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Desertification**

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**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**

**Further steps in the implementation of the Convention**

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee  
for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties;*

*Recalling* the extensive process of assessment by the Parties of the implementation of the Convention initiated with the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted to the fifth session of the Conference of Parties;

*Mindful* of the deliberations and outcome of the various regional meetings organized in the context of the regional implementation annexes of the Convention;

*Having reviewed* the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its first session, held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 22 November 2002;

*Acknowledging* the high degree of consistency between the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the measures advocated in the above report:

Resource mobilization including coordination and partnership agreements

1. *Recommends* that priority resource allocation should aim at finalizing and/or adopting national (NAPs), subregional (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs), as required, and fostering participatory local area development through the early disbursement of on-the-ground investments in the contexts of projects identified under the NAPs;

2. *Urges* the Global Mechanism (GM), together with the members of its Facilitation Committee, to promote resources for implementation of NAPs as a matter of highest priority, as defined by the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4), without neglecting support to the subregional action programmes or the thematic programme networks of the regional action programmes;
3. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and developed country Parties, with the commitment of interested multilateral organizations, the GM, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariat and the UNCCD secretariat, to use a country-driven consultative mechanism to identify the best options for mainstreaming the UNCCD into national development frameworks and to mobilize the needed financial resources in a more predictable and coordinated manner;
4. *Encourages* developed country Parties to use the review process of the Convention to further strengthen the coherence of their ongoing bilateral and multilateral assistance to developing country Parties within the framework of implementation of the Convention and to actively incorporate its findings into their procedures and programming of future assistance measures;
5. *Invites* developed country Parties to consult among themselves under an appropriate framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in order to agree on a common policy with respect to country-driven consultative mechanisms for partnership arrangements under the UNCCD, while affected developing countries and bilateral donors would identify, as appropriate, bilateral *chefs de file* to expedite the necessary consultative process;
6. Requests the GM, in cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat and appropriate institutions, to undertake a comprehensive study to be tabled before COP 7 on the cost of inaction and to draw up, prior to COP 7, an indicative plan of resource allocation for the UNCCD;

Promotion of private sector and economic opportunities in arid,  
semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions/countries

7. *Encourages* Parties, concerned institutions and stakeholders to encourage and expand economic and commercial opportunities in the drylands by linking private sector initiatives to the identification of economic opportunities within a more favourable trading regime for dryland products;
8. *Recommends* to all Parties and the private sector the taking of measures to increase the competitiveness of products and services in the drylands through the development of advanced technology for cash crop production, the aquaculture, the recreation and ecotourism and of adherence by the mining/extraction industry to codes of sustainable land use practice;
9. *Invites* all Parties to enhance policy measures and incentive schemes to encourage private sector support for technological and scientific cooperation benefiting the drylands, and to encourage the dissemination of incentive systems and best practices which help mobilize private sector investments and promote public/private joint ventures within the NAPs;
10. *Requests* the secretariat to liaise with concerned institutions so as to explore and support measures to facilitate opportunities for drylands products to access international markets;

Capacity-building, including in the area of participatory processes, legislative and institutional frameworks and promotion of synergies

11. *Invites* affected developing country Parties, with the support of developed country Parties, the UNCCD and GEF secretariats and concerned agencies, to promote gender-sensitive capacity-building measures for stakeholders to carry out specific participatory and synergistic programmes as part of their NAPs to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, protect biodiversity and maintain carbon sinks, while promoting sustainable livelihoods at local level;
12. *Also invites* affected developing country Parties to promote land tenure regimes and protection codes for natural resources while establishing or reviewing incentive systems to combat land degradation, desertification and drought;
13. *Further invites* affected developing country Parties, with the support of developed country Parties, the UNCCD and GEF secretariats and concerned agencies, to promote capacity-building measures for policy and legislative development and harmonization in the field of natural resources management;
14. *Urges* all relevant institutions to make available to the national focal points further support in the form of information and training programmes, including training for negotiation, integrative programme planning and awareness of resource mobilization opportunities in relation to the programming cycles of bilateral and multilateral development partners;

