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Agenda item 9
Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and strategy development to
foster the implementation of the Convention

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance
the implementation of the Convention**

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(8)/10, ICCD/COP(8)/10/Add.1 and
ICCD/COP(8)/10/Add.2,

Emphasizing that implementation of the 10-year strategic plan requires efforts from all
Parties, taking into account the differentiated obligations within the Convention,

Recognizing that Parties have primary responsibilities in delivering the objectives of the
Convention and its implementing strategies, according to their national priorities and in a spirit
of international solidarity and partnership,

Underlining the importance of the efficient implementation of the Convention as an
instrument to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and also to contribute
to the reduction of poverty while promoting sustainable development,

Mindful of changes that have taken place since the entry into force of the Convention,
notably with respect to the increasing threats of desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recognizing the need for the Convention and its institutions to have adequate resources to
allocate according to their new results-based management (RBM) approach work programme
based on the 10-year strategic plan in order to respond to the new challenges and needs at all
levels,

Aware of the need, in the context of the 10-year strategic plan, for substantial, adequate and timely financial resources and other forms of support corresponding to the needs of affected developing country Parties to assist in their implementation of the Convention,

Mindful that the Convention, its secretariat and other institutions, supporting bodies, including the Global Mechanism (GM), the Convention's financial mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), should cooperate and coordinate their activities in this regard,

Commending with appreciation the intersessional intergovernmental working group for fulfilling its mandate and delivering the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Decides* to adopt the strategy, contained in the annex to this decision, as the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) hereinafter referred to as “The Strategy”;
2. *Also decides* on the further specific guidance on the enactment of the Implementation Framework as spelled out below;
3. *Requests* that the various Convention bodies develop their respective RBM multi-year (four-year) programmes of work in line with The Strategy and report on progress with implementation at the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The Conference of the Parties (COP) will take relevant decisions based on recommendations from the CRIC. All draft multi-year programmes of work shall be presented to the COP for adoption;

A. Parties

4. *Requests* Parties to operationalize the implementation of The Strategy, in accordance with their national priorities in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership;
5. *Urges* affected developing country Parties, and any other affected country Party in the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities related to the Convention with The Strategy, inter alia, by addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives;
6. *Requests* Parties to report on progress made with their implementation of The Strategy, based on the reporting guidelines to be considered at the ninth session of the COP (COP 9);

B. Committee on Science and Technology

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux of the COP and the Committee for Science and Technology (CST), to prepare, in line with The Strategy, a costed draft two-year work programme taking an RBM approach for the CST, such consultations to be conducted as outlined in decision ICCD/COP(8)/L.12;

8. *Requests* the CST to include on the agenda of its ninth session an item on the consideration of its costed draft two-year work programme, following a RBM approach consistent with The Strategy;
9. *Takes note* that decisions ICCD/COP(8)/L.14 and ICCD/COP(8)/L.11 to reshape the operations of the CST and on the theme for discussion at CST 9 will contribute to implementation of The Strategy, in particular operational objective 3;
10. *Requests* the CST to provide advice to the CRIC discussion on reporting at COP 9 on how to best measure progress on the Strategic Objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy, inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes from its ninth session;
11. *Requests* the CST to present its costed draft two-year work programme to COP 9 for consideration and adoption;

C. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

12. *Decides* that the CRIC will be responsible for reviewing the implementation of The Strategy by the Parties and the Convention bodies;
13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux of the COP and the CRIC, to prepare, in line with The Strategy, a draft multi-year work programme for the CRIC taking an RBM approach;
14. *Decides* that CRIC 7 shall be a special session to consider methodological matters to further advance the implementation of The Strategy, in line with decision ICCD/COP(8)/L.19 and in this context *decides* that the ninth session of the CST (CST 9) shall be held in conjunction with this session of the CRIC;
15. *Proposes* that future meetings of the CRIC should be held predominantly in an interactive format, highlighting for each key issue a set of targeted recommendations for the COP to consider and adopt, if appropriate;
16. *Requests* the CRIC to finalize proposals for the performance review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and especially The Strategy, also including recommendations emanating from CST 9, for discussion at COP 9;

D. Global Mechanism

17. *Requests* the GM to revise its current work plan, maintaining the RBM approach, to make it consistent with The Strategy, and prepare a draft multi-year (four) work plan complemented by a costed biennial programme of work;
18. *Requests* the GM to present its proposed draft multi-year work plan and biennial programme of work to CRIC 7 for review and subsequently to COP 9 for consideration and adoption;

19. *Urges* the GM to promote actions leading to the mobilization of international and national resources needed by affected countries Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention through The Strategy, maintaining a geographical balance so that countries with less capacity can also benefit from these new and additional international and national resources;

E. Secretariat

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft multi-year (four) work plan complemented by a costed biennial work programme in line with The Strategy and taking an RBM approach;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the proposed multi-year work plan and biennial programme of work to CRIC 7 for review and subsequently to COP 9 for consideration and adoption;

22. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to consider engaging in policy dialogue on The Strategy to foster awareness of and buy-in to The Strategy among relevant policy decision makers, making use, inter alia, of the opportunities provided by the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to CRIC 7 and COP 9 on the implementation of The Strategy;

F. Secretariat/Global Mechanism coordination

24. *Directs* the Executive Secretary and the GM, within their respective mandates, to implement The Strategy in order to ensure consistency and complementarity in the delivery of services, and to strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the GM to submit a draft joint work programme, in accordance with paragraph 22 of The Strategy, at CRIC 7 and to submit it for consideration by COP 9;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the GM to include indicators of successful cooperation in their RBM-based joint work programme with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of the synergistic services provided by the secretariat and the GM.

