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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**

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

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

The Conference of the Parties;

Taking note of the report by the secretariat as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(2)/6;

Taking into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in referring to issues Parties would wish to see addressed in the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management:

Designation of a financial mechanism

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August-September 2002, which, *inter alia*, requested the Second GEF Assembly to consider making the GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention;
2. *Welcomes* also the decision of the Second GEF Assembly in October 2002, in Beijing, China, declaring that the GEF shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD should the Conference of the Parties so decide;
3. *Further welcomes* the decision of the GEF Council in May 2003 in Washington D.C., United States of America, establishing a new operational programme on sustainable land management to support the implementation of the UNCCD;

4. *Designates* the GEF to serve as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention. The financial mechanism shall function under the guidance of, and be accountable to, the Conference of the Parties, which shall decide on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to this Convention;

Arrangements for establishing a working relation with the Global Environment Facility

5. *Welcomes* the decision by the GEF Council at its meeting in May 2003, requesting the GEF secretariat to discuss with the UNCCD secretariat the arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, acting in cooperation with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the GEF, to develop modalities and operational linkages to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the Conference of the Parties, including, *inter alia*, the development of a memorandum of understanding which should be implemented on an interim basis, upon its conclusion by the two secretariats and until its final adoption by COP 7;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on measures taken to implement this decision.

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