

**Bureau of the Conference of the Parties  
to the United Nations Convention to  
Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

**Bonn, 08 September 2005**

**Report of the Bureau Meeting**

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) was convened by the President of the sixth session of the COP to the UNCCD. The meeting was held in Bonn, Germany on 08 September 2005.

**I. Opening of the meeting and  
adoption of the Agenda**

2. The meeting was opened at 10:10 a.m. by the President who welcomed the Bureau members. The Bureau adopted the agenda presented to them without modification.

**II. Overview of the Preparation of the Fourth Session of the  
Committee for the Review of the Implementation  
of the Convention (CRIC 4)**

3. The Chair of CRIC 3 reported on the outcomes of the session held in Bonn from 02 to 11 May 2005.  
He stated that CRIC 3 was successful and demonstrated the importance of such a Committee in the UNCCD process. He acknowledged the active participation of all country Parties. He informed that, on the basis of the mandate given to him and with the assistance of the Secretariat, he prepared four draft decisions, which seek to translate the recommendations contained in the report of CRIC 3 into negotiable texts. Following past practice, these draft decisions were circulated first to all CRIC and COP Bureau members for preliminary comments before their distribution to all Parties.
4. One Bureau member referred to the procedure regarding the election of the next Chair of CRIC and whether candidates are known. The current Chair informed that, on the basis of the established practice, he is consulting with the regional groups and he is confident that at Nairobi Parties will designate someone with a deep knowledge of the UNCCD process.
5. It was also confirmed that the next Chair of CRIC and other members of the next CRIC Bureau will be elected on 21 October 2005.  
Members of the COP Bureau were invited to consult with their respective groups and transmit to the Secretariat recommended names for CRIC members and other bodies of the COP.

6. The Chair of CRIC 3 emphasized that his effort to facilitate the nomination of the next CRIC Chair is based on recommendations to be made by each region.
7. The CST Chair reflected on the procedure regarding the election of the Chair and vice Chair of subsidiary bodies.
8. The President thanked the Bureau members for steps being taken towards the establishment of the next Bureau of the CRIC. He requested the Secretariat to assist in facilitating decision making of the Chair of bodies.
9. One Bureau member referred to the mandate of the CRIC and suggested that the forthcoming Session to take place in Nairobi could consider giving to the CRIC the mandate to also review budget matters.
10. Another Bureau member, while recognizing the importance of the CRIC, recalled that only the COP has the mandate to take decisions.
11. The Chairman of the CRIC recalled that the subsidiary body of other Rio Conventions do have mandate to take decisions. He referred to recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit and supported the suggestion that COP7 should consider giving decision power to the CRIC.
12. With regard to the review of the activities of the Secretariat and the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau on the work of the Secretariat. He emphasized that the primary areas of the work of the Secretariat since COP 6 include the following: service to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, policy advocacy and awareness raising, institutional liaison and coordination and support to affected countries.
13. The Secretariat also reported on the status of the implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention. The Bureau was informed that in accordance with decision 4/COP 6, the Secretariat submits to COP 7 an interim report on the implementation of the "Bonn Declaration".
14. The managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM) informed on activities undertaken by the GM as a follow up to COP 6 relevant decisions. A report on these activities and the strategy and approach for future operations of the GM will be considered by Parties at COP 7.
15. One Bureau member requested the GM to inform on the level of financial resources mobilized in the last 2 years.
16. Another Bureau member informed the Bureau that some Annex V country Parties have been denied support from the GM. He referred to difficulties in this regard to fulfil their obligations vis a vis the Convention, especially the invitation to final NAP formulation by end of 2005 (decision 8/COP 4).

