

Meeting of the Bureau of the COP

Date: 26 November 2007
Venue: United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY10017
USA

- REPORT ON THE MEETING -

The Bureau of the COP met in New York on 26 November 2007, prior to the First Extraordinary Session of the COP (COP ES-1), and had before it the provisional agenda (Bureau COP 8 - Item I) and other documentation prepared by the secretariat. The Bureau had two additional meetings during COP ES-1 in order to conclude consideration of its agenda items II and III. A list of members participating in the Bureau meeting is to be found in annex I to this report.

Opening of the meeting

Mr. José Luis Herránz Sáez (Spain) opened the meeting and informed the Bureau members that the President of the COP, H.E. Ms. Cristina Narbona was unable to attend and named him to replace her in accordance with rule 25 of the rules of procedure of the COP (copy of the notification is to be found in annex II to this report)

A statement was also made by the Executive Secretary of the Convention.

Agenda item I (Adoption of the agenda)

The agenda of the meeting was adopted as contained in document Bureau COP 8 - Item I.

Agenda item II (Update on the Convening of the Extraordinary Session of the COP by the Chair of the COW)

The Bureau considered the documentation prepared by the secretariat (ICCD/COP (ES-1)/2) and heard a statement by Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria), Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole at COP at its eighth session.

The Bureau decided to propose to the COP establishing an open-ended contact group facilitated by Mr. Anaedu, to resolve outstanding issue on the programme and budget of the Convention for the biennium 2008-2009.

The Bureau also decided to convene again before the afternoon meeting of COP ES-1, to hear the report by the facilitator on progress made in informal consultations on this matter.

**Agenda item III
(Examination of Credentials)**

At its third meeting, the Bureau considered the memorandum submitted by the Executive Secretary on the credentials of delegation attending COP ES-1.

The Bureau was informed that, in addition to the country Parties listed in the aforementioned memorandum, the following countries have notified the secretariat of their intention to participate in COP ES-1: Brunei Darussalam, Nigeria and Paraguay.

The Bureau decide recommending to the COP to approve the report on credentials contained in document ICCD/COP(ES-1)/3, as orally amended.

**Agenda item IV
(CST Work Programme in 2008)**

The Bureau considered the documentation submitted by the secretariat (Bureau COP 8 - Item IV) and had a presentation by the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), Mr. William D. Dar (Philippines).

The secretariat informed the Bureau that a request is being considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations, to have budget allocations for official meetings of the UNCCD for a total of ten working days in 2008. This would include provisions of conference services to the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the special intersessional session of the CST, in accordance with decisions 3/COP.8 and 13/COP.8.

Statements were made by the representatives of Czech Republic and the United States of America. The Chairperson of the CST also made a statement.

The Bureau recommended continuing consultations with the chairpersons of the CRIC and the CST, with the view of preparing the preliminary agendas of the meetings of the two subsidiary bodies in 2008 and proposing format and duration of these meetings in a way to facilitate exchanges of information and advice between the two bodies, with the understanding the overall duration of the meetings should not be more than ten working days.

The Bureau also recommended pursuing consultations with the Government of Turkey in order for this Government to consider covering additional costs of holding the intersessional session of the CST in Istanbul.

**Agenda item V
(Overview of the Implementation Plan for the Corporate Review
of the UNCCD Secretariat)**

The Bureau heard a presentation by the Executive Secretary on the matter.

A statement was made by the representatives of Panama.

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