



UNITED  
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

Distr.  
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(7)/L.12/Rev.2  
27 October 2005

Original: ENGLISH

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Seventh session  
Nairobi, 17 - 28 October 2005  
Agenda item 8 (a)

### COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it**

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the  
Committee on Science and Technology

#### **Benchmarks and indicators**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2, 11/COP.3, 11/COP.4, 11/COP.5 and 17/COP.6,

*Noting with satisfaction* the work carried out by the Parties, as well as the reports contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/6,

*Mindful* of the report of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 3),

*Acknowledging* the need to improve the country profile as a promising tool for presenting data on the implementation of the Convention, as recommended by the CRIC,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the recommendations of the Group of Experts (GoE),

*Noting* the work of the GoE in providing assistance for the development of appropriate benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of desertification,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant actors in the field, to facilitate the assimilation and/or development of regional or country-specific benchmarks and indicators;
2. *Encourages* the Parties and interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to involve all stakeholders in the development, where required, and in the use of benchmarks and indicators at appropriate scales;
3. *Requests* the CST, through the GoE, to develop consistent and relevant guidelines on utilizing benchmarks and indicators in the preparation of national reports and to provide guidance on the inclusion of benchmarks and indicators in the country profile;
4. *Requests* the GoE to give high priority to work on benchmarks and indicators and take into consideration all relevant initiatives, and to present the final report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session;
5. *Further requests* the GoE to give special attention to participatory and integrated approaches to benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of socio-economic and bio-physical aspects of desertification, and to present the final report to the COP through the CST at its eighth session;
6. *Encourages* Parties to develop and use indicators to assess the impact of intervention measures in order to indicate progress in implementing the Convention.

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