17. The managing Director of the GM informed that some [9'540'000 US\$ were mobilised in 2004 and 8'500'000 US\$ have been mobilised in 2005]. He confirmed that the GM needs to strategize but in the meantime they are willing to work with Annex V countries. He recalled that the GM is not a fund and at COP 7 he will inform on the relationship between the GM and bilateral and multilateral partners.
18. One Bureau member requested the GM to inform at COP 7 how much money they have been able to mobilize in the last 2 years.
19. Another Bureau member voiced concern on response given by the GM. He recalled that UNCCD is a multilateral process and priority to a region should not prevent the GM from assisting other eligible regions. He referred the GM to its terms of reference and relevant decisions taken by the COP.
20. The Chairman of the CST underlined that the report submitted by the GM should better reflect on CST issues. He invited the GM to include in their activities possibilities to support activities on scientific issues.
21. The GM informed that they are indeed working with the CGIAR towards mobilizing funds, including on scientific issues.
22. The President recalled the importance of the GM in the UNCCD process. He invited the GM to take into account remarks made by the Bureau regarding support to affected eligible countries.
23. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification. He informed that, as requested by the Parties, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF and the COP will be submitted at COP 7 for final consideration.
24. He informed that the GEF council has started consultations on the fourth replenishment of the GEF and allocation of resources to the land degradation focal area.
25. Some Bureau members raised concern on the GEF and its replenishment process. They also referred to financial support for the preparation of the national reports to be considered at CRIC 5.
26. Another Bureau member, who attended GEF recent meetings on the fourth replenishment, informed that he is following closely ongoing consultation and indications are that growth on land degradation area will be higher than the growth in other Rio Conventions.
27. The President of the Bureau thanked Bureau members for their ongoing efforts in advancing the UNCCD process, including in the context of the consultation on the GEF replenishment.

### III. Measures to Prepare the Seventh Session of the COP

28. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on results of the planning mission, which went to Nairobi from 25 to 29 July and had a number of meetings with officials from the Government of Kenya and colleagues from the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) (Conference Service Division (CSD) and Security and Safety Service (SSS) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). Detailed information was provided on various arrangements being made by the Government of Kenya, which include topics like transport, hospitality, media, lodging, security and visa requirements.
29. The President expressed gratitude to the Government of Kenya for his generous offer to host COP 7.
30. The Executive Secretary invited Bureau members to convey to their constituencies that necessary conditions are being created or have been created to welcome them at COP 7.
31. The Secretariat informed that COP 7 has 20 agenda items proposed for its consideration. Bureau members were informed on planned official meetings of the session, including meetings of the subsidiary bodies.
32. The Secretariat also informed on the organization of the High Level Segment of the Conference, to be organized on 24 and 25 October 2005. The Secretariat recalled the importance of the High Level Segment of the COP. The theme to be considered at COP 7 will be "Economic opportunities in the drylands under the UNCCD".
33. Information was also provided to the Bureau regarding parallel meetings to be organized at COP 7, including the Round Table of members of Parliaments (25-26 October) and a forum of media and communication (22-23 October).
34. Some Bureau members commented on the provisional organization of work at COP 7. Indications are that proposals will be made by some regional groups to consider some agenda items in early first week of the Conference.
35. One Bureau member also referred to the need to limit official meetings by reducing the bodies, which service the COP. He suggests that in this regard, the work of the Committee of the whole could be taken up by the CST or the CRIC.
36. Many Bureau members echoed the proposal, as it deals also with rooms limitation, difficulties encountered by small delegations, etc... One Bureau member proposed to create a committee, which will look further into this option and make recommendation to the COP through the next Bureau of the COP.
37. The President agreed also on the need to rationalize activities at COP sessions and recommended that this proposal could be submitted to the consideration of Parties at COP 7, as it seems to be of interest to all Parties.

38. **Programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007:** The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007 reflects the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the COP. The Bureau was also informed that the programme-budget takes into account several main factors including the appreciation of the EUR vs. the US dollar, combined with the UN-wide adjustments of salary standards. The proposal maintains the approved levels of staffing and staff grades and provides some support for required core activities. No new posts or post upgrades are proposed.
39. The main challenges of the biennium 2006 – 2007 include the meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies; support to the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention in regions other than Africa and other arrangements for the next review meeting; strengthening the scientific, thematic and synergistic aspects in the UNCCD implementation process; and activities relating to the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.
40. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau on activities to be undertaken under the Supplementary Fund. These would include those that may be decided upon by the COP during the seventh session but for which sufficient funding may not be available under the core budget. Funds are sought for assistance to Parties, upon request, to facilitate the preparation of their national, sub regional and regional reports and to support the formulation and/or launching of national, sub regional, regional and interregional activities.  
Other documents on budgetary matters to be considered at COP7 include the financial performance of all Convention's trust funds for 2004-2005; and the audited financial statements for the Convention's Trust Funds for the biennium 2002-2003.
41. One Bureau member informed that, at the time the meeting of the Bureau was being held, his group was looking at the Budget proposal.
42. The Chairman of the CST observed that estimated resource requirements for CST are below amount adopted in the biennium (2004-2005).
43. The Secretariat informed that most of the activities are planned to be undertaken under the extra-budgetary funds.  
The Secretariat also informed that the proposed core budget document is very conservative and it is expected that efforts under the supplementary budget are the only way to improve the work of CST.  
It was recalled difficulties encountered over the pas 2 years.
44. The Chairman of the CRIC expressed regret that the Bureau has not been able to assist the Convention during the intersession, despite the budgetary difficulties. He also referred to the fact that some countries do not pay their contributions in full, while number of OECD countries pay their contributions very late, creating some cash flow difficulties in the functioning of the Secretariat. He mentioned that some developing countries should also pay their contributions in time.  
He referred the Bureau to recommendation made by the JIU and their link to budgetary matters.

