



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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Ad Hoc Working Group
Inter-sessional meeting
Bonn, 19 March - 6 April 2001

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

The inter-session of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG), convened pursuant to decision 1/COP.4, was opened in Bonn, Germany, on 16 March 2001, by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Following the formal opening, Mr. El Ghaouth, co-Chairman of the AHWG, made a statement.

At the 1st meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union and its member states) and Iran (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

Summaries of the statements made during the opening session are to be found in annex I.

B. Adoption of the agenda

At the 1st meeting, the AHWG adopted its agenda as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/5.

C. Attendance

The resumed session of the AHWG was attended by representatives of the following 114 Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

Algeria	Ethiopia	Mali
[Antigua and Barbuda]	European Community	Mauritania
Argentina	Fiji	Mexico
Armenia	Finland	Monaco
Australia	France	Mongolia
Austria	Gambia	Morocco
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Myanmar
Bangladesh	Germany	Nepal
Barbados	Ghana	Netherlands
Belgium	Greece	Nicaragua
Benin	Grenada	Niger
Botswana	Guatemala	Nigeria
Brazil	Guinea	Norway
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Oman
Cambodia	Guyana	Pakistan
Cameroon	Haiti	Palau
Canada	Honduras	Panama
Chad	India	Paraguay
Chile	Indonesia	Peru
China	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Philippines
Colombia	Israel	Portugal
Costa Rica	Italy	Republic of Korea
Côte d'Ivoire	Jamaica	[Romania]
Cuba	Japan	Rwanda
Czech Republic	Jordan	Saint Lucia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Kazakhstan	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Denmark	Kenya	Saudi Arabia
Djibouti	Kyrgyzstan	South Africa
Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Spain
Ecuador	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Egypt	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	
El Salvador	Madagascar	
Eritrea	Malawi	

Sudan	United Arab Emirates	[Uzbekistan]
Sweden	United Kingdom of	Venezuela
Switzerland	Great Britain and	Viet Nam
Syrian Arab Republic	Northern Ireland	Yemen
Togo	United States of	Zambia
Tunisia	America	Zimbabwe
Turkey	Uruguay	
Uganda		

The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

United Nations Development Programme/Office to Combat Desertification (UNDP/UNSO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

D. Organization of work

The AHWG held 29 meetings from 19 March to 6 April 2001, and made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which are contained in section V.

The AHWG reviewed the reports of 32 African, 30 Asian and 26 Latin American countries, in addition to those of 3 countries from regional Annex IV and 4 reports from Eastern Europe. Subregional activities for regional Annex II and III were likewise presented.

The resumed session of the AHWG reviewed the following presentations on the reports from affected country Parties. Parties which had completed their national action programme (NAP) are marked with an asterisk:

Algeria	Georgia	Nicaragua
Angola	Ghana	Niger*
Antigua and Barbuda	Greece	Nigeria*
Armenia	Grenada	Niue
Australia	Guatemala	Oman
Azerbaijan	Guinea	Pakistan*
Bahrain	Guinea-Bissau	Palau
Bangladesh	Guyana	Panama
Barbados	Haiti	Paraguay
Belize	Honduras	Peru
Botswana	India	Philippines
Brazil	Indonesia	Qatar
Burundi	Iran	Republic of Korea
Cambodia	Israel	Romania
Cameroon	Jamaica	Rwanda
Chad	Jordan	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Saint Lucia
Costa Rica	Kenya	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Côte d'Ivoire	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Kyrgyzstan	Singapore
Djibouti	Lebanon	South Africa
Dominica	Libya	Spain
Dominican Republic	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Ecuador	Malawi	Sudan
Egypt	Malaysia	Syrian Arab Republic
El Salvador	Mauritania	Togo
Eritrea	Mexico	Turkey
Ethiopia*	Morocco	Tuvalu
Fiji	Mozambique	Uganda*
Gambia*	Myanmar	United Arab Emirates
	Nepal	

Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam

Yemen*
Zambia

Zimbabwe*

It also heard the following subregional reports:

Subregional action programme for Western Asia
Subregional action programme for Central Asia (introduced by
Kazakhstan)
El Gran Chaco Americana
La Puna Americana

It further heard the presentations of the reports of the following
developed country Parties:

Finland
Germany
Netherlands
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
[To be completed]

It also heard the presentations of the following United Nations
organizations as well as international and multilateral agencies:

UNDP/UNSO
UNEP
WMO

The following reports were reviewed without presentations: Angola,
Bahrain, Belize, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niue,
Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Tuvalu.

The list of presentations which took place during the first segment of the
AHWG at COP 4 is indicated below for easy reference.

