



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Third session  
Recife, 15-26 November 1999  
Agenda item 14

REPORT OF THE SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Victor LOURO (Portugal)

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE . . . . .		
A. Welcoming ceremony . . . . .		
B. Opening of the session . . . . .		
C. Election of the President . . . . .		
D. Opening and general statements . . . . .		

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS . . . . .		
A. Adoption of the agenda . . . . .		
B. Election of other officers . . . . .		
C. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole . . . . .		
D. Committee on Science and Technology . . . . .		
E. Admission of organizations as observers . . . . .		
F. Attendance* . . . . .		
G. Documentation* . . . . .		
[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS]*		

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\* To be completed for inclusion in the final report of the Conference.

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 15 November 1999, the Acting President of the Republic of Brazil, H. E. Mr. Marco Antonio de Oliveira Maciel, addressed the Conference. The Governor of the State of Pernambuco, H. E. Mr. Jarbas de Andrade Vasconcelos, gave a welcoming address. The Minister of State for the Environment of the Republic of Brazil, H. E. Mr. José Sarney Filho, also gave a welcoming address. The President of the General Assembly, H. E. Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, made a statement. The Executive Secretary of the secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, made a statement. The Mayor of Recife, H. E. Mr. Roberto Magalhães, made a welcoming statement.

B. Opening of the session

2. The third session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Recife, Brazil, on 15 November 1999, by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Convention.

3. The President of the second session of the Conference of the Parties, H. E. Mr. Souty Touré, Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of the Republic of Senegal, made a statement.

C. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1)

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference elected H. E. Mr. José Sarney Filho, Minister of State for the Environment of the Republic of Brazil, as President by acclamation.

5. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

D. Opening and general statements

6. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

7. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the European Union), Colombia, Lebanon, Benin (on behalf of the African Group), Lesotho and the Republic of Korea.

8. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR) made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the League of Arab States, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the International Organization for La Francophonie.

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

10. At the same meeting, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

11. The representative of the Esquel Group Foundation, Brazil, also made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

12. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Peru made a statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 3)

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/1 and Corr.1.

### B. Election of other officers

(Agenda item 2)

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

#### Vice Presidents:

Mr. Jafarov Ogtay (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Sange de Silva (Canada)

Mr. Pascal Yoadimnadjji (Chad)

Mrs. Maria Antonia Masana (Peru)

Mr. Lazea Gheorghe (Romania)

Mr. Ali Bin Saad Altokhais (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Munajed (Syrian Arab Republic)

Mr. Koffi Sany Adade (Togo)

#### Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Victor Louro (Portugal)

#### Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology

Mr. Moses D. Munemo (Zimbabwe)

### C. Organization of work, including the establishment

of a Committee of the Whole

(Agenda item 3)

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, following a statement by the representative of Canada, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/1, annex II, and Corr.1., on the understanding that minor modifications might be made as necessary.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its third session to consider outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference.

17. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated as ex-officio member of the Bureau, Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

18. The Committee on Science and Technology held 7 meetings (1st to 7th), from 16 to 19 November 1999.

19. The Committee had before it the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Benchmarks and indicators.
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.
6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.
7. Traditional knowledge.
8. Early warning systems.

9. Future work programme of the Committee.
10. Roster of independent experts.
11. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
12. Other matters.
13. Report on the session.

20. At its 1st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Olanrewaju Smith (Canada) as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Carlos Valerezo Manosalvas (Ecuador) as Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

21. At its 4th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Reza Hosseinpour Tavani (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chairperson.\*

22. The Committee on Science and Technology made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its \_\_, on \_\_ November (see paras. \_\_\_\_ ) (to be completed).

E. Admission of organizations as observers

(Agenda item 5)

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

23. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organization listed in document ICCD/COP(3)/15, annex I.

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\* The post of one Vice-Chairperson remained vacant.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

24. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 November, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the non-governmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(3)/15, annex II, and document ICCD/COP(3)/15/Add.1, annex.

F. Attendance

[To be completed]

G. Documentation

[To be completed]

[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS TO BE COMPLETED]

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