Monitoring and assessment, including the improvement of the reporting process

15. *Requests* the UNCCD and GEF secretariats, in collaboration with partner agencies, to support in a timely manner the process of national reporting, and to assist country Parties to update the information provided to the CRIC through the preparation of country profiles within national reports;
16. *Also requests* the secretariat, together with partner agencies and in close collaboration with the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and its Group of Experts, to review the help guide and update it where appropriate, to include indicators on, *inter alia*, women and youth participation, as well as social indicators;
17. *Further requests* the secretariat, with the support of the partner agencies, to ensure that future meetings of the CRIC be organized in such a manner as to facilitate inputs from scientists such as the CST and its Group of Experts, as well as to provide the Parties with outputs of previous related meetings at the regional and international levels;
18. *Invites* affected Parties to fully involve members of the scientific community in the UNCCD process and in particular in the NAP process, and, where the involvement of the latter was/is not possible, Parties should include an analysis of the reasons for the difficulties in their reports, and also indicate possible ways of overcoming these difficulties in the future;
19. *Requests* the UNCCD and GEF secretariats and partner agencies to facilitate an in-depth review of selected national reports presented by Parties to the CRIC, to promote a more substantive ground assessment of the implementation of the Convention at national level, and to include a review of the commitments undertaken under the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4);

20. Invites the secretariat, with the support of the GEF, the GM and other interested agencies, to continue to promote the development of thematic programme networks (TPNs), best practices to combat desertification and, in particular, to bring more support to activities such as the networking of scientific institutions, technology transfer to developing countries, training at universities, internships and scholarships into the process of the development of SRAPs and RAPs;

21. *Also invites* the secretariat, with the support partner agencies, to facilitate a joint evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by developed country Parties and affected developing country Parties within the context of the regional implementation annexes, and to consolidate the findings and results of the evaluation in a report to be submitted to COP 8;

22. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate assessment of the participatory process and to monitor the communication of lessons learnt;

#### Awareness-raising, information and communication

23. *Urges* Parties to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought for renewed national commitment while launching awareness campaigns linking education and research programmes, and targeting a wide range of stakeholders;

24. *Recommends* that participatory awareness campaigns on desertification and drought should be centered on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, include tree planting events and focus on the following elements: (i) recognition of the growing threat to ecosystems and sustainable livelihood under a scenario of increasingly extreme climatic events; (ii) advocacy for integrated participatory rural development as a key element in poverty eradication strategies; (iii) recognition of the widespread downstream geopolitical consequences of the phenomenon such as forced migrations and conflicts; and (iv) in the light of the above, recognition that prevention of further land degradation is more cost-effective than facing later the devastating consequences of inaction in the face of a worsening threat;

25. *Likewise invites* sensitization campaigns in developed country Parties to reflect better the global nature of the threats of land degradation, desertification and drought and of their multiple consequences;

26. *Requests* the CST and its Group of Experts to review the provisions of the report of the CRIC on participatory processes, benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems, research, technologies and knowledge and know-how, with a view to proposing appropriate measures while taking into account progress made in this respect in the respective regions;

27. *Requests* also the secretariat and concerned institutions to collect and disseminate success stories and best practices in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought that keep in mind the due focus on poverty eradication in affected areas;

#### Rehabilitation of degraded land

28. *Urges* all Parties and multilateral agencies to facilitate linkages between the programmes of the UNCCD and other initiatives or planning processes relating to integrated water resource management, new and renewable sources of energy and mountain ecosystems preservation.

29. *Encourages* all Parties to take action at a specific territorial or spatial scale so as to approach the local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic manner, notably through the promotion of small and medium-sized projects and activities at the local level;

30. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to operationalize support to the Small Island Developing States Parties to the Convention in the light of the above provisions, taking into account their vulnerability to the combined impact of land degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

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