Subtotal	1,600	1,231
Overhead	208	160
Total resource requirements	1,808	1,391

Table 6. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements by programme
(amounts in thousands)

Programme/expenditure items	Total US\$
Substantive support to the COP, its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues	930.0
Science and technology	3,823.7
Facilitation of implementation	9,785.0
External relations and public information	3,738.2
Subtotal programmes	18,276.9
Overhead	2,376.0
Total resource requirements	20,652.9

Table 7. Special Fund estimated resource requirements
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	2006-2007	
	US\$	EUR
<i>Exchange rate used</i>		<i>1,2994</i>
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings		
CRIC 5	1,250	962
COP 7	1,342	1,033
Overhead	337	259
Total resource requirements	2,929	2,254

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Annex

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORE BUDGET FOR 2006 AND 2007

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/	(*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years	Assessed 2006 contribution		Assessed 2007 contribution		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C)
						(A) US\$	(B) US\$	(C) US\$	(D) EUR 4/	
1	Afghanistan	LDC	0.002	0.002	50	166	142	168	144	384
2	Albania		0.005	0.005		415	354	421	360	835
3	Algeria		0.076	0.073		6,052	5,174	6,143	5,252	12,195
4	Andorra		0.005	0.005		415	354	421	360	835
5	Angola	LDC	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167
6	Antigua and Barbuda		0.003	0.003	30	249	213	252	216	531
7	Argentina		0.956	0.926	304,611	76,765	65,635	77,923	66,626	459,299
8	Armenia		0.002	0.002		166	142	168	144	334
9	Australia		1.592	1.542		127,832	109,297	129,759	110,947	257,591
10	Austria		0.859	0.831	25	68,890	58,901	69,929	59,790	138,844
11	Azerbaijan		0.005	0.005	320	415	354	421	360	1,155
12	Bahamas		0.013	0.013		1,078	921	1,094	935	2,172
13	Bahrain		0.030	0.029		2,404	2,056	2,440	2,087	4,844
14	Bangladesh	LDC	0.010	0.010		829	709	842	720	1,671
15	Barbados		0.010	0.010		829	709	842	720	1,671
16	Belarus		0.018	0.018		1,492	1,276	1,515	1,295	3,007
17	Belgium		1.069	1.035	85,220	85,802	73,361	87,095	74,468	258,117
18	Belize		0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167
19	Benin	LDC	0.002	0.002		166	142	168	144	334
20	Bhutan	LDC	0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247
21	Bolivia		0.009	0.009	2,490	746	638	757	648	3,993
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.003	0.003		249	213	252	216	501
23	Botswana		0.012	0.012		995	851	1,010	863	2,005
24	Brazil		1.523	1.474	364,370	122,195	104,477	124,037	106,054	610,602
25	Brunei Darussalam		0.034	0.033	2,530	2,736	2,339	2,777	2,374	8,043

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/ (*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/ 2006-07 (%) 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years		Assessed 2006 contribution		Assessed 2007 contribution		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
				(A) US\$	(B) US\$	EUR 4/ EUR 4/	(C) US\$	EUR 4/ EUR 4/	(D=A+B+C) US\$	
26	Bulgaria	0.017	0.017		1,409	1,205	1,431	1,223	2,840	
27	Burkina Faso	0.002	0.002		166	142	168	144	334	
28	Burundi	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167	
29	Cambodia	0.002	0.002		166	142	168	144	494	
30	Cameroon	0.008	0.008		663	567	673	576	2,777	
31	Canada	2.813	2.723		225,737	193,006	229,140	195,920	455,751	
32	Cape Verde	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167	
33	Central African Republic	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	429	
34	Chad	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	407	
35	Chile	0.223	0.216		17,906	15,310	18,176	15,541	36,083	
36	China	2.053	1.988		164,805	140,909	167,290	143,037	332,135	
37	Colombia	0.155	0.150		12,435	10,632	12,623	10,793	70,248	
38	Comoros	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	181	
39	Cook Islands	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	557	
40	Congo	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	327	
41	Costa Rica	0.030	0.029		2,404	2,056	2,440	2,087	8,309	
42	Cote d'Ivoire	0.010	0.010		829	709	842	720	1,703	
43	Croatia	0.037	0.036		2,984	2,552	3,029	2,590	6,014	
44	Cuba	0.043	0.042		3,482	2,977	3,534	3,022	7,058	
45	Cyprus	0.039	0.038		3,150	2,693	3,198	2,734	10,438	
46	Czech Republic	0.183	0.178		14,756	12,617	14,979	12,807	29,735	
47	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.003		249	213	252	216	501	
48	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.010	0.010		829	709	842	720	2,076	
49	Denmark	0.718	0.695		57,616	49,262	58,484	50,005	116,155	
50	Djibouti	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167	