He finally referred to the proposal regarding the currency to use and the need to carefully study all options at COP 7.

45. **Comprehensive review of the activities of the Secretariat:** The Secretariat informed that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations, entitled “Review of the Management, Administration and Activities of the Secretariat of the UNCCD” is submitted to COP 7 as received and without formal editing.
46. One Bureau member referred to the conclusions of the JIU report and suggests that the Bureau congratulates the Secretariat for its work. He also proposed to invite the international community to review the report carefully and implement its outcomes. He did refer to some recommendations and mentioned that the Bureau should transmit the JIU report to COP for consideration and appropriate follow up of its recommendations.
47. Several other Bureau members supported the proposal. The President of the Bureau said that there is obviously a lot to learn from the report and he therefore looks forward to positive consideration by Parties at COP 7.
48. **Arrangements for the Regional Coordination Units:** The Secretariat informed the Bureau on steps that have been taken as a follow to decision 11/COP 6. Information was also provided on the methodology followed towards the preparation of the study on the RCUs. The document is submitted to COP 7 for final consideration.
49. One Bureau member informed that his regional group proposes that discussion on RCUs could be taken up earlier at COP 7. A proposal will be made at the time of the adoption of the COP agenda.
50. **Committee on Science and Technology:** The Chairman of the CST reported on his activities and presented the provisional agenda and programme of work of the CST. The main issues that will be before the forthcoming session of the CST include, among others: the consideration of the roster of independent experts; the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies; the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST; the traditional knowledge; the benchmarks and indicators; the early warning systems; the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands; the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; and the liaison with international organizations and the scientific community.

#### **IV. Status of preparation of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification**

51. The Secretariat reported on activities being undertaken to prepare to IYDD. A detailed list of activities, identified for the celebration of the IYDD, is submitted to COP 7, together with document ICCD/COP(7)/13.

#### **V. Facilitation of the participation of eligible countries and accredited NGOs**

52. The Secretariat informed on the importance to contribute to the Special Fund for participation, so as to enable a significant participation of representatives from eligible countries and NGOs.  
At the time the Bureau meeting was being held, the Secretariat has received contributions and / or pledges in the amount of US\$ 602,500. However, the amount required for the participation of 191 delegates and 31 representatives of NGOs and the civil society is US\$ 1,409,500. There is therefore a shortfall of US\$ 807,000. Efforts are continuing to mobilizing resources with a view to facilitating a maximum participation at COP 7.
53. One Bureau member informed that some countries in his group have announced their intention to contribute.
54. At the request of another Bureau member, the Secretariat confirmed that representatives of Women's group and indigenous group will also be supported, subject to the availability of financial resources.
55. The President encouraged the efforts to mobilize resources for the involvement of a maximum of delegates from eligible country Parties and the civil society.

#### **VI. Next meeting**

56. The Bureau agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 17 October at 09:00 a.m. The main issue to discuss will be about the establishment of the Bureau of COP 7.  
The Bureau meeting will take place at the UN office in Nairobi.
57. The President thanked all Bureau members for the lively discussion and continued support.  
He informed that some 76 interventions were recorded.  
He declared the meeting closed at 19:00 p.m.

