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Convention to Combat
Desertification

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
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Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS
AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Activities related to the regional implementation of the
Convention to Combat Desertification in Latin American
and Caribbean countries

Draft decision: Paraguay*

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the decisions of the Third Regional CCD Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Havana, March 1997), in particular the adoption of a Regional Action Programme which is the result of the work started at the First and Second Regional Conferences (Buenos Aires, January 1996, and Mexico, June 1997) (document ICCD/COP(1)/7 on urgent action for Africa and interim measures in other regions: compilation of information),

Emphasizing the fact that this initiative is in clear response to the mandate of the Convention and to the requests contained in Agenda 21,

Recognizing that among the objectives of the Regional Action Programme is the need to integrate the work that international agencies carry out so as to facilitate the work at the national level by governmental and non-governmental organizations,

* On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

Recalling that another main objective of the Regional Action Programme is to develop and strengthen the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, established in article 7 of the regional annex to the Convention,

Recalling that a Regional Executive Committee composed of the Bureau elected on an annual basis at the Regional Conference will be assisted by a Regional Coordinating Unit based at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP in Mexico,

Decides:

- to endorse the agreements made by the Parties of the Latin America and the Caribbean region and to encourage them to strengthen and widen their national and regional efforts in support of the implementation of the Convention;
- to encourage those countries which have still not done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and to engage in the regional process;
- to request the Executive Secretary to provide all support as necessary for the effective and efficient functioning of the regional action programme and coordinating mechanism;
- to encourage the Latin America and Caribbean region to expand its efforts to collaborate and exchange experiences with the other regions of the Convention in order to gradually develop a CCD interregional programme.
