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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

**Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session,
held in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007**

Addendum

**Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties
at its eighth session**

CONTENTS

<i>Decision</i>		<i>Page</i>
1/COP.8	Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in all regions	4
2/COP.8	Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the Convention and preparation for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development	6
3/COP.8	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).....	8
4/COP.8	Activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships and synergies with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies.....	28
5/COP.8	Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention.....	30
6/COP.8	Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.....	32

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Page</i>
7/COP.8 Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention	34
8/COP.8 Improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties	36
9/COP.8 Programme of work of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	38
10/COP.8 Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.....	40
11/COP.8 Roster of independent experts.....	41
12/COP.8 Functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology.....	42
13/COP.8 Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)	43
14/COP.8 Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies.....	45
15/COP.8 Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands	46
16/COP.8 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme	47
17/COP.8 Final report of the Group of Experts	48
18/COP.8 Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology.....	49
19/COP.8 Rule 47 of the rules of procedure	50
20/COP.8 Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation.....	51
21/COP.8 Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures.....	52
22/COP.8 Relations between the secretariat and its host country.....	53
23/COP.8 Credentials of delegations.....	54

<i>Decision</i>		<i>Page</i>
24/COP.8	Special segment: interactive dialogue sessions	55
25/COP.8	Report on the seventh round table of members of parliament.....	56
26/COP.8	Declaration of non-governmental organizations attending the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties	57
27/COP.8	Programme of work for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.....	58
28/COP.8	Date and venue of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties	60
 <i>Resolution</i>		
1/COP.8	Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Spain	61

Decision 1/COP.8

Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in all regions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 1/COP.7 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Africa and the continuing relevance of its provisions,

Having reviewed with appreciation the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its fifth session, which builds upon the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention in regions other than Africa and the recommendations from the three regional workshops held in Panama City, Bangkok and Bonn covering the Regional Implementation Annexes II to V,

Recognizing that the outcome of the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in regions other than Africa during the fifth session of the CRIC often confirms the trends and findings identified through the review of implementation in Africa which was completed during the third session of the CRIC,

Aware of the need to identify the major aspects of land degradation arising in the various eco-geographical zones and to measure their severity in order to find appropriate solutions to protecting threatened ecosystems and eradicating poverty,

1. *Invites* Parties and international institutions to strengthen and standardize UNCCD reporting as well as to improve comprehensive and participatory monitoring and evaluation;
2. *Also invites* Parties and international institutions to strengthen capacities for the sharing of information on successful micro-level interventions at the level of local area programmes within the national action programmes (NAPs), since such interventions can be scaled up and thereby have the potential to influence national policies;
3. *Urges* affected country Parties to facilitate the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention, including, inter alia, environmental and socio-economic non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and local development associations, in accordance with national policy;
4. *Further urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* international organizations, to support capacity-building in a sustainable manner in all areas relevant to the implementation of the NAPs;
5. *Invites* developing countries to develop an enabling environment for sustainable land management and integrated water management, which includes economic measures, in accordance with international law, and coordination of sectoral policies, consistent with national policies;

6. *Encourages* affected country Parties and donors to ensure civil society participation in UNCCD processes and to take this issue into account when setting priorities in national development strategies;
7. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* multilateral organizations to mobilize and provide substantial financial resources from all sources, in particular for developing countries and for other eligible countries, where appropriate, for implementation of the objectives of the Convention;
8. *Requests* the Global Mechanism (GM) to play a more active role in mobilizing resources and maintaining a geographical balance so that countries with less capacity are also able to benefit from the resources, and *also requests* the GM to capitalize better on the demand-driven policy formulation process taking place in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes and the NAPs to facilitate responses from developed country Parties;
9. *Invites* Parties and international organizations to support participatory natural resource management as a tool to prevent land degradation and to promote the sharing of approaches and experiences in this regard;
10. *Also invites* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to assist in creating an international policy environment for the provision and transfer of adequate technology, particularly remote sensing technology, to affected country Parties for the establishment of effective monitoring and assessment systems;
11. *Urges* the CST to accelerate its efforts to establish links with scientific communities in order to make full use of relevant initiatives in areas relating to sustainable land and water management;
12. *Requests* affected Parties to focus their action programmes on implementing the Convention in the light of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);
13. *Further requests*, in the above context, developed country Parties to assist affected country Parties, particularly developing and other eligible countries, with the implementation of NAPs;
14. *Decides*, while the review process outlined in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 of decision 3/COP.8 is taking place, and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue through the Supplementary Fund to support, and where possible strengthen, 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.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 2/COP.8

Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the Convention and preparation for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 2/COP.6 and 2/COP.7 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its follow-up,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 61/202 underlining the importance of the issue of desertification in the process of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and in particular in the context of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD dealing with thematic clusters on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and with Africa,

Emphasizing the potential of these sessions to strengthen international awareness of and commitment to the implementation of the Convention, and the need for timely and substantive preparations for UNCCD input into this process,

Taking note of documents ICCD/COP(8)/5 and ICCD/COP(8)/5/Add.1 on the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD and the preparation for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD,

Acknowledging the potential of the UNCCD to build on links between combating desertification and land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and integrated water management,

Noting with appreciation the activities relating to the follow-up of the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the Convention undertaken by the Executive Secretary and his necessary efforts, in the aftermath of the International Year on Deserts and Desertification, to promote and raise awareness of the UNCCD and of its contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, actively to prepare for and participate in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD core issues, particularly those relating to land degradation, drought, desertification and their nexus with poverty eradication, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development, are duly considered during the deliberations of the review session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the CSD;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in this context, on the basis of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008 –2018), to submit for the consideration of the CSD, inter alia, the following matters:
- (a) The need to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, including sustainable land management;
 - (b) Strengthening of those policies and measures, including capacity-building at local level, which contribute to sustainable land management;
 - (c) Enhanced national and international support for frameworks that promote access to food and water for affected populations;
 - (d) Combating desertification through, inter alia, the rehabilitation of degraded land, as a means of adaptation to climate change;
3. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to participate in, and to continue to contribute input to, as appropriate, activities carried out at regional level preparatory to the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;
4. *Further encourages* Parties to involve UNCCD national focal points and non-governmental organizations in the work carried out in the context of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;
5. *Invites* Parties, in accordance with national capacities, to provide support to the UNCCD preparations for, and participation in, the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on activities carried out to implement this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 3/COP.8