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/ (*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/ 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years (A)		Assessed 2006 contribution (B)		Assessed 2007 contribution (C)		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
				US\$	EUR 4/	US\$	EUR 4/	US\$	EUR 4/	
51	Dominica	0.001	0.001	320	71	83	84	72	487	
52	Dominican Republic	0.035	0.034	271	2,410	2,819	2,861	2,446	5,950	
53	Ecuador	0.019	0.019	1,890	1,347	1,575	1,599	1,367	5,064	
54	Egypt	0.120	0.116	18,180	8,222	9,616	9,761	8,346	37,558	
55	El Salvador	0.022	0.021	1,340	1,488	1,741	1,767	1,511	4,848	
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.002	0.002	260	142	166	168	144	594	
57	Eritrea	0.001	0.001		71	83	84	72	167	
58	Ethiopia	0.004	0.004		284	332	337	288	668	
59	European Community	2.500	2.500		177,200	207,250	210,375	179,875	417,625	
60	Fiji	0.004	0.004		284	332	337	288	668	
61	Finland	0.533	0.516	25	36,574	42,776	43,421	37,126	86,223	
62	France	6.030	5.839		413,868	484,053	491,352	420,116	975,405	
63	Gabon	0.009	0.009	2,230	638	746	757	648	3,733	
64	Gambia	0.001	0.001	160	71	83	84	72	327	
65	Georgia	0.003	0.003	2,750	213	249	252	216	3,251	
66	Germany	8.662	8.388		594,541	695,365	705,850	603,517	1,401,215	
67	Ghana	0.004	0.004	390	284	332	337	288	1,058	
68	Greece	0.530	0.513		36,361	42,528	43,169	36,910	85,697	
69	Grenada	0.001	0.001	80	71	83	84	72	247	
70	Guatemala	0.030	0.029		2,056	2,404	2,440	2,087	4,844	
71	Guinea	0.003	0.003		213	249	252	216	501	
72	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001		71	83	84	72	167	
73	Guyana	0.001	0.001	160	71	83	84	72	327	
74	Haiti	0.003	0.003	320	213	249	252	216	821	
75	Honduras	0.005	0.005	390	354	415	421	360	1,225	

