



UNITED
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(8)/L.7
7 September 2007

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Eighth session
Madrid, 3–14 September 2007

Agenda item 8 (b)
Committee on Science and Technology
Maintenance of the roster of independent experts and creation, as necessary,
of ad hoc panels of experts

Roster of independent experts

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

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.7 based on submissions received from Parties, and the report prepared by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/9,

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,

1. *Encourages* Parties, through their national focal points and, where applicable, in coordination with the science and technology correspondents, to revise and update the details of the national experts already on the database of the roster of independent experts, and to propose new candidates in order to achieve better gender balance and representation of all relevant disciplines, of social scientists, 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 secretariat to continue to distribute information on the roster through the established e-mail network, on progress made in the implementation of the Convention and on the work of the CST.
