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Desertification**

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Agenda item 8 (b)

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation of ad hoc panels of experts,
as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work**

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

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Having reviewed the roster of independent experts as revised by the secretariat in accordance with decision 13/COP.6 based on submissions received from Parties, and the report prepared by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/10,

Bearing in mind the important role played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities in the implementation of the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form,

Noting also the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) on the roster of independent experts,

Recalling decision 13/COP.6 inviting the CST, through its Group of Experts, fully to utilize the roster in carrying out the programme of work of the Group of Experts,

1. *Encourages* Parties, through their national focal points, to revise and update the database on their national experts already on the roster of independent experts, and to propose new candidates in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, of women, of NGOs, and of all individuals with expertise in the field of desertification;
2. *Invites* Parties that have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster to do so, via regular diplomatic channels, no later than six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Requests* the Parties to incorporate in their national report an annex with an updated list of their experts on the roster, with their contact details, including complete postal and, if available, e-mail address;
4. *Invites* Parties to actively promote the use of independent experts at the national level;
5. *Invites* Parties to encourage active participation of the experts on the roster in the implementation of the thematic programme networks (TPNs);
6. *Encourages* all organizations, institutions and bodies that will organize events scheduled for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) to use the knowledge and expertise of the experts on the roster of independent experts;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to establish an e-mail network for distribution among the experts on the roster of independent experts, at appropriate times, of information on Convention activities, the IYDD and progress made in the implementation of the Convention;
8. *Invites* the CST to evaluate progress made on revising and using the roster at its next session;
9. Requests the secretariat to report to the COP at its next session on progress made in revising and using the roster.