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/	(*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years (A)	Assessed 2006 contribution		Assessed 2007 contribution		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
						(B) US\$	EUR 4/	(C) US\$	EUR 4/	
76	Hungary		0.126	0.122	24	10,114	8,647	10,266	8,778	20,404
77	Iceland		0.034	0.033	21	2,736	2,339	2,777	2,374	5,534
78	India		0.421	0.408	20	33,823	28,919	34,333	29,356	68,176
79	Indonesia		0.142	0.138		11,440	9,781	11,613	9,929	23,053
80	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		0.157	0.152	20,392	12,601	10,774	12,791	10,936	45,784
81	Ireland		0.350	0.339	22,195	28,103	24,028	28,527	24,391	78,825
82	Israel		0.467	0.452		37,471	32,038	38,036	32,521	75,507
83	Italy		4.8850	4.730		392,117	335,262	398,030	340,324	790,147
84	Jamaica		0.008	0.008	11	663	567	673	576	1,347
85	Japan		19.4680	18.850		1,562,665	1,336,088	1,586,228	1,356,258	3,148,893
86	Jordan		0.011	0.011	54	912	780	926	791	1,892
87	Kazakhstan		0.025	0.024	18	1,990	1,701	2,020	1,727	4,027
88	Kenya		0.009	0.009		746	638	757	648	1,503
89	Kiribati	LDC	0.001	0.001	100	83	71	84	72	267
90	Kuwait		0.162	0.157	11,050	13,015	11,128	13,212	11,296	37,277
91	Kyrgyzstan		0.001	0.001	1,275	83	71	84	72	1,442
92	Latvia		0.015	0.015		1,244	1,063	1,262	1,079	2,506
93	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001	190	83	71	84	72	357
94	Lebanon		0.024	0.023	1,000	1,907	1,630	1,935	1,655	4,842
95	Lesotho	LDC	0.001	0.001	25	83	71	84	72	192
96	Liberia	LDC	0.001	0.001	730	83	71	84	72	897
97	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		0.132	0.128	2,411	10,611	9,073	10,771	9,210	23,793
98	Liechtenstein		0.005	0.005		415	354	421	360	835
99	Lithuania		0.024	0.023	21	1,907	1,630	1,935	1,655	3,863
100	Luxembourg		0.077	0.074	6,000	6,135	5,245	6,227	5,324	18,362

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/	(*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years		Assessed 2006 contribution		Assessed 2007 contribution		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
					(A) US\$	(B) US\$	EUR 4/	US\$	(C) US\$	EUR 4/	
101	Madagascar	LDC	0.003	0.003		249	213	252	216	501	
102	Malawi	LDC	0.001	0.001	160	83	71	84	72	327	
103	Malaysia		0.203	0.196	17,750	16,248	13,892	16,493	14,102	50,492	
104	Maldives	LDC	0.001	0.001	240	83	71	84	72	407	
105	Mali	LDC	0.002	0.002	28	166	142	168	144	362	
106	Malta		0.014	0.014		1,161	992	1,178	1,007	2,339	
107	Marshall Islands		0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247	
108	Mauritania	LDC	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167	
109	Mauritius		0.011	0.011		912	780	926	791	1,838	
110	Mexico		1.883	1.824	8,830	151,210	129,285	153,490	131,237	313,529	
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)		0.001	0.001	160	83	71	84	72	327	
112	Monaco		0.003	0.003	20	249	213	252	216	521	
113	Mongolia		0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247	
114	Morocco		0.047	0.046	305	3,813	3,260	3,871	3,310	7,990	
115	Mozambique	LDC	0.001	0.001	92	83	71	84	72	259	
116	Myanmar	LDC	0.010	0.010	26	829	709	842	720	1,696	
117	Namibia		0.006	0.006		497	425	505	432	1,002	
118	Nauru		0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247	
119	Nepal	LDC	0.004	0.004	640	332	284	337	288	1,308	
120	Netherlands		1.690	1.636		135,624	115,960	137,669	117,710	273,294	
121	New Zealand		0.221	0.214		17,741	15,168	18,008	15,397	35,749	
122	Nicaragua		0.001	0.001	320	83	71	84	72	487	
123	Niger	LDC	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167	
124	Nigeria		0.042	0.041	23,780	3,399	2,906	3,450	2,950	30,629	
125	Niue		0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247	

