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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Sixth session
Havana, 25 August - 5 September 2003
Item 15 of the agenda

REPORT OF THE SESSION

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

Rapporteur: Ms. Anne Marie Skjold (Norway)

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[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS]*

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

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 25 August 2003, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, delivered a welcoming address.
2. The Executive Secretary of Convention to Combat Desertification, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, welcomed participants of the Conference of the Parties and made a statement.
3. Summaries of the statements made during the welcoming ceremony are to be found in annex I (to be completed).

B. Opening of the session

4. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Havana, Cuba, on 25 August 2003, by Mr. Charles Bassett (Canada), President of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.
5. The Conference observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Iraq, and his colleagues who had recently lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.

C. Election of the President (Agenda item 1)

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 August, the Conference elected H.E. Ms. Rosa Elena Simeón Negrín, Minister for Science and Technology and the Environment of Cuba, as President of its sixth session by acclamation.

D. Opening and general statements

[to be completed]

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 3)

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 August, the Conference adopted the agenda contained in document ICCD/COP(6)/1, and orally amended it by placing sub-item 6(a), entitled “Need for modalities for, cost involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of regional coordination units” on the agenda as a separate item, on the understanding that it would also be given appropriate consideration under the item on the programme and budget.

B. Election of other officers
(Agenda item 2)

8. At its 1st, 3rd, 9th and __ plenary meetings on 25 and 27 August and __ September, the Conference elected the following officers for its sixth session:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Vladimir Savchenko (Belarus)
Mr. Jozef Buys (Belgium)
Mr. Yi Xianlang (China)
Ms. Ana María Hernández Salgar (Colombia)
Ms. Dóra Kulauzov (Hungary)
Mr. Mohammed Arouchi (Morocco)
Mr. Bongani Masuku (Swaziland)
Mr. Saad Al Numeiry (United Arab Emirates)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Ms. Anne Marie Skjold (Norway)

Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology

Mr. Riccardo Valentini (Italy)

Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for its third and fourth sessions

[to be completed]

C. Organization of work

9. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference approved its organization of work for the session as contained in annex II to document ICCD/COP(6)/1.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and designation of its chairperson

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its sixth session to consider items on the agenda allocated to it by the Conference and to submit recommendations thereon to the Conference.

11. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria) as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, who would also act as *ex officio* member of the Bureau.

Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for its second session

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference took note of the communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin that Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) had been selected to replace H. E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou (Benin) as Chairperson of the Committee for the remainder of the latter's term of office.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

13. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Riccardo Valentini (Italy). The Committee held eight meetings, from 26 to 29 August 2003.

14. At its 1st meeting on 26 August, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Julio Roberto Curruchiche Gómez (Guatemala), Mr. Moussa Hassane (Niger), Mr. Pavol Bielek (Slovakia) and Mr. Sapon Chomchan (Thailand) as Vice-Chairpersons. At the same meeting, the Committee designated the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Bielek (Slovakia), to act also as Rapporteur. At its 3rd meeting, Mr. Moussa Hassane was replaced by Mr. Georges Rigondja (Gabon) as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

15. The Committee on Science and Technology submitted a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its 9th meeting, on 3 September 2003.

E. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

16. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania). The Committee held four meetings, from 26 to 29 August 2003.

17. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention submitted a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its 9th meeting, on 3 September 2003.

F. Committee of the Whole

18. The Committee of the Whole was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria). The Committee held __ meetings, from __ August to __ September 2003.

19. The Committee submitted a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its ___ meeting, on ___ September 2003.

G. Ad Hoc Group of Experts

20. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts was convened under the facilitation of Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Committee held three meetings, from 3 to 4 September 2003.

21. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts submitted a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on it at its ___ meeting, on ___ September 2003.

H. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
(Agenda item 5)

Accreditation of national, international, governmental or intergovernmental organizations

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 August, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the national, international, governmental or intergovernmental organizations listed in annex I to document ICCD/COP(6)/9/Add.1, as well as to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

23. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in annex I to document ICCD/COP(6)/9 and annex II to document ICCD/COP(6)/9/Add.1.

I. Attendance

24. The sixth 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]

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

[To be inserted]

26. Observers from _____ also attended the session.

27. The following United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

[To be inserted]

J. Documentation

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

III. SPECIAL SEGMENT

29. The Conference held a special segment on the implementation of the Convention at its 5th to 9th plenary meetings, from 1 to 3 September 2003, attended by ___ Heads of State and Government, ___ government Ministers and officials, and ___ heads of United Nations organizations and agencies, multilateral bodies and regional organizations. A list of speakers is to be found in annex -
-.

[To be completed]

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

30. The Conference held open dialogue sessions on the inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, at its 4th meeting on 29 August and its 10th meeting on 4 September.

[To be completed]

[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS TO BE COMPLETED]
