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**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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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

Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 15/COP.6 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Recalling also decision 1/COP.6, in particular as it relates to information and communication,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Group of Experts (GoE) in completing the tasks assigned to it within its work programme, as contained in documents ICCD/COP(7)/CST/3, Add.1 and Add.2,

Bearing in mind that decision 1/COP.6 invited the secretariat, with the support of relevant institutions, to provide more support for activities such as training at universities, internships and scholarships with reference to the action programmes,

Noting the recommendations made by the Bureau of the CST on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST,

Bearing in mind decision 17/COP.5, in particular paragraph 8 and 15 of the annex thereto, which recognizes that the programme of work of the GoE should be pluri-annual in nature, for a maximum of four years,

Noting that the term of the current GoE will come to an end in November 2006,

1. *Requests* the GoE to continue its priority activities, including the development of a communication and information strategy (THEMANET), of a land degradation and poverty strategy, and of benchmarks and indicators, and to submit its report to the session of the CST during the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the GoE from December 2006 up to the eighth session of the CST;
3. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to review the functions and the work of the GoE and to report to the COP at its eighth session;
4. *Requests* that members of the GoE who have not responded to letters of enquiry regarding their commitment to participate in the GoE be replaced before the next GoE meeting;
5. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to prepare revised procedures for renewal of the membership of the GoE for consideration by the CST at its eighth session, taking into account the recommendations of the CST review of the functions and the work of the GoE;
6. *Encourages* country Parties to select a science and technology correspondent to the CST under the coordination of the national focal point;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication linkages between the GoE and the Bureau of the CST;
- [8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Fellowship Programme;]
9. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the COP at its next session on the implementation of this decision.

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