27. *Requests* an assessment of the GM with recommendations to be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations, based on the following terms of reference:

(a) To evaluate the work and functions of the GM, in accordance with its mandate as set out in the Convention and relevant decisions of COP;

(b) To identify any lack of clarity in the institutional arrangements and accountability elaborated in the Convention and in the memorandum of understanding between the International Fund on Agricultural Development and UNCCD with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of the functioning of the Convention bodies;

(c) To assess the alignment between its programme and that of the secretariat, and its conformity to the guidance of the COP;

(d) To evaluate the communication and working modalities between the GM and the secretariat;

28. *Encourages*, in this context, the secretariat and the GM to evolve their joint work programme as set out in paragraph 22 of The Strategy for consideration by the JIU in its evaluation;

29. *Recognizing* that regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy, and *further recognizing* that coordination mechanisms must be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and the specific issues of regions;

30. *Calls upon* each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the GM, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia, existing regional coordination activities, tools, donor and regional funding arrangements, and providing details of staffing, hosting possibilities and other financial resources required, define their functions and outputs and reporting arrangements in terms of implementing the Convention and delivering the 10-year strategic plan, and provide these prior to COP 9 for consideration in the context of the budget and the programme of work;

31. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile regional proposals and the means for operationalizing them, and submit these for consideration to COP 9;

32. In the above context, *requests also* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM on its regional arrangements, to:

(a) Review the current regional coordination arrangements within the secretariat and within the GM with a view to improving them;

(b) Develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements based on the above-mentioned review and the proposals received from regions according to paragraph 33;

(c) Submit these for the consideration of COP 9;

33. *Decides*, while the review process in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 is taking place and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue to support, and where possible strengthen, through the Supplementary Fund, the existing Regional Coordination Units, and *encourages* donors and, in accordance with national capacities and where appropriate, the Parties in the regions concerned to provide funds to this end;

G. Global Environment Facility

34. *Recognizes* that the implementation of The Strategy requires mobilization of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources at both the national and international levels for its effective implementation and, in this context, *invites* the GEF to consider simplifying its funding procedures in order to ease the access by developing countries to GEF funding and report back to COP on progress in this regard;

35. *Invites* the GEF to take The Strategy into account while planning and programming for the next replenishment period, in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention;

H. Civil Society

36. *Requests* Parties to promote awareness of and include local populations, particularly women and youth, and civil society organizations in the implementation of The Strategy, consistent with Operational Objective 1;

37. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to take into account inputs from civil society organizations in the elaboration of the selection criteria for financial support for their participation at UNCCD meetings and processes, consistent with the established rules of procedure of the COP;

I. Planning and budgeting cycles

38. *Decides* that planning and budgeting cycles should be undertaken as set out below and *further decides* that under the first planning cycle the drafts will be presented at CRIC 7 and considered along with the drafts under the first budget cycle at COP 9:

(a) Planning cycle:

- (i) CST, CRIC, secretariat, GM each elaborate multi-year (four year) work plans according to the principles of RBM;
- (ii) Multi-year work plans are submitted to the secretariat for integration into the comprehensive multi-year work plan for the Convention;
- (iii) Multi-year work plans are regularly updated for each COP to cover the two subsequent intersessional periods;
- (iv) In addition, biennial cost estimations related to the work programme are developed;

(b) Budget cycle:

- (i) The budget cycle is two years;
- (ii) The budget is prepared by the secretariat, integrating cost-estimated biennial programmes of work for the CST, the CRIC, the secretariat and the GM;

J. Performance monitoring and indicator development

39. *Invites* Parties and the Regional Implementation Annexes to develop nationally and regionally relevant indicators for the implementation of The Strategy for consideration at CRIC 7 in the context of the development of reporting guidelines for the Parties;
40. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consolidate these indicators with a view to harmonizing them as appropriate;
41. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure the integration of recommendations from CST 9 based on discussions at CRIC 8 relevant to establishing reporting guidelines in line with The Strategy;
42. *Decides* that Parties at COP 10 develop the appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for an independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, and that the evaluation shall be completed for consideration at COP 11;
43. *Affirms* that the COP will be the main body for assessing and reviewing the overall implementation of The Strategy, assisted in this regard by the CRIC and the CST and involving the COP Bureau as appropriate, in line with their respective mandates;

K. Costing of strategic plan/next steps

44. In accordance with their differentiated obligations under the Convention, *encourages* developed country Parties to consider prioritizing the need for supporting the implementation of The Strategy in their respective policies and programmes for cooperation and *further encourages* affected developing countries to consider making this a priority in their cooperation assistance arrangements;
45. *Recognizes* the need for Parties to realign their national action programmes with The Strategy, *invites* Parties with the assistance from the GM to mobilize international and national resources, both technical and financial, to assist countries with this realignment;
46. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and relevant organizations to make resources available to affected developing countries for the implementation of The Strategy.
