



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Agenda item 5, 6 (e)

Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers

The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

Revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties on the participation of other bodies or agencies, and decision 26/COP.1 on the accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations,

Recalling further decision 5/COP.9 on the revised procedures and the eligibility criteria for the participation of civil society organizations in the Conference of the Parties and other UNCCD activities,

Stressing the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the involvement of these stakeholders in the implementation of the UNCCD and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy),

Taking note of the recommendations made by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its ninth session on the above-mentioned issues as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/16,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(10)/29 on revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and the private sector and document ICCD/COP(10)/5 on revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the UNCCD,

Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

1. *Decides* that the civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties shall submit to the secretariat on 30 March 2012 and every five years thereafter: (i) a written confirmation of their interest in remaining accredited to the Conference of the Parties; (ii) a declaration that no changes have occurred in their status, juridical personality, governing bodies, membership and other requirements that may preclude their rights to be admitted to UNCCD meetings with observer status; and (iii) any other information relevant to the accreditation, with particular regard to their activities and competence in matters relating to the Convention;
2. *Decides also* that the civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties shall submit to the secretariat, every five years a report on their activities and on contributions made to the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Decides further* that observer status will be withdrawn from those civil society organizations failing to comply with the obligations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
4. *Decides furthermore* to grant observer status and participation in official meetings of the governing bodies of the UNCCD to those business and industry entities that: (a) have expressed interest in participating in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies; (b) have specific expertise in matters relating to the Convention; and (c) participate in the United Nations Global Compact. In the case where an organization does not participate in the United Nations Global Compact, clearance prior to its accreditation shall be requested from the United Nations Procurement Division and the United Nations Ethics Office;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to implement the above-mentioned provisions starting from the next intersessional meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (its eleventh session) and the next ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (its eleventh session), where applicable;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat to facilitate the process of revising and updating the list of organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties and to ensure the participation of the business and industry entities by establishing formats, guidelines and other tools that might be required for this purpose;
7. *Further requests* the secretariat to deploy, within the existing resources, an online system to facilitate the accreditation process for civil society organizations.

Revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

8. *Decides* to entrust the selection panel established by decision 5/COP.9 with the additional tasks of: (a) facilitating consultations among civil society organizations between sessions of the Conference of the Parties; (b) monitoring the participation of civil society organizations in meetings of the UNCCD in close consultation with the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention; and (c) reporting to the Conference of the Parties through the secretariat at the conclusion of the term of its mandate;

9. *Invites* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, international and financial organizations and relevant stakeholders to contribute to the Supplementary Fund of the Convention in order to ensure wider participation of civil society organizations in UNCCD meetings;

10. *Requests* the UNCCD secretariat to continue using all possible means, including state-of-the-art information and communication technology, to facilitate interaction among civil society organizations and to ensure the active involvement of civil society in UNCCD processes;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session on the implementation of this decision;

12. *Decides* that, at its thirteenth session, the Conference of the Parties will undertake an overall review of the results achieved with the revised procedures for accreditation of CSOs in terms of the increased effectiveness of their involvement in the implementation of the Convention, and *requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to prepare for this review.