

Statute on the organization and functioning of the Regional Committee for Central and Eastern Europe in the content of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

(Prepared and agreed by the National Focal Points of the Central and Eastern Europe, January 2015)

Recalling Article 3(b) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which states that “the Parties should improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels in order to enhance financial, human, organizational and technical resources”; as well as Articles 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 of the Convention, which further emphasize the need for effective regional cooperation and coordination on key issues such as policy consultations, preparation of action programmes, information sharing, improving research capacity, capacity-building and reporting;

- 1.1. *Recalling* also the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (hereinafter “Annex V”) to the Convention and in particular its Article 8.1 (b), which prescribes that Parties of the region shall “consider mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation, as appropriate”;
- 1.2. *Recalling* further decision 3/COP.9 which recognizes that the regional coordination mechanisms (hereinafter “RCMs”) could include, inter alia, regional committees, thematic programme networks and regional coordination units (hereinafter “RCUs”);
- 1.3. *Taking into account* decision 3/COP.11, requesting affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, with the support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to establish or activate a regional committee,

The country Parties of the Central and Eastern Europe¹ hereby establish the **Regional Committee for Central and Eastern Europe (RC/CEE)**.

2. Mission and scope of activities of the RC/CEE

- 2.1. In accordance with the spirit and the letter of decision 3/COP.9, the mission of the RC/CEE is to guide and promote regional cooperation and to support the incorporation of desertification, land degradation and drought issues into various regional processes, involving representatives of civil society organizations and the scientific community where appropriate.

¹ As of 20 November 2014, the region of Central and Eastern Europe in the UNCCD context includes fifteen affected country Parties of the Regional Implementation Annex V for Central and Eastern Europe and four developed country Parties (see in Annex)

- 2.2. As one of the elements of the RCMs, the RC/CEE shall facilitate cooperation between the Convention institutions (the secretariat and the Global Mechanism) and the CEE regional activities.
- 2.3. The RC/CEE shall perform coordinating, consultative and advisory functions towards the CEE country Parties and towards the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (hereinafter “GM”) which will include, *inter alia*:

Towards the CEE country Parties

- 2.3.1. Facilitate the group in the formulation of the regional positions for the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter “COP”), Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (hereinafter “CRIC”) and the Committee on Science and Technology (hereinafter “CST”) sessions as well as to assist in organizing and facilitating the regional meeting in preparation of the COP and CRIC sessions;
- 2.3.2. Facilitate the formulation, revision and the monitoring of implementation of the regional action programme
- 2.3.3. Provide recommendations on emerging issues, and the various means of developing national capacity in the region;
- 2.3.4. Suggest for consideration and approval by the CEE country Parties the candidatures to any ad hoc and permanent mechanisms that the COP may establish, including those of scientific nature;
- 2.3.5. Facilitate the linkages between the CEE country Parties and the activities of any ad hoc and permanent mechanisms that the COP may establish;
- 2.3.6. In coordination and with the assistance of the secretariat, inform regularly country Parties on the implementation of its task and to provide with the recommendations for improvement of the regional coordination mechanism as well as the amendments to the mandate and functions of the RC CEE, as appropriate.

Toward the Secretariat and the GM

- 2.3.7. Provide feedback and/or advise as regards the implementation of the Convention in CEE region;
- 2.3.8. Provide policy and technical advice to the secretariat as appropriate, to enable bringing the CEE priorities in the UNCCD work programme;
- 2.3.9. Cooperate with the Global Mechanism in the resource mobilization and other appropriate activities;
- 2.3.10. Advise on promotion of cooperation among governmental and international institutions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions with the aim of facilitating specific actions at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;

Other:

- 2.3.11. Maintain contacts and cooperate with other regional committees, if necessary, to achieve coordinated actions in addressing common UNCCD issues.

3. Membership to the RC /CEE

- 3.1. With the purpose of effective decision-making process and avoidance of duplications of functions, the RC CEE shall be composed of the five officers elected by the Eastern European Group as members to the bureaux of the COP, the CRIC and the CST and one representative of the civil society organizations (hereinafter “CSOs”) accredited to the COP among the organizations from countries of Annex V, as observer. CSO Panel representative from the Annex V is the observer member of the RC/CEE.
- 3.2. If one or more of the officers elected as members of COP, CRIC and CST bureaux do not belong to the CEE region (Annex V countries , Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland) , then CEE countries will elect other officers as members of the RC/CEE. If the officers to CST Bureau is represented by the National Focal Point, then CEE countries elect one science and technology correspondent as member to the RC/CEE .
- 3.3. The regional chair /COP Vice-President shall be assigned with the function of chairing the RC CEE.
- 3.4. The officers referred to in paragraph 3.1 above shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next ordinary session of the COP. No officer may serve on the RC/CEE for more than two consecutive terms.
- 3.5. If an officer of the RC/CEE resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party, nominated to the respective Bureau, shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's mandate.

4. Format and modalities of the meetings

- 4.1. The RC CEE shall meet in the sidelines of COP, CRIC and CST sessions, meetings of the respective bureaux and before the planned regional meetings. Other occasions shall be used for the meetings of the RC CEE, as appropriate.
- 4.2. Intersessionally, the RC CEE shall operate primarily through electronic means, in particular the e-mail, teleconference and video-conference. The RC CEE shall, however, call upon the Secretariat, the GM and CEE countries to support the operation of the RC CEE including organization of its meetings.

5. Role of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism

- 5.1. According to decision 3/COP. 9, the Secretariat and the GM within the resources available shall assist the regional coordination according to existing and emerging needs, capacities and specific issues.

5.2. The GM Managing Director shall be invited to appoint a contact person from the available staff and resources to follow up on the activities of the RC/CEE with the view to discharge the tasks as foreseen in the relevant provisions of the convention and decisions of the COPs.

Annex: List of the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe

N°	COUNTRY	Status
1	Armenia	ACP
2	Azerbaijan	ACP
3	Belarus	ACP
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	ACP
5	Bulgaria	ACP
6	Czech Republic	DEV
7	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	ACP
8	Georgia	ACP
9	Latvia	ACP
10	Lithuania	DEV
11	Montenegro	ACP
12	Republic of Moldova	ACP
13	Poland	DEV
14	Romania	ACP
15	Russian Federation	ACP
16	Serbia	ACP
17	Slovak Republic	ACP
18	Ukraine	ACP
19	Estonia	DEV