



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr. LIMITED

ICCD/COP(5)/L.14
12 October 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fifth session
Geneva, 1-12 October 2001
Agenda item 14

REPORT OF THE SESSION

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

Rapporteur: Ms. Dagmar Kubinova (Czech Republic)

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		
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]*

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

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 1 October 2001, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, welcomed participants of the Conference of the Parties and made a statement.
2. Welcoming addresses were also made by Mr. Zamba Batjargal, President of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, and H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.
3. The Conference of the Parties observed a minute of silence as an expression of sympathy to the Government and people of the United States of America in homage to the victims of the tragic events that had recently occurred in New York and Washington D.C., as well as to the Government and people of Switzerland on the occasion of the tragedy in Zug.
4. Summaries of the statements made during the welcoming ceremony are to be found in annex I.

B. Opening of the session

5. The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 October 2001, by Mr. Zamba Batjargal, President of the fourth Conference of the Parties.

C. Election of the President (Agenda item 1)

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 October, the Conference elected Mr. Charles Bassett, Head of the Delegation of Canada, as President of its fifth session by acclamation.

D. Opening and general statements

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

E. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 3)

8. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 October, following statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Benin, and Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), the Conference adopted the agenda as contained in documents ICCD/COP(5)/1 and Corr.1, as orally amended by the President of the fifth Conference of the Parties.

F. Election of officers other than the President
(Agenda item 2)

9. At its 1st plenary meeting the Conference elected the following officers to serve as vice-presidents of the Bureau for the fifth session, in addition to the President, the Chairpersons of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee of the Whole:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Ashot Vardevanyan (Armenia)
Mr. Etienne Kayengeyenge (Burundi)
Mr. Guido Soto (Chile)
Ms. Dagmar Kubinova (Czech Republic)
Mr. Aboubaker Doualé Waïs (Djibouti)
Mr. Markku Aho (Finland)
Mr. Zamba Batjargal (Mongolia)
Ms. Carmen Farías (Venezuela)

The Conference also designated Ms. Kubinova (Czech Republic) as Rapporteur.

Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology

Mr. Philbert Brown (Jamaica)

G. Organization of work, including the establishment
of a Committee of the Whole

12. At its 1st plenary meeting and following statements by the representatives of the United States of America, Benin, and Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), the Conference approved its organization of work for the session as contained in annex II to document ICCD/COP(5)/1 and Corr.1, as orally amended by the President of the fifth Conference of the Parties.

13. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 10 October, the Chairman of the Round Table of Parliamentarians introduced a draft decision entitled "Report on the fourth Round Table of Parliamentarians" contained in document ICCD/COP(5)/L.13.

At the same meeting, the Conference adopted draft decision ICCD/COP(5)/L.13.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its fifth session to consider outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference.

15. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Mohammad Reza Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran), as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee held --- meetings, from 2 to 12 October 2001.

Ad Hoc Group of Experts

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 October, the Committee designated Mr. Patrick Szell (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

17. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 October, the Committee established a Contact Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and designated Mr. Franklin Moore (United States of America) as Chairman on the Group.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee established a contact Group on programme and budget matters and designated Mr. Mohammad Reza Jabbari, Chairman of the contact group.

H. Committee on Science and Technology

19. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Philbert Brown (Jamaica). The Committee held ----- meetings, from 2 to - October 2001.

20. At its 1st meeting on 2 October, the Committee elected by acclamation, Dr. Moussa Hassane (Niger), Mr. Abdel-Majid Khabour (Jordan), Ms. Marija Vihovanec (Croatia) and Mr. Helmut Wöhl (Germany) as Vice-Chairpersons.

21. On its 2nd meeting, on 2 October, the Committee elected Mr. Helmut Wöhl (Germany), to also serve as Rapporteur, in addition to serving as Vice-Chairman.

22. The Committee on Science and Technology submitted a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its --- meeting, on ----October 2001.

I. Attendance

23. The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties was attended by representatives of the following --- Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

[To be inserted]

24. The session was also attended by observers from the following -- States not Parties to the Convention:

[To be inserted]

25. Observers from ----- attended the session as well.

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

[To be inserted]

J. Admission of organizations as observers
(Agenda item 5)

27. At its 2nd and 4th plenary meetings, on 2 and 5 October, the Conference decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in annex II to document ICCD/COP(5)/9 and ICCD/COP(5)/9/Add.1.

K. Documentation

28. The documents submitted for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session are listed in annex --. [To be completed]

III. SPECIAL SEGMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

29. The Conference held a special segment on the implementation of the Convention at its 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th plenary meetings, on 8 to 10 October 2001 attended by two Presidents, three Prime Ministers, ---- government Ministers and officials, and heads of UN organizations and agencies, multilateral bodies and regional organizations. A list of speakers is in Annex ---.

30. At its -- meeting, on ---- October 2001, the President read out the summary of the debate held during the special segment. See Annex ----.

**IV. INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN
THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

31. The Conference held an open dialogue session on the inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties at its 3rd and 10th meeting, on 5 and 10 October.

- - - - -