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

The Conference of the Parties,

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

Emphasizing that implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) requires efforts from all Parties, taking into account the different 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 and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) 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 and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), for substantial, adequate and timely financial resources and other forms of support corresponding to the needs of affected developing country Parties, to assist these Parties in their implementation of the Convention,

Mindful that the Convention, its secretariat and other institutions, and supporting bodies, including the Global Mechanism (GM), and 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 (2008–2018),

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 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 in 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 put into operation 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 within the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with The Strategy by, inter alia, addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives;
6. *Requests* Parties to report on progress made in 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 on Science and Technology (CST), to prepare for the CST, in line with The Strategy, a costed draft two-year work programme taking an RBM approach, such consultations to be conducted as outlined in decision 12/COP.8;
8. *Further 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 13/COP.8 and 18/COP.8, to reshape the operations of the CST and on the theme for discussion at the ninth session of the CST (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 best to measure progress on Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes of its ninth session;
11. *Also 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 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 the seventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 7) shall be a special session to consider methodological matters to further advance the implementation of The Strategy, in line with decision 9/COP.8, and in this context *decides also* that the next session of the CST 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, including recommendations emanating from the CST, 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 to prepare a draft multi-year (four-year) work plan complemented by a costed biennial programme of work;

18. *Further 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-year) work plan complemented by a costed biennial work programme in line with The Strategy and taking an RBM approach;

21. *Also 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. *Also 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. *Further requests* an assessment of the GM with recommendations to be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations, to be submitted to COP 9 for consideration, 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 the COP;

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

(c) To assess the alignment between the programme of the GM and that of the secretariat, and the conformity of the programme of the GM 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. *Recognizes* that regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy, and *further recognizes* 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, and donor and regional funding arrangements, and providing details of staffing, hosting possibilities and other financial resources required, and to define their functions and output and reporting arrangements in terms of implementing the Convention and delivering The Strategy, and to 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 putting them into operation, and to submit these to COP 9 for consideration;

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

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

(b) To develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements based on the above-mentioned review and the proposals received from regions according to paragraph 30;

(c) To submit these to COP 9 for consideration;

33. *Decides*, while the review process in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 is taking place and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue through the Supplementary Fund to support, and where possible strengthen, 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 the mobilization of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources at both national and international level 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 to report back to the COP on progress in this regard;

35. *Invites* the GEF to take The Strategy into account when 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. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account input from civil society organizations when formulating 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) The CST, the CRIC, the secretariat and the GM each formulate multi-year (four-year) work plans according to RBM principles;
- (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 relating 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 the eighth session of the CRIC (CRIC 8) relevant to establishing reporting guidelines in line with The Strategy;

42. *Decides* that Parties at the tenth session of the COP (COP 10) should 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 the eleventh session of the COP (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 different 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, and *invites* Parties with the assistance of 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.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Annex

The Strategy

I. Introduction

1. Developed as a result of the Rio Summit, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a unique instrument that has brought attention to land degradation in the drylands where exist some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people in the world. Ten years after its coming into force, the UNCCD benefits from universal membership and is increasingly recognized as an instrument which can make a lasting contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction globally.
2. After a decade of implementation, it is recognized that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention. Chief among these factors are insufficient financing compared to its two Rio sister conventions, a weak scientific basis, insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses and difficulties in reaching consensus among Parties.
3. Also, the UNCCD operates today in an environment that has evolved considerably since when it was first negotiated and it faces different opportunities and constraints which will condition its implementation in the forthcoming decade.
4. For one thing, the policy environment has changed considerably since Rio with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), increased support to Africa and the least-developed countries, stronger commitment for climate change mitigation and adaptation, prospects of global agricultural trade liberalization, and growing numbers of environmental refugees and migrants shedding new light on the impacts of poverty and environmental degradation.
5. The scientific environment has also evolved with the work of the Millennium Assessment (MA) on dryland ecosystems, which has contributed to improved understanding of the biophysical and socio-economic trends relating to land degradation in global drylands, and their impacts on human and ecosystem well-being. The MA has also contributed to mapping out key gaps in data and knowledge on dryland ecosystems and people.
6. The financing environment has also changed profoundly in the last decade, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial mechanism of the Convention, official development assistance (ODA) flows increasing again after a decade of stagnation, and declining resources for rural development and agriculture. Donors have refocused their financing strategies to support country-driven priorities, based on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other country-led development planning instruments. Lastly, various innovative financing instruments have come to life, including payments for ecological services and carbon finance.
7. This new environment provides the starting point for this strategic plan along with an assessment of the successes and limiting factors of the Convention as it enters its second decade. This strategic plan provides a unique opportunity to address some of the Convention's key

challenges, to capitalize on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders.

II. The vision

8. The aim for the future is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

III. Strategic objectives and expected impacts

9. The following “strategic objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008–2018, including raising political will. Meeting these long-term¹ objectives will contribute to achieving the above-mentioned vision. The “expected impacts” are the long-term effects intended by the strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations

Expected impact 1.1. People living in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management.

Expected impact 1.2. Affected populations’ socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Indicator S-1²: Decrease in numbers of people negatively impacted by the processes of desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.

Indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas.

Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems

Expected impact 2.1. Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.

Expected impact 2.2. The vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

¹ For the purposes of this strategic plan, “long term” means ten years or more.

² The indicators contained in the strategic plan are indicative of the types of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. These global indicators are to be refined further by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) capitalizing on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2. See below: Chapter VII. Performance monitoring, paragraph 1.

Indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-5: Increase in net primary productivity in affected areas.

Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

Expected impact 3.1. Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.

Indicator S-6: Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas.

Indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.

Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

Expected impact 4.1. Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention.

Expected impact 4.2. Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation at all levels.

Indicator S-8³: Increase in the level and diversity of available funding for combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.

Indicator S-9: Development policies and measures address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

IV. The mission

10. To provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

³ Indicators pertaining to Parties' implementation are to be further developed and refined. (See below: Section VII. Performance monitoring, paragraph 1).

V. Operational objectives and expected outcomes

11. The following “operational objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term⁴ with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives. The “outcomes” are the short and medium-term effects intended by the operational objectives.

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.

Outcome 1.1: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.

Outcome 1.2: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Outcome 1.3: Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and desertification/land degradation and drought are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties revise their national action programmes (NAPs) into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.

Outcome 2.3: Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.

⁴ For the purposes of this strategic plan, “short and medium-term” means for a period of three to five years.

Outcome 2.4: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.

Outcome 2.5: Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.

Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio-economic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.

Outcome 3.3: Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.

Outcome 3.4: Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.

Outcome 3.5: Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge,⁵ are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

Outcome 3.6: Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

Operational objective 4: Capacity-building

To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 4.1: Countries which have carried out the national capacity self assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels⁶ to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national and local levels.

⁵ Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

⁶ See the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "Resource Kit for National Capacity Self-Assessment", 2005, page vi, for a description of the various levels at which capacity can be developed.

Outcome 4.2: Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and local levels.

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.

Outcome 5.1: Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

Outcome 5.2: Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 5.3: Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.

Outcome 5.4: Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.

Outcome 5.5: Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation.

VI. Implementation framework

12. This section defines the roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders in meeting the above-mentioned objectives.

A. The Committee on Science and Technology

13. Operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge is a central component of the strategic plan. The CST is given primary responsibility to fulfil this objective as well as a support role for implementing operational objective 1. In order to fulfil this mandate, the CST shall be strengthened to assess, advise and support implementation, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, of the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the causes and impacts of desertification/land degradation, and shall inform COP decisions.

14. The CST shall be reshaped in the following manner:

(a) Institutional arrangements

- (i) Representation in the CST and the roster of experts is to be based on professional expertise and is to include a wide range of disciplines and experience regarding biophysical and socio-economic aspects. It shall respect equitable representation according to the United Nations rules. Parties shall establish a specific procedure to this effect as per the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations.
- (ii) The COP decides the appropriate frequency of CST meetings, including the possibility of synchronized CST and Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) meetings, with a view to ensuring continuity and providing timely policy advice to the COP in accordance with this strategic plan.
- (iii) The COP appoints the chairperson of the CST for a two-year term. It also appoints the members of the bureau of the CST for two-year terms. With a view to staggering the replacement of the members of the bureau in order to ensure continuity in the work of the CST, half of the members are, exceptionally, to be appointed at COP 8 for one-year terms and their replacements are also to be appointed at COP 8, for two-year terms.

(b) Programme of work

- (i) The COP adopts a focused work programme for the CST and establishes clear priorities based on the strategic plan.
- (ii) The COP may invite, as appropriate, renowned scientific institutions and subject-matter expert task forces to consider issues.
- (iii) Modes of delivery:
 - a. The CST develops a two-year work programme, following a results-based management (RBM) approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - b. CST meetings produce sound scientific outputs and policy-oriented recommendations based on the analysis and compilation of peer-reviewed and published literature that inform policy formulation and dialogue at the COP.
 - c. The CST mobilizes science and technology experts, networks and institutions with excellence in desertification/land degradation issues under its auspices to bolster the scientific and technical basis of the UNCCD.
 - d. The CST enhances its convening power by adding high-level expertise and systematically peer-reviewing its outputs.
 - e. The CST agenda is to focus on one or two priorities reviewed every biennium, as appropriate.
 - f. The CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, creates and steers knowledge-management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users.

- g. The CST strengthens its linkages with thematic programme networks (TPNs) and other relevant regional implementation activities whose mandates are improved to provide regional input to the work of the CST.
- (iv) Priorities:
 - a. The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, tools and methods, biophysical and socio-economic baselines on desertification/land degradation at the national level.
 - b. The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, methodologies and guidelines for monitoring and assessment of desertification/land degradation trends.
- (c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

B. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

15. The CRIC plays a central role in reviewing the implementation of the strategic plan through an effective reporting process and documenting and disseminating best practices from experience in implementing the Convention, thereby bringing a cross-cutting contribution to all operational objectives. Overall, the CRIC shall be strengthened to improve feedback loops to measure progress and support continuous improvement in implementing the strategic plan.

16. The CRIC shall be reshaped in the following manner:

- (a) Institutional arrangements: The COP is invited to pursue its review of the CRIC and its institutional arrangements in the light of the provisions of this strategic plan.
- (b) Functions:
 - (i) Determining and disseminating best practices on implementation of the UNCCD.
 - (ii) Reviewing implementation of this strategic plan.
 - (iii) Reviewing Parties' contributions to the implementation of the Convention.
 - (iv) Assessing and monitoring of CRIC performance and effectiveness.
- (c) Programme of work:
 - (i) Modes of delivery:
 - a. Multi-year planning: The CRIC adopts a multi-year work programme, following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - b. In the context of its ongoing review of the CRIC, the COP should explore the possibility of synchronizing CRIC and CST sessions as appropriate and decide on their required frequency in the light of this strategic plan.

- (ii) Priorities:
 - a. The CRIC is restructured around a simplified and effective reporting process based on information which is comparable across regions and over time. New reporting guidelines are adopted taking into account the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Reporting. Reporting should be inclusive of NAPs, subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs).
 - b. The CRIC systematically documents and disseminates best practices.
 - c. The CRIC is assigned responsibility for assessing on a regular basis progress made in implementing this strategic plan, based on a set of indicators.