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/ (*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/ 2/	Balance brought forward from previous years (A)		Assessed 2006 contribution (B)		Assessed 2007 contribution (C)		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
				US\$	EUR 4/	US\$	EUR 4/	US\$	EUR 4/	
126	Norway	0.679	0.658	25	54,548	46,639	55,371	47,343	109,944	
127	Oman	0.070	0.067		5,554	4,749	5,638	4,821	11,192	
128	Pakistan	0.055	0.054		4,477	3,828	4,544	3,885	9,021	
129	Palau	0.001	0.001	110	83	71	84	72	277	
130	Panama	0.019	0.019	3,210	1,575	1,347	1,599	1,367	6,384	
131	Papua New Guinea	0.003	0.003		249	213	252	216	501	
132	Paraguay	0.012	0.012	8,210	995	851	1,010	863	10,215	
133	Peru	0.092	0.089	49,800	7,378	6,308	7,489	6,404	64,667	
134	Philippines	0.095	0.092	5,109	7,627	6,521	7,742	6,619	20,478	
135	Poland	0.461	0.446		36,973	31,612	37,531	32,090	74,504	
136	Portugal	0.470	0.455		37,720	32,250	38,288	32,737	76,008	
137	Qatar	0.064	0.062		5,140	4,395	5,217	4,461	10,357	
138	Republic of Korea	1.796	1.739	1,190	144,163	123,260	146,337	125,121	291,690	
139	Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.001	160	83	71	84	72	327	
140	Romania	0.060	0.059		4,891	4,182	4,965	4,245	9,856	
141	Russian Federation	1.100	1.066		88,371	75,558	89,704	76,699	178,075	
142	Rwanda	0.001	0.001	77	83	71	84	72	244	
143	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247	
144	Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	870	166	142	168	144	1,204	
145	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	180	83	71	84	72	347	
146	Samoa	0.001	0.001	25	83	71	84	72	192	
147	San Marino	0.003	0.003	160	249	213	252	216	661	
148	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	10	83	71	84	72	177	
149	Saudi Arabia	0.713	0.691		57,284	48,978	58,148	49,717	115,432	
150	Senegal	0.005	0.005		415	354	421	360	835	

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/ Seychelles	(*)	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/ 0.002	Balance brought forward from previous years (A) US\$ 180	Assessed 2006 contribution (B)		Assessed 2007 contribution (C)		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$ 514
						US\$ 166	EUR 4/ 142	US\$ 168	EUR 4/ 144	
151	Seychelles		0.002	0.002	180	166	142	168	144	514
152	Sierra Leone	LDC	0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247
153	Singapore		0.388	0.376		31,170	26,651	31,640	27,053	62,811
154	Slovakia		0.051	0.050		4,145	3,544	4,208	3,598	8,353
155	Slovenia		0.082	0.079		6,549	5,600	6,648	5,684	13,197
156	Solomon Islands	LDC	0.001	0.001	500	83	71	84	72	667
157	Somalia	LDC	0.001	0.001	240	83	71	84	72	407
158	South Africa		0.292	0.283		23,461	20,059	23,814	20,362	47,275
159	Spain		2.520	2.440		202,276	172,947	205,326	175,558	407,602
160	Sri Lanka		0.017	0.017	270	1,409	1,205	1,431	1,223	3,110
161	Sudan	LDC	0.008	0.008		663	567	673	576	1,336
162	Suriname		0.001	0.001	890	83	71	84	72	1,057
163	Swaziland		0.002	0.002		166	142	168	144	334
164	Sweden		0.998	0.966		80,081	68,470	81,289	69,504	161,370
165	Switzerland		1.197	1.159		96,081	82,150	97,530	83,390	193,611
166	Syrian Arab Republic		0.038	0.037	19	3,067	2,623	3,114	2,662	6,199
167	Tajikistan		0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167
168	Thailand		0.209	0.202		16,746	14,318	16,998	14,534	33,744
169	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		0.006	0.006	1,418	497	425	505	432	2,420
170	Timor-Leste	LDC	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167
171	Togo	LDC	0.001	0.001		83	71	84	72	167
172	Tonga		0.001	0.001	80	83	71	84	72	247
173	Trinidad and Tobago		0.022	0.021		1,741	1,488	1,767	1,511	3,508
174	Tunisia		0.032	0.031		2,570	2,197	2,609	2,230	5,179
175	Turkey		0.372	0.360		29,844	25,517	30,294	25,902	60,138

