

X REGIONAL MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRY PARTIES TO THE UNCCD

São Luis (State of Maranhão, Brazil) from August 29 to 31, 2005.

1. Background

The UNCCD Regional Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean establishes the need to convene regional meetings to strengthen co-operation and exchanges between the Parties and for application of the Regional Implementation Annex. (See Art. 7 of the Annex). In this context, LAC countries have held nine regional meetings, in Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Peru, El Salvador, Chile, Barbados and Colombia with the aim of identifying priority actions, establishing and developing sub-regional and regional co-operation through the implementation of the Regional Action Programme to combat desertification, the sub-regional action programmes as well as linkages with national priorities set forth in the national processes for combating desertification and drought.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the X LAC Regional Meeting are the following:

1. Further development on the regional projects and activities on:
 - a) Implementation of those TPNs already launched: benchmarks and indicators, DESELAC, agroforestry and water management,
 - b) Implementation of Sub-regional action programmes in Chaco, Puna and the Caribbean,
 - c) Design and organization of new Sub-regional action programmes in Mesoamerica and Colombia-Venezuela,
 - d) Other sub-regional initiatives on land degradation and capacity building and others.
2. Review of the development and implementation of national action programmes in accordance to the Bonn Declaration, for the implementation of the Convention at the national-local levels.
3. Follow up of the conclusions and recommendations listed in CRIC3 report, with particular emphasis on Committee on Science and Technology issues.
4. Special attention will be paid to the review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme with the aim of taking all necessary action for its enhancement. This programme, which was adopted at the III Regional Meeting and updated at the IX meeting, is essentially a plan of action for the region as a whole and covers all the major areas that need attention.

5. Discussion on the enhancement of the role of indigenous and local population in the implementation of the Convention in the region.
6. Preparation for the seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention.

3. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs of the X LAC Regional Meeting include:

1. Agreed strategy on the future implementation of the regional initiatives, particularly the TPNs.
2. Agreement on the regional issues to be discussed during the COP7.
3. Organization of work for the third national reporting process for regions others than Africa, to be submitted at CRIC 5 during 2006,
4. Agreement on concrete measures to improve the implementation of the national, sub-regional and Regional Action Programmes,
5. Establishment of concrete timetable for the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes for those countries that still have not prepared them.

4. ORGANISATION

Structure: The UNCCD Secretariat and the Government of Brazil will jointly organise the X LAC Regional Meeting. The meeting will essentially cover both the technical and policy issues of implementation in the region. Its main focus will be on the practical issues with Focal Points providing the major inputs.

Place: The meeting will be held in the city of São Luis, in the State of Maranhão, Brazil from August 29 to 31, 2005.

5. PARTICIPATION

It is expected that all thirty-three (33) countries of the region will participate in this VII Regional Meeting as well as representatives of the NGO community, community based organisations and representatives of pertinent international bodies and agencies including those of the United Nations systems.