(d) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

C. The Global Mechanism

17. Operational objective 5 on financing and technology transfer is a central component of the strategic plan. The GM has a central responsibility in contributing to this objective, given its mandate to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to mobilize and channel substantial financial resources. The GM also has a support role for operational objectives 1 and 2. In order to fulfil its role, the GM shall strengthen its capacity to mobilize existing as well as fresh sources of finance and to facilitate access to technology.

18. The GM shall be realigned in the following manner:

- (a) Institutional arrangements:
 - (i) GM institutional arrangements with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to remain unchanged.
 - (ii) The COP to monitor the effectiveness and added-value of the GM's institutional arrangements with IFAD in line with JIU recommendations.
- (b) Programme of work:
 - (i) The GM adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - (ii) The GM revises its consolidated strategy and enhanced approach (CSEA) in order to prioritize its role in mobilizing financial resources for programmatic investments in affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, in affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern European region:
 - a. The GM engages with donors, the private sector, financial institutions and other relevant institutions to promote actions leading to the mobilization of substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources.
 - b. The GM advises and assists affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern

European region regarding the development of integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

- c. The GM explores new sources of finance and financing mechanisms to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade organizations, foundations, CSOs, and other financing mechanisms, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the fight against hunger and poverty.
- d. The GM supports the development of (sub)regional financing platforms to improve effectiveness, harmonization and alignment among donor institutions.
- (iii) The GM develops a strategy to operationalize its complementary role to the GEF.
- (iv) Facilitation Committee (FC):
 - a. The FC is invited to revise its mandate and adopt a joint work programme aligned with the strategic plan.
 - b. Individual members of the FC are invited to develop consistent and complementary financing platforms to align their activities with the UNCCD strategic plan.
 - c. The FC reports in a coordinated fashion to the COP and the CRIC on issues relevant to its programme of work.

(c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the consistent and predictable deployment of GM functions under the strategic plan.

D. The secretariat

19. Successful implementation of this strategic plan requires a strengthening of the core servicing, advocacy and agenda-setting and representation functions of the UNCCD secretariat – with commensurate capacity and resources – in order to support Parties, the COP and the subsidiary bodies of the Convention in fulfilling their respective roles. The secretariat has a lead role for operational objective 1 and specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 and 3 as well as a support role in other operational objectives.

20. The secretariat shall be reshaped in the following manner:

(a) Institutional arrangements: The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.

- (b) Programme of work:
- (i) The secretariat adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - (ii) Servicing and facilitating functions:
 - a. The secretariat performs enhanced servicing functions to support COP and CRIC sessions by:
 - i. Providing compilation and synthesis of national reports on the basis of new guidelines.
 - ii. Producing case studies, best policy practices.
 - iii. Supporting the preparation of national reports.
 - b. The secretariat develops its capacity to service the CST effectively by:
 - i. Supporting the knowledge management systems established by the CST and performing information and knowledge brokering functions.
 - ii. Supporting the convening and mobilization by the CST of relevant science, knowledge and technical capacities.
 - c. The secretariat supports efforts of affected country Parties to strengthen dialogue and consultation at subregional and/or regional and interregional level.
 - d. The secretariat services the regional implementation annexes on request through facilitating cooperation at regional/subregional levels.
 - e. The secretariat facilitates a process to determine optimal mechanisms for regional coordination, recognizing the positive experience in, and according to the needs defined by, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe, to support the implementation of this strategy, the process to be concluded at COP 9.
 - (iii) Other core functions:
 - a. The secretariat develops increased advocacy and awareness-raising, agenda-setting and representation activities, as appropriate, in relevant forums at the international level.
 - b. The secretariat coordinates the development and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy at the international level with a set of core communications objectives and expected results.
 - c. The secretariat works with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio conventions in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation in line with JIU recommendations.
 - d. CSO participation:
 - i. The secretariat develops revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions in line with JIU recommendations.

- ii. The secretariat develops stronger mechanisms to support a CSO network.
- iii. The secretariat advocates for more support and channels grants to facilitate CSO participation in UNCCD meetings and processes.

(c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the good functioning and efficient operation of the secretariat in performing its core functions and delivering services required for implementing this strategic plan through an RBM framework as mentioned in the JIU report.

E. Secretariat/Global Mechanism coordination

21. In order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM as per JIU recommendation, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines of the strategic plan, the secretariat and the GM shall strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level.

22. This entails the following:

(a) Programme of work: The secretariat and the GM submit to the COP a joint biennial work plan setting out a common approach to supporting the Parties and delineating a clear division of labour.

- (i) Accountability: The secretariat and the GM report in a clear and transparent way on the effective share of labour and the use of the core and voluntary funds relating to the joint work plan. The two organizations report jointly to the COP on the implementation of the joint work plan. The bureau is mandated by the COP to oversee implementation of the joint work plan.
- (ii) Efficiency: The secretariat and the GM will each engage in an exercise on how to increase the efficiency of human and financial resources and seek professional advice on how to organize more effectively for delivery of the joint work plan.

(b) Regional dialogue and coordination:

The COP is invited to consider the establishment of appropriate regional dialogue and coordination facilitation mechanisms. This entails that each region should, for consideration by the COP:

- (i) Identify the immediate added value of such a regional body in the context of the new secretariat and GM work plans.
- (ii) Identify what would be the appropriate institutional arrangements for such a body in their region.
- (iii) Develop the short/medium-term RBM framework for these bodies.

F. Additional Joint Inspection Unit recommendations to Parties and the Conference of the Parties

23. Parties have a lead role in delivering all the objectives and outcomes of this strategic plan and the substantive JIU recommendations which were integrated into them. In addition, Parties shall implement these process-related recommendations from the JIU report:

(a) The COP is invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 7.

(b) The COP may wish to consider how the Bureau deals with operational and financial contingencies when the COP is not in session.

G. The Global Environment Facility

24. The COP may invite the GEF to take into account this strategic plan and to align its operations accordingly in order to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

VII. Performance monitoring

25. Indicators:

(a) The strategic objectives indicators contained in this strategic plan are indicative of the type of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. Many of these indicators have been selected from the GEF land degradation focal area strategic objectives, MDGs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2010 Target. These global indicators are to be refined further by the CST, capitalizing on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2.