Argentina	Turkmenistan
Benin	United Republic of Tanzania
Bolivia	Uzbekistan
Burkina Faso	Regional Latin America and the
Cape Verde	Caribbean
Chile	Regional Asia
China	Regional Africa
Cuba	Regional Northern Mediterranean
Italy	Subregional - Southern African
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Development Community (SADC)
Lesotho	Subregional - Intergovernmental
Mali	Authority on Development (IGAD)
Mongolia	Subregional - Permanent Inter-State
Namibia	Committee for Drought Control in
Portugal	the Sahel (CILSS/CEDEAO)
Republic of Moldova	Subregional - Arab Maghreb Union
Senegal	(AMU)
Swaziland	
Tajikistan	
Tunisia	

E. Documentation

The documents submitted for the consideration of the AHWG at its resumed session are listed in annex III.

II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A. Legislative mandate

At the third session of the Conference of the Parties, by decision 6/COP.3, the Conference established an ad hoc working group to conduct an in depth review and analysis of reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions, in order to draw conclusions and to propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. It is the understanding of the Conference that the Ad Hoc Working Group is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties.

Arrangements for the convening of the AHWG during COP 4 were, as requested in decision 6/COP.3, proposed by the Executive Secretary and are contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.7(A).

Pursuant to decision 1/COP.4, the AHWG received its procedural guidelines. Due to the size of the report exercise, the Parties agreed on an inter-sessional meeting of up to 15 working days of the AHWG before COP 5. The decision on procedures stipulated that the Ad Hoc Working Group would review all national reports individually prior to COP 5 and would analyse reports by adopting thematic approaches without neglecting other issues contained in the reports. The thematic aspects are reflected in this synthesis under Section III.

As requested in decision 1/COP.4, the AHWG submitted for review and adoption an interim report of its work which *inter alia* also stipulated recommendations for the inter-session. The interim report was annexed to decision 2/COP.4. The recommendations are contained in annex II.

The interim report of the co-Chairmen was well received by the Conference of the Parties and became an integral part of the report of COP 4. Therefore the present report, taking into account the content of the interim report, develops some of its key highlights and includes complementary information and analysis with a view to submitting its conclusions and concrete recommendations, in a comprehensive manner, to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session.

Also, in the light of decision 3/COP.4, the comprehensive report of the AHWG will strive to facilitate the discussions and the subsequent decision on the establishment of a committee to review the implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

B. Composition of the Ad Hoc Working Group

The Ad Hoc Working Group is composed of:

1. Representatives of affected country Parties which have submitted their reports to the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties;
2. Representatives of developed country Parties;
3. Representatives of observers, intergovernmental and accredited non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies;
4. The chairmen of the regional and interest groups;

5. The Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology.

C. Elected officers

By decision 2/COP.4, the Conference of the Parties elected Mr. Willem R. J. Van Cotthem (Belgium) and Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) as co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Working Group. Mr. Mohammad Reza Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Octavio Pérez Pardo (Argentina) and Mr. Ogtay Jafarov (Azerbaijan) were elected as Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Jafarov was also designated as Rapporteur of the AHWG.

III. KEY ASPECTS AND TRENDS OF THE PRESENTATIONS

A. Features of the proceedings

B. Presentations of affected developing country Parties

C. Informal regional wrap-up meetings and
subregional/regional programmes

- a) Africa
- b) Asia
- c) Latin America and the Caribbean (*To be completed*)
- d) The Northern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe (*To be completed*)

D. Presentations of developed country Parties

E. Presentations of international organizations

F. Representatives of the Committee on Science and Technology

G. Representatives of the Global Mechanism

IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY THEMATIC TOPICS

A. Identification of best practices and successes

B. Identification of main difficulties, obstacles and challenges

- a) Ongoing threat to the drylands ecosystems
- b) Macro policy and legislative frameworks
- c) Coordination at country level
- d) Financing of the Convention and transfer of technology

C. Level of participation of all actors, including the financial
and technical support from developed countries

- a) Participatory development process involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs.
- b) Establishment of consultative mechanisms for the conclusion of partnership agreements.

D. Linkages and synergies with other conventions on the environment and development

E. Strategies established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies

V. CONCLUSIONS AND CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CO-CHAIRMEN ON FURTHER STEPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

A. Strategies and policy frameworks

B. Institutional aspects including the implementation review process

C. Participatory process and outreach at the local level

D. Consultative mechanism for partnership arrangements

E. Measures taken within the NAP framework

F. Subregional and regional cooperation

G. Financing of the Convention

VI. ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS

VII. CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

A. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties

At its 29th meeting of the resumed session, the AHWG adopted its comprehensive draft report [as orally amended by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur]. The AHWG authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

[B. Closure of the session

Statements made at the closing ceremony are summarized in annex VI.]

