

Decision 10/COP.4

Review and implementation of scientific and technological
aspects of national reports

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 11/COP.1 and 6/COP.3 to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse, at its fourth session, national reports submitted by Parties, in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of the synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, contained in ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5,

Taking note also of the concern expressed by representatives of the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth session regarding the lack of information on scientific and technological information, particularly benchmarks and indicators, contained in the national reports submitted by Parties,

Recalling the previous work done by the Committee on Science and Technology on implementation and impact indicators, and in recognition of the importance of benchmarks and indicators as an essential tool to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the need for the coordination of various on-going initiatives, including thematic programmes and work undertaken by other conventions and institutions,

1. *Encourages* Parties to continue to collect, analyse and disseminate information as well as the results of initiatives undertaken at the national and subregional levels;

2. *Invites* Parties to develop a minimum set of impact indicators, with a view to selecting a common set of basic indicators at a later stage;

3. *Also invites* Parties to develop indicators to measure the participation of local communities and non-governmental organizations;

4. *Also invites* Parties and other countries in a position to provide assistance, as well as international organizations, to mobilize technical, scientific and financial support for the affected country Parties, and to initiate the testing of impact indicators, particularly at the national level;

5. *Encourages* Parties to include information in the national report on the scientific and technical activities to combat desertification undertaken at all levels, and to better integrate the activities of the scientific and technical community into the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Invites* Parties to include in their national reports the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to revise, by the end of April 2001, the *Help Guide*, based on the issues expressed in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, with the aim of providing guidance to Parties to better reflect the activities of the scientific and technical communities and institutions in their national reports.

*12th Plenary
22 December 2000*