(b) Operational objectives indicators pertaining to Parties' implementation are to be developed within the follow-up to the IIWG and reviewed by the CRIC.

(c) Indicators pertaining to UNCCD institutions are to be developed as part of the RBM frameworks to be developed by these institutions and adopted by the COP. The CRIC will review the institutions' progress in the light of these indicators.

26. A mid-term evaluation is to be undertaken by the COP based on the performance monitoring system six years after the adoption of the strategic plan. This evaluation will review progress made in implementing the strategic plan and will recommend appropriate measures to improve performance and further its implementation.

27. Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies are to report on implementation of the strategic plan at CRIC and COP sessions, based on their results-based framework.

Decision 4/COP.8

Activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships and synergies with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.5 and 12/COP.6, which called on the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to contribute with other partners to strengthening the capacity of low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation,

Further recalling decision 12/COP.7 and *reiterating* its call for capacity-building and the development of operational synergies at the national level,

Conscious of the importance of the conclusions of the Desertification Synthesis of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Recognizing the need to strengthen transdisciplinary scientific understanding of linkages between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation in order to improve the scientific basis for enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Rio conventions and actions to implement them at the national level,

Noting that national level market-based approaches, in accordance with international law, to combating desertification and land degradation represent an important new potential source of financing but require a supportive policy environment and associated financial and technical assistance,

1. *Encourages* affected country Parties to establish linkages between national action programmes (NAPs) and areas driving international support such as food security and the reduction of rural poverty, adaptation to climate change and connected issues, territorial planning and the prevention of natural catastrophes, in order to make the NAPs a more versatile and iterative tool that engages the sustainable land management policy formulation process;
2. *Also encourages* affected country Parties to promote transdisciplinary research in affected ecosystems, in rural areas and in coastal areas of small island developing States, in accordance with the NAPs, where appropriate, as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
3. *Further encourages* developed country Parties and *invites* multilateral institutions to assist developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and other eligible countries, where appropriate, to access new and additional financial resources through, inter alia, relevant complementarities with other multilateral environmental agreements in order successfully to address and reverse desertification and land degradation;

4. *Invites* all Parties to strengthen sustainable forest management and integrated water management in critical watershed areas in order to maintain ecosystem services in affected mountain areas, to prevent soil erosion and flooding, to increase the size of atmospheric carbon sinks, and to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity;
5. *Urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* multilateral institutions, to respond to the needs of small island developing States, which are threatened by extreme weather patterns and coastal erosion, and which favour regional coordination and integrated management strategies for coastal areas and watersheds;
6. *Invites* the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCCD to pursue their work under the Joint Work Programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, and *encourages* developed country Parties to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund to enable the secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Joint Work Programme;
7. *Encourages* affected country Parties, where applicable, to develop a framework to promote synergies in the implementation of the national adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CBD national biodiversity strategies and action Plans (NBSAPs) and UNCCD NAPs, including in their financial schemes;
8. *Also invites* the Joint Liaison Group of the Executive Secretaries of these conventions to advise on ways and means to strengthen the links between the NAPs, the NBSAPs and the NAPAs;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its ninth session on the implementation of this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 5/COP.8

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 5/COP.6 and 6/COP.6,

Further recalling its decisions 1/COP.6 and 5/COP.7 by which it urged affected country Parties to mainstream national action programmes (NAPs) with ongoing national development initiatives and poverty eradication processes and to implement their provisions in full,

Noting that multi-country and multi-focus partnership frameworks, notably in Africa, Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, have successfully tested approaches for expanding sources of finance, enhancing donor coordination, and harmonizing priorities, knowledge transfer and capacity-building,

Concerned about the emerging pattern of growing environmental degradation, extreme weather events and increased aridity under present conditions of climate change,

Deeply concerned also in this context about the negative impact of land/soil degradation, desertification and drought, combined with climate variability, which is reaching a global dimension,

1. *Requests* all Parties to address the issues of the mobilization of resources in the light of the clear conclusions of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on this subject;
2. *Invites* all Parties, as they prioritize strategies and streamline procedures in the context of the Paris Declaration, to include the issues of land/soil degradation, desertification and drought in ongoing policy harmonization efforts concerning the allocation of resources for official development assistance;
3. *Also invites* affected country Parties to make more consistent domestic budget allocations for rural development and to advocate a greater focus on the new modalities of aid delivery;
4. *Calls upon* developed country Parties and multilateral and non-governmental funding agencies to provide also enhanced voluntary contributions to implement the NAPs;
5. *Urges* developed country Parties, with respect to aid coordination modalities, notably in Africa, to mainstream sustainable land management into donor programming, and to maintain and expand the use of the chef de file resource mobilization mechanism in order better to coordinate their full support and involvement under article 6 of the Convention;

6. *Also urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* multilateral institutions, to support financially and technically the efforts of affected developing country Parties and other eligible country Parties, where appropriate, under regional cooperation frameworks, including regional coordination units, with the aim of strengthening support for scientific, research and training institutions to implement the Convention's objectives, in particular enhanced scientific cooperation and sharing best practices at the regional and subregional levels.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 6/COP.8

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 6/COP.6 and 6/COP.7 on collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), by which it adopted the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the GEF on enhanced collaboration,

Recognizing that addressing land and water issues of relevance to the objectives of this Convention contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and maintaining essential ecosystem services,

Noting that the potential for UNCCD Parties to access funds through other multilateral agreements to which they are also party, such as climate change adaptation funding, should not replace the need to mobilize specific funds for the implementation of UNCCD national action programmes,

Welcoming the December 2006 decision of the GEF Council to invite the Fourth GEF Assembly to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility to include the UNCCD among the listed conventions for which the GEF plays the role of financial mechanism;

