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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

Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, and in particular paragraph 18 of the annex to that decision, which concerns the review process,

Recalling also decisions 16/COP.3, 16/COP.4, 16/COP.5 and 20/COP.6 on the programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), bearing in mind, in particular, the need to focus and prioritize work,

Taking note of the interest by the CST in the relationship between climate and land degradation, monitoring and assessment, soil and water conservation, renewable energies, vulnerability and livelihood improvement,

1. *Decides* that the priority theme for discussion by the CST at its eighth session will be “The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement”;

2. *Invites* the secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to make the necessary arrangements to organize an international workshop on climate and land degradation in 2006 to mark the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and to present the results to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session;
3. *Encourages* Parties and all accredited organizations to prepare concise reports concerning this priority theme and to transmit them to the secretariat no later than six months before the next session of the COP;
4. *Requests* the CST Bureau to select three representative submissions for presentation to and discussion by the Parties at the eighth session of the COP;
5. *Further decides* that work on benchmarks and indicators (see decision ICCD/COP(7)/L.12) is the most urgent activity for the next two-year period, taking into account the results achieved in the framework of the relevant thematic programme networks;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give priority to the activities identified in paragraph 5 when allocating funds within the CST budget line;
7. *Encourages* Parties to support and continue work in other priority areas of the CST programme of work, inter alia the proposed communication strategy of the work programme of the Group of Experts: thematic data/metadata network (THEMANET) and the development of an integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation;
8. *Invites* the CST to work in collaboration with the WMO and other relevant organizations to address the interaction between climate, land degradation and livelihood security.

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