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**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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**CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD
SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Underlining the potential of the Convention as a tool for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability),

Recalling decision 2/COP.6 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Having reviewed document ICCD/COP(7)/6 on the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD,

Noting with appreciation the advocacy activities relating to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the Convention undertaken by the Executive Secretary and his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the UNCCD and its contribution to meeting the MDGs in this context, as reflected in the World Summit Outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters in September 2005,

Recognizing the importance of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for strengthening international awareness of and commitment to the implementation of the Convention through their thematic focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and the need for timely and substantive preparations for UNCCD input to this process,

1. *Reiterates* its call to all development partners to make use of the Convention in their strategies to achieve the MDGs;
2. *Invites* Parties, the Executive Secretary and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for and participate in the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the CSD with a view to demonstrating that the development and promotion of new and renewable energy sources in drylands constitute a critical sustainable development issue, access to energy and energy efficiency; and that the implementation of UNCCD action programmes can make a significant contribution in this context;
3. *Decides* to include an item on the preparation of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD in the agenda of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a background paper, drawing in particular on the outcomes of the third and fifth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, for discussion at COP 8;
4. *Invites* Parties and other relevant stakeholders to emphasize the desertification/poverty nexus in their activities to celebrate the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, and to increase their efforts to implement the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the important linkage between land degradation, desertification, poverty and other socio-economic aspects of land degradation;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its eighth session on the activities carried out to implement this decision.

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