Also welcoming the June 2007 decisions of the GEF Council which include, inter alia, the streamlining of the project cycle to accelerate availability of resources to countries, and the adoption of a revised Focal Area Strategy on Land Degradation for the fourth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-4) and of a cross-cutting Focal Area Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management, as well as development of a results-based management framework,

Further welcoming the fact that land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) projects have been made eligible for GEF financing under the Climate Change Focal Area Strategy,

Mindful of concerns expressed over the allocation of funds to combat land degradation under GEF-4,

1. *Invites* the GEF effectively and expeditiously to implement the Focal Area Strategy on Land Degradation for GEF-4;
2. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* the GEF Council to provide in the fifth replenishment of the GEF adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional financial resources, for the Focal Area on Land Degradation;

3. *Also invites* the GEF to facilitate access by affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to the full range of GEF funds available for the implementation of projects and programmes relating to land degradation and desertification;
4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) requires mobilization of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources at both the national and the international levels for its effective implementation and, in this context, invites the GEF to consider simplifying its funding procedures in order to ease developing countries' access to GEF financial resources;
5. *Requests* the GEF secretariat, in the light of the MOU, to continue to inform the Conference of the Parties (COP) on how projects in GEF focal areas other than land degradation have contributed specifically to sustainable land management;
6. *Invites* the GEF to continue implementing the GEF Council decision taken at its May 2003 meeting, by which it recognized that when assisting affected country Parties under the next reporting cycle, the formulation of national, subregional or regional action programmes or national reports is considered to be a component in the framework of capacity-building projects, and thus eligible for funding,;
7. *Requests* the Global Mechanism in collaboration with the GEF implementing and executing agencies, to improve assistance to affected developing country Parties and other eligible country Parties, where appropriate, in identifying and accessing the co-financing from donors which is necessary to enable access to GEF project funding for land degradation projects, in conformity with The Strategy, while emphasizing the complementary role of the GEF;
8. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to bring The Strategy, adopted at this COP, to the attention of the GEF Council;
9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention to report to the COP at its ninth session on the implementation of this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 7/COP.8

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 1/COP.5 as well as decisions 7/COP.6 and 7/COP.7,

Aware of decisions 11/COP.1, 8/COP.4, 10/COP.4, 3/COP.5, 10/COP.5, 1/COP.6 and 4/COP.6,

Having considered the views and suggestions of country Parties on how to improve existing, and create additional, procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties (COP) in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, as presented in the written proposals submitted by country Parties called for by decision 7/COP.7 and the document prepared by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(8)/3),

Having also considered input received through the two intergovernmental processes established by COP 7, namely, the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group dealing with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), and the process relating to the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information,

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a subsidiary body of the COP;
2. *Also decides* that the CRIC shall function under its present terms of reference as specified in decision 1/COP.5, where applicable;
3. *Further decides* that the COP, at its ninth session, shall consider and revise as necessary the terms of reference of the CRIC, bearing in mind the strategic plan and role of the CRIC as specified in the relevant decisions of the eighth session of the COP (COP 8) and the outcomes of the seventh and eighth sessions of the CRIC (CRIC 7 and CRIC 8);
4. *Requests* that the provisional agenda for CRIC 8 be prepared by the Chairperson of the CRIC in consultation with the secretariat;
5. *Invites* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and interested organizations as well as the private sector voluntarily to contribute financially to the organization of these two official sessions of the CRIC;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Global Mechanism to bring to the attention of donors the importance of financial support for national reporting, particularly from the Global Environment Facility and other financial institutions, in order to achieve

monitoring capacity at national level in affected country Parties and a consequent higher quality of national reports;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate, at least six weeks prior to CRIC 7, appropriate documentation for that session in all official languages.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 8/COP.8

Improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 11/COP.1, 5/COP.2, 10/COP.4, 1/COP.5, 3/COP.5, 10/COP.5, 1/COP.6, 4/COP.6 and 8/COP.7 and the clear need to take measures to implement these decisions in full,

Taking note with appreciation of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and the format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP),

Aware that the AHWG has provided its findings and recommendations and that the third cycle of communication of information was completed at the COP at its eighth session,

Acknowledging that simplification and capturing the results achieved should be features of the revised reporting guidelines of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and that for small island developing States flexibility in the reporting format is desirable,

Noting that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment provided an impetus for a more systematic assessment of the economic value of environmental assets,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the Global Mechanism, to develop draft reporting guidelines before the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, seeking external support, as appropriate, for the following entities that are requested to report regularly to the COP, or otherwise to provide information, on support to the implementation of the Convention:

(a) Affected country Parties, including country profile

(b) Developed country Parties

(c) United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and relevant international financial institutions and mechanisms

(d) The Global Environment Facility (GEF), in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF

(e) The secretariat

(f) The Global Mechanism (GM);

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM, to advise on and/or establish detailed draft reporting guidelines, formats and help guides, as necessary, for:
 - (a) Reports on implementation of subregional action programmes
 - (b) Reports on implementation of regional action programmes;
3. *Further requests* that the reporting guidelines should be in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and should take into consideration the report of the AHWG;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to consult with the other secretariats of the Joint Liaison Group and to advise on ways to make reporting more efficient, taking into account the reporting procedures and obligations under each Rio convention.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 9/COP.8

Programme of work of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (b), (d) and (h), of the Convention,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Recalling further its decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Considering paragraphs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of decision 3/COP.8 on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

1. *Decides* that the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) shall be a special intersessional session of the Committee to consider methodological matters to further advance the implementation of The Strategy,
2. *Decides also* to include the following items in the agenda of the seventh session of the Committee:
 - (a) Consideration of the following work programmes:
 - (i) Multi-year programme of work for the secretariat and the joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM)
 - (ii) The two-year programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology
 - (iii) The multi-year programme of work for the CRIC
 - (iv) The multi-year programme of work for the GM;
 - (b) Draft reporting guidelines as referred to in decision 8/COP.8;
 - (c) Indicators and monitoring of The Strategy;
 - (d) Format for future CRIC meetings;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations official languages at least six weeks prior to the seventh session of the CRIC a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session reflecting the decisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 10/COP.8

Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c), of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 1/COP.5 concerning additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Accepts with gratitude* the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and to meet the related costs;
2. *Decides* that the seventh session of the CRIC shall be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 20 to 29 October 2008;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Turkey with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the Committee in Turkey.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 11/COP.8

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.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.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 12/COP.8

Functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the need to facilitate the work of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) Bureau by, inter alia, holding an intersessional meeting,

Taking note of the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4 and the observations made by the CST during its eighth session,

Bearing in mind the proposed 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) referred to in decision 3/COP.8, and in particular the implementation framework for the CST,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the convening of at least one intersessional meeting of the CST Bureau per year for the review of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties (COP) and other related matters regarding the work of the CST, especially the planning and organization of the next session of the CST;
2. *Further requests* the CST Bureau in discharging its duties to increase cooperation with other conventions and relevant scientific processes;
3. *Decides* to consider the possibility of the CST holding one intersessional meeting and one shorter meeting that will be held in conjunction with the COP.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 13/COP.8

Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24 of the Convention,

Noting the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The strategy) referred to in decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, Part A of the implementation framework on the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Stressing the need for a focused effort to ensure that operational objective 3 under that plan on science, technology and knowledge is fully implemented,

Noting the potential of the CST to provide an opportunity for effective knowledge sharing at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, to support policymakers and stakeholders, including through the identification and sharing of best practice,

Welcoming the recent Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) decision to consider establishing a challenge programme on desertification and other such related initiatives and considering that such processes may significantly assist in achieving operational objective 3 of The Strategy,

Welcoming also the process and outcome of the World Meteorological Organization international workshop on climate and land degradation held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in 2006, and noting that it provides a useful organizational model to enable the CST to achieve the goal of being a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge on combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought,

Recognizing that in order to achieve this goal the CST would benefit from the involvement of institutions, consortia (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) and individuals with the greatest expertise in these areas,

Taking note of the observations of the CST at its eighth session,

1. *Decides* that each future ordinary session of the CST shall:

(a) Be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the CST Bureau in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the Conference of the Parties (COP);

(b) Focus on one specific thematic topic relevant to the implementation of The Strategy, to be determined in advance by the COP;

(c) In relation to the priority theme, provide interaction with delegates and develop and make recommendations, with the lead institution/consortium submitting a report to the COP;

(d) Include presentations by other institutions, other environmental conventions, NGOs and individuals with experience of the thematic topic concerned, as decided upon by the Bureau of the CST in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, ensuring that there is a global call thereby giving every opportunity for contributions from all regions;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in consultation with the CST Bureau, to consider mechanisms to secure additional funds to support attendance from the developing countries and eligible countries in all implementation annexes, ensuring support for the participation of experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders;

3. *Also requests* the CST Bureau to develop the terms of reference for the CST meeting referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above, in consultation with the lead institution/consortium;

4. *Encourages* the lead institution/consortium to assist in the mobilization of resources to hold the CST meeting referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 14/COP.8

Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 25 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Recalling also its decisions 23/COP.1, 17/COP.2, 13/COP.3, 17/COP.4 and 13/COP.5,

Bearing in mind the usefulness of the networking of institutions, agencies and bodies,

Recognizing the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme and members of its consortium in this respect,

Noting the pertinence of the recommendations made by the Group of Experts for a stronger role for scientific institutions and specialized networks in UNCCD activities,

Noting also the need to mobilize scientific and technical competencies to solve the problems of land degradation,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) referred to in decision 3/COP.8, and in particular its operational objective 3.3 on science, technology and knowledge, and proposed outcome 3.6 which states that science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification and drought should be engaged to support UNCCD implementation,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) Bureau, in collaboration with the lead institution or consortium selected to co-organize the next CST scientific meeting, to link with networks, institutions, agencies and bodies to address the thematic priority;
2. *Further requests* the CST Bureau, in collaboration with the lead institution or consortium selected to co-organize the next CST scientific meeting, to include the non-governmental organizations and other civil society stakeholders in the network, in line with the participatory approach recommended for combating desertification.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 15/COP.8

Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of decision 19/COP.7 on Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA),

Noting with appreciation the initiatives in respect of the LADA project undertaken by various international organizations and institutions, with the collaboration of the secretariat,

Taking note of the report on progress of the LADA project contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/9,

1. *Encourages* the continuation of work on the LADA project and the involvement in assessments of experts from the roster of independent experts;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the LADA project;
3. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) Bureau to take the necessary action to strengthen its links with the work of the LADA project;
4. *Also invites* the LADA project to involve, and take account of the needs of, the Convention national focal points and stakeholders in its further work;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the CST at its ninth session on progress with the LADA project.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 16/COP.8

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention and decision 15/COP.7 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Noting that during its discussion on ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), at its third session, supported the formulation of a fellowship programme initiative,

Taking note of the clear distinction between the proposed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) fellowship programme and other existing fellowship programmes,

Bearing in mind the potential benefits for developing country Parties of a UNCCD fellowship programme,

Acknowledging the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5 and the support expressed by the CST during its eighth session,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), in particular its operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge, and its outcome 3.3 which states that knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas should be improved to enable better decision-making,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme, subject to voluntary funding, according to the terms of reference annexed to the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5.
2. *Encourages* Parties and other interested organizations with the capacity to do so to make available the necessary funds through a variety of sources including voluntary contributions and targeted donor support.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 17/COP.8

Final report of the Group of Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 17/COP.5, 15/COP.6 and 15/COP.7,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Group of Experts,

Taking note of the final report of the Group of Experts contained in documents ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.1 to Add.9,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the recommendations of the Group of Experts,

Encourages the country Parties to consider and use, as appropriate, the final report of the Group of Experts in the implementation of their national action programmes.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 18/COP.8

Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 16/COP.3, 16/COP.4, 16/COP.5, 20/COP.6 and 20/COP.7 on the programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Recognizing the need for access to knowledge by all decision makers, including land users,