	Parties to the UNCCD 1/ Turkmenistan	United Nations scale (%)	Indicative scale of assessment 2006-07 (%) 2/ 0.005	Balance brought forward from previous years (A) US\$	Assessed 2006 contribution		Assessed 2007 contribution		Total amount payable in 2006-2007 (D=A+B+C) US\$
					(B) US\$	EUR 4/ 415	(C) US\$	EUR 4/ 421	
176	Turkmenistan	0.005	0.005	480	415	354	421	360	1,315
177	Tuvalu	LDC	0.001	10	83	71	84	72	177
178	Uganda	LDC	0.006	815	497	425	505	432	1,817
179	Ukraine		0.038	12,210	3,150	2,693	3,198	2,734	18,558
180	United Arab Emirates		0.235	42	18,818	16,090	19,102	16,333	37,962
181	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		6.127		491,846	420,531	499,262	426,879	991,108
182	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC	0.006		497	425	505	432	1,002
183	United States of America 3/		22.000	800,050	1,823,800	1,559,360	1,851,300	1,582,900	4,475,150
184	Uruguay		0.047	35,460	3,896	3,331	3,955	3,382	43,311
185	Uzbekistan		0.014		1,161	992	1,178	1,007	2,339
186	Vanuatu	LDC	0.001	100	83	71	84	72	267
187	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		0.171	15,700	13,761	11,766	13,969	11,944	43,430
188	Viet Nam		0.021	1,015	1,658	1,418	1,683	1,439	4,356
189	Yemen	LDC	0.006	495	497	425	505	432	1,497
190	Zambia	LDC	0.002		166	142	168	144	334
191	Zimbabwe		0.007	1,270	580	496	589	504	2,439
	Total from Parties	102.455	100.000	1,904,098	8,290,000	7,088,000	8,415,000	7,195,000	18,609,098

1/ Actual Parties include states and regional economic integrations that will become Parties as of 30 September 2005.

2/ In accordance with paragraph 12 (a) of the financial rules, indicative scale of assessment is based on the United Nations scale of assessments as contained in the General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/1 B of 3 March 2004.

3/ The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

4/ Based on the prevailing official United Nations rate of exchange at the date at which the Parties are first notified of their contributions for 2006, i.e. 21 November 2005, as stated in paragraph 31 above.

*/ Least developed countries.

Decision 24/COP.7

Credentials of representatives of Parties attending the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the seventh session of the COP¹ and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the seventh session of the COP.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

¹ ICCD/COP(7)/12.

Decision 25/COP.7**Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification**

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the UNCCD by the ministers and other duly mandated representatives of country Parties participating in the seventh session of the COP from 17 to 28 October 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya,

1. *Welcomes* the text of the Declaration;
2. *Decides* to adopt the Declaration and to annex it to the report of the COP on its seventh session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 26/COP.7

Designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning:
administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and 56/196 of 21 December 2001 on institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention, which endorse decision 3/COP.1 on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

Approves the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the COP no later than 31 December 2011.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 27/COP.7Report of the sixth Round Table of Members of Parliament

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration by Members of Parliament “The role of members of parliament in efforts to enhance implementation of the obligations of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification”, forwarded by Hon. Francis Xavier Ole Kaparo, President of the Kenyan Parliament, reporting on the outcome of the sixth Round Table of Members of Parliament, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25 and 26 October 2005,

Takes note with appreciation of the Declaration and *decides* to annex it to the report of the COP on its seventh session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 28/COP.7

Celebration of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the interim report of the secretariat on the status of preparation of the 2006 IYDD (ICCD/COP(7)/13 and Add.1),

Recalling resolution 58/211 of the General Assembly which declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Noting the concern of the General Assembly with respect to the exacerbation of desertification, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the MDGs, in particular on poverty eradication,

