



UNITED  
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

Distr.  
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(7)/L.14  
20 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

**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 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,

1. *Requests* the GoE to continue its priority activities and submit its report to the CST at its eighth session;
2. *Requests* that members of the GoE who have not responded to letters of enquiry regarding their commitment to participate in the GoE be replaced;
3. *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;
4. *Encourages* country Parties to select a science and technology correspondent to the CST under the coordination of the national focal point;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication linkages between the GoE and the Bureau of the CST;
6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Fellowship Programme;
7. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the COP at its next session on the implementation of this decision.

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