Recognizing also the need for knowledge to combat desertification and for adaptation to climate change,

Taking note of the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4 and the observations made by the CST during its eighth session,

Taking note also of the final report of the Group of Experts contained in documents ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2 and Add.1 to Add.9,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) referred to in decision 3/COP.8, and in particular its operational objective 3.3 on science, technology and knowledge, and outcomes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4,

Decides that the priority theme to be addressed by the CST in line with decision 13/COP.8 will be ‘Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management’.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*

Decision 19/COP.8

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 21/COP.2 on consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

Taking note of the draft text of rule 47, as amended by decision 21/COP.2,

Taking note also of the report by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/6,

Requests the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure in the agenda of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties and to report on the status of similar rules of procedure in other multilateral environmental agreements.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 20/COP.8

Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 20/COP.3, 20/COP.4, Part A, 21/COP.5, Part A, 22/COP.6, Part A, and 22/COP.7, Part A,

Recalling further the Chairperson's summary of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (AHGE) at the fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the COP,

Noting that the question of linkages between article 27 and article 22, paragraph 2, article 26 and article 28 may merit further consideration,

1. *Decides*, for the purposes of fulfilling the provisions of article 27 of the Convention, to reconvene, during its ninth session, the open-ended AHGE to examine further, and make recommendations on, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation;
2. *Invites* any Parties and interested institutions and organizations wishing to communicate their views on article 27 to do so, in writing, to the secretariat by 31 January 2009;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a new working document to include a compilation of submissions by Parties contained in previous COP documents on this matter, including a draft to provide options for, and the terms of reference of, a multilateral consultative process, and a compilation also of those views submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above;
4. *Decides further* that the AHGE shall take as the basis of its work the new working document to be prepared by the secretariat.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 21/COP.8

Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 28, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted as soon as practicable by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in an annex to the Convention,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted as soon as practicable by the COP in an annex to the Convention,

Recalling further the Chairperson's summaries of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of experts (AHGE) at the fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the COP,

Recalling its decisions 20/COP.3, 20/COP.4, Part B, 21/COP.5, Part B, 22/COP.6, Part B, and 22/COP.7, Part B,

1. *Decides*, for the purposes of fulfilling the provisions of article 28 of the Convention, to reconvene, at its ninth session, the open-ended AHGE to examine further, and make recommendations on, the following:

- (a) Annex on arbitration procedures
- (b) Annex on conciliation procedures;

2. *Invites* any Parties and interested institutions and organizations wishing to communicate their views on the matter referred to in paragraph 1 above to do so, in writing, to the secretariat by 31 January 2009;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a new working document to include: (i) a compilation of submissions contained in previous COP documents on this matter and those submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above, and (ii) an updated version of the annexes contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/9 to reflect these views;

4. *Decides further* that the AHGE shall take as the basis of its work the new working document to be prepared by the secretariat.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 22/COP.8

Relations between the secretariat and its host country

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1 on the physical location of the permanent secretariat of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 29/COP.7 on relations between the secretariat and its host country,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(8)/12 on relations between the secretariat and its host country,

Noting that the secretariat moved to the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, in June 2006 and that temporary arrangements have been made including with regard to cost sharing for maintaining and operating the new premises,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to develop its relations with the Government of Germany, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the City of Bonn, as well as with other relevant stakeholders;
2. *Encourages* the secretariat to seek more cost-effective solutions for official meetings held in Bonn, pending the availability of adequate conference facilities, and *invites* the Government of Germany to continue contributing, on a voluntary basis, to meetings of the Convention organized in Bonn;
3. *Invites* the United Nations organizations based in Bonn and the Government of Germany to continue consultations with a view to concluding a premises agreement before the end of September 2008;
4. *Requests* the Government of Germany to continue to absorb most of the costs and take responsibility for maintaining and operating the new premises;
5. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on progress made in its relations with the host country.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 23/COP.8

Credentials of delegations

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties¹ and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

¹ ICCD/COP(8)/15.

Decision 24/COP.8

Special segment: interactive dialogue sessions

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the Madrid Declaration submitted by the Minister of the Environment of Spain acting as the President of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 25/COP.8

Report on the seventh round table of members of parliament

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration of members of parliament ‘The role of members of parliament in the efforts to combat desertification: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and challenges ahead’, reporting on the outcome of the seventh round table of members of parliament, which took place in Madrid, Spain, on 12 and 13 September 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 26/COP.8**Declaration of non-governmental organizations attending
the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties**

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration made by Mr. George Bright Kwaku Awudi on behalf of 245 representatives from 73 non-governmental organizations from 47 countries attending the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 27/COP.8

Programme of work for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5, 29/COP.6 and 30/COP.7 on its programme of work, decisions 3/COP.8 on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and 7/COP.8 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention, and other relevant decisions of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8),

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its ninth session and, if necessary, its tenth session:

- (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2010-2011;
- (b) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements:
 - (i) Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties
 - (ii) Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (i) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties
 - (ii) Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts;
- (d) Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies;
- (e) Consideration of the follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and outcome of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

- (f) Outstanding items:
 - (i) Rule 47 of the rules of procedure
 - (ii) Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation
 - (iii) Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures;
- (g) Preparation for the Decade of Deserts and Combating Desertification (2010–2020);
- (h) Relations between the secretariat and its host country;

2. *Decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with the relevant stakeholders, including ministers, non-governmental organizations and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them;

3 *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a provisional annotated agenda, in agreement with the President of COP 8, taking into consideration provisions contained in the relevant decisions of COP 8;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Decision 28/COP.8

Date and venue of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat in Autumn 2009, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost;
2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to accommodate any offer from a Party to host COP 9;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for COP 9.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*

Resolution 1/COP.8

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Spain

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007 at the invitation of the Government of Spain,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of Spain for having made it possible for the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in the city of Madrid;
2. *Requests* the Government of Spain to convey to the people of Spain the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*