**List of participants**

Belgium	Mr. Jozef Buys	Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations 345 East 46 <sup>th</sup> Street – 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York NY 10017 Tel: 1-212.378.6335 Fax: 1-212.681.7618 Email: Jozef.Buys@diplobel.org
Belarus	Mr. Uladzimir Sauchanka	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Kollectornaya st. 10 220048, Minsk Tel: 375-17.200.5476 Fax: 375-17.200.7454 or 7442 Email: savchenko@tut.by
China	Mr. Qu Wensheng	First Secretary Department of Treaty and Law Ministry of foreign Affairs No.2, Southern Chao Yang Men Street Beijing Tel: 86-10.659.63.255 Fax: 86-10.659.63.257 Email: qu_wensheng@mfa.gov.cn
Colombia	Ms. Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar	Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development Bogotá, D.C. Tel: 571-288 9860 / 571-332 3434 ext. 182 Fax: 571-288 6954 Email: amhernandez@minambiente.gov.co
Cuba	Dr. José Antonio Diaz Duque	Deputy Minister Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment Capitalio Nacional Ciudad de La Habana Tel : 537-867.0621 Fax : 537-867 0600 Email : diazduque@citma.cu
Cuba	Lic. Jorge Luis Fernández Chamero	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment Capitalio Nacional Ciudad de La Habana Tel : 537-867.0756 / 537-867.0618 Fax : 537-33.8654 Email : chamero@citma.cu

Hungary	Ms. Dóra Kulauzov	Ministry of Environment & Water FÖ UTCA 44-50 1011 Budapest Tel: 36-1.457.3388 Fax: 36-1.201.1335 Email: kulauzov@mail.kvvm.hu
Italy	Mr. Valentini Riccardo	University of Tuscia Department of Forest Science 01120 Vitereo Tel: 39-0761 357394 / 39-348 3023376 Fax: 39-0761 357389 Email: rik@unitus.it
Mauritania	Ambassador El Ghaouth Mohamed Mahmoud	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Nouakchott Tel: 222-6480055 Fax: 222-5252860 / 222-5253508 Email : elghaouth@yahoo.com
Norway	Mrs Inger Naess	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Trade Policy, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs PO Box 8114 Dep N – 0032 Oslo Tel: 47-22.243.599 Fax: 47-22.242.784 Email: inger.nass@mfa.no
Swaziland	Mr. Bongani Masuku	PO Box 501 Manzini, Swaziland Tel: 268-51.84.162 / 268-51.86.329 / 268-614.5860 (mobile) Fax: 268-51.84.481 Email: moaclds@realnet.co.sz
UNCCD	Hama Arba Diallo	Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2801 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: adiallo@unccd.int
GM- UNCCD	Mr. Christian Mersmann	Managing Director Global Mechanism of the UNCCD IFAD Via Serafico 107 00142 Rome, Italy Tel: +39 06 5459 2129 Fax: + 39 06 5459 2135 Email: c.mersmann@ifad.org

UNCCD	Grégoire de Kalbermatten	Deputy Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2824 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: gdkalbermatten@unccd.int
UNCCD	Ndegwa Ndiangu'i	Senior Scientific Officer United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2821 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: nndiangui@unccd.int
UNCCD	Emmanuel Chinyamakobvu	Programme Officer – Africa Unit United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2819 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: echinyamakobvu@unccd.int
UNCCD	Sergio Zelaya	Coordinator for Latin America and Caribbean countries United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2825 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: szelaya@unccd.int
UNCCD	Rui Zheng	Coordinator for Asia United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2822 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: rzheng@unccd.int
UNCCD	Elysabeth David	Coordinator for Europe United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2834 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: edavid@unccd.int

UNCCD	Antonio Pires	Senior Advisor United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2808 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: apires@unccd.int
UNCCD	Massimo Candelori	Coordinator for COPSUBLA United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2843 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: mcandelori@unccd.int
UNCCD	Rajeb Boulharouf	Coordinator for External Relations and Public Information United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2810 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: rboulharouf@unccd.int
UNCCD	Frank Meek	Chief Administration and Finance United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2844 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: fmeek@unccd.int
UNCCD	Sarah Kilemi	Deputy Chief Administration and Finance United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2849 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: skilemi@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mansour N'Diaye	Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Martin-Luther-King Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: (49-228) 815 2803 Fax: (49-228) 815 2898 / 99 Email: mndiaye@unccd.int