Aware of the opportunity offered by the IYDD to raise public awareness of the issue of desertification and to protect the biological diversity, knowledge and traditions of communities affected by desertification,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* resolution 58/211 of the General Assembly;
2. *Welcomes also* the designation by the General Assembly of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD as focal point of the IYDD;
3. *Reiterates* the call made by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/211 to all relevant international organizations and Member States to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected country Parties, in particular African countries and the least developed countries
4. *Reiterates also* the call made by the same resolution to Parties to contribute, as they are able, to the Convention and to undertake special initiatives in observance of the Year with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the Convention;
5. *Invites* those Parties, international and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to inform the secretariat of activities envisaged for the observance of the IYDD;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to make available to the Parties and observers a consolidated list containing all activities reported in order to coordinate the information and avoid overlapping of activities;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat to prepare an interim report to the CRIC at its fifth session on the status of celebration of the IYDD;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the COP at its eighth session on the outcomes of the IYDD;

9. *Encourages* in that regard country Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund in order to ensure adequate implementation of General Assembly resolution 58/211.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 29/COP.7

Relations between the secretariat and its host country

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1 on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(7)/14 on relations between the secretariat and its host country,

Noting with appreciation that the secretariat's relationship with the Government of Germany continues to evolve constructively,

Welcoming the proposal made by the Government of Germany to move the physical location of the secretariat to the new United Nations campus facilities in Bonn,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue developing its relations with the Government of Germany, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the City of Bonn, as well as with academia and the private sector;
2. *Encourages* the secretariat to seek more cost-effective solutions for official meetings to be held in Bonn, pending the availability of adequate conference facilities;
3. *Invites* the Government of Germany to continue contributing, on a voluntary basis, to UNCCD meetings organized in Bonn;
4. *Requests* the secretariat, together with the other United Nations organizations based in Bonn, to continue consultations with the Government of Germany regarding the move to the United Nations campus, with a view to identifying ways to meet the subsequent anticipated higher costs of the facilities, and *further requests* the Government of Germany, in this regard, to make arrangements to absorb these costs, in keeping with its obligations as host country;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the COP at its eighth session on further progress made in its relations with the host country.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 30/COP.7Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5 and 29/COP.6 on its programme of work, 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, 7/COP.7 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention, and other relevant decisions of the seventh session of the COP,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of its eighth session and, if necessary, its ninth session:

- (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2008-2009;
- (b) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention:
 - (i) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report of the CRIC, including its recommendations to the COP and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
 - (ii) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, including the review referred to in decision 7/COP.7;
- (c) Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (i) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report of the CST, including its recommendations to the COP, its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
 - (ii) Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work;
- (d) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i), of the Convention;
- (e) Consideration of the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD;
- (f) Rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units;

- (g) Outstanding items:
 - (i) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;
 - (ii) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention;
 - (iii) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;
 - (h) Consideration of the report on the outcomes of the IYDD (2006);
 - (i) Consideration of the report on relations between the secretariat and its host country;
 - (j) Consideration of the report and draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD, transmitted by the ad hoc working group established in paragraph 1 of decision 3/COP.7;
2. *Decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with the relevant stakeholders, including ministers, NGOs and members of parliament on agenda items of relevance to them;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the eighth session of the COP a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

Decision 31/COP.7Date and venue of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 1/COP.2 on ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Further recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Spain to host the eighth session of the COP;
2. *Decides* that the eighth session of the COP shall be held in Spain in autumn 2007;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Spain with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the eighth session of the COP in Spain and to meet the related costs.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*

II. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution 1/COP.7

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Kenya

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005 at the invitation of the Government of Kenya,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of Kenya and the United Nations Office at Nairobi for having made it possible for the seventh session of the COP to be held in the city of Nairobi and for the excellent facilities so graciously placed at its disposal;
2. *Requests* the Government of Kenya to convey to the city of Nairobi and people of Kenya the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*