Annex I

SUMMARIES OF OPENING AND GENERAL STATEMENTS

In his opening address to the AHWG, the Executive Secretary of UNCCD, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, recalled the task of the meeting which is to highlight difficulties in implementing UNCCD and to recommend concrete measures for policy makers. Reviewing the results achieved, he said that the most important action remains the incorporation of long-term strategies combating desertification into national policies. Mr. Diallo pointed up the issue of resources mobilization and requested the building up of a true partnership in favour of affected country Parties.

The co-Chairman of the AHWG in an introductory statement gave the procedural guidelines of the meeting, dedicated to the in-depth review and analysis of reports by adopting thematic approaches without neglecting other issues. He proposed a schedule in three segments and the way in which work would be conducted.

The representative of Sweden, on behalf of the European Union and its member countries expressed the wish to raise the levels of participation of all actors and to improve linkages and synergies with other conventions. He also welcomed the participation of international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society in helping to tackle land degradation and drought. He listed some relevant and pragmatic sequences for practical implementation of national action programmes.

As far as the elaboration of reports is concerned, the representative of the Islamic republic of Iran, on behalf of the Group 77 and China, underlined in his statement difficulties related to institutional frameworks and lack of predictable financial resources. Laying stress on the principle of equal treatment of the three Rio Conventions, he expressed an urgent need to ensure that resources are available on a predictable and adequate basis. He urged the Parties to convene on a final date for COP 6.

Annex II

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE AHWG

1. Affected country Parties presenting their reports during the inter-session of the AHWG are invited to take fully into account the procedures to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the COP contained in decision 1/COP.4, notably its operative paragraph 2. In the light of the important number of reports to be submitted during the resumed session of the AHWG, the affected country Parties are, to the extent possible, invited to make use of multimedia equipment.
2. Developed country Parties participating in the review of these reports are invited to provide specific feedback on the conclusions they reach and the steps they intend to take in the light of the submission of reports from affected country Parties.
3. As demonstrated at the COP 4 session of the AHWG, developed country Parties should continue to use the learning opportunity offered by the review process to further educate their ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid efforts to assist developing country Parties. Developed country Parties are encouraged to actively incorporate their response to the reports into their consideration of future assistance measures.
4. Relevant international organizations are requested to contribute more actively to the review process through a presentation of measures they are taking in response to the issues and concerns expressed in the national reports.
5. Presentations and exchanges during the resumed session should facilitate forward looking conclusions on the substance of the matters under review and the next steps to be taken in order to foster the implementation process.
6. If time permits, presentations from countries of a given region could be concluded by an informal wrap up of main lessons learnt and priority themes to be addressed. There would thus be opportunities for such exchanges for each of the regional implementation annexes.
7. Likewise it is suggested to accommodate, to the extent possible, a review of the reports of developed country Parties and relevant international organizations.
8. With regard to the NAP preparation process, the Co-chairmen also would like to launch an appeal to the countries in position to do so, to complete and adopt their NAP instruments so as to be in a position to report on new developments at the inter-session of the AHWG. They also invite partner countries and international organizations to provide early support to these effort.
9. The resumed session should take place at a location that facilitates maximum participation.

Annex III

**DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
AT ITS INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING**

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(3)/5	Review of the implementation of the Convention, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1	Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist affected African country Parties in the preparation and implementation of action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3	Information provided by United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their support to the preparation and implementation of action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5	Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(4)/3	Implementation of the Convention - Review of the report of the secretariat on progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1	Implementation of the Convention - 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 national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Asia)
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2	Implementation of the Convention - 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 national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Latin America and the Caribbean)
<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3	Implementation of the Convention - 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 national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties)
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.4	Implementation of the Convention - Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.5	Implementation of the Convention - Review of information provided by 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 preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention - Review of available information regarding the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/9	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(4)/9/Add.1	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at the fourth session. Part II: Decisions taken by the Conference
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/1	Summaries of national reports from affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/1/Add.1	Summaries of national reports from affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/2	Summaries of national reports from affected Asian country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/2/Add.1	Summaries of national reports from affected Asian country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/2/Add.2	Summaries of national reports from affected Asian country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/2/Add.3	Summaries of national reports from affected Asian country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/3	Summaries of national reports from affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/3/Add.1	Summaries of national reports from affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/3/Add.2	Summaries of national reports from affected Latin

American and the Caribbean country Parties

ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/4	Summaries of national reports from Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/4/Add.1	Summaries of national reports from Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/5	Ad Hoc Working Group - Tentative agenda - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/INF.1	Ad Hoc Working Group - Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.2	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5	Synthesis of scientific and technical information contained in the reports from country Parties, in particular on benchmarks and indicators, for review by the CST

Other documents:

Third session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(3)/20	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its third session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its third session: Action taken

Second session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(2)/14	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its second session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its second session: Action taken

First session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(1)/11 Report of the Conference of the Parties at its first
session: Proceedings

ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 Report of the Conference of the Parties at its first
session: Action taken

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