

**Decision 11/COP.4**

Benchmarks and indicators

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling its decision 22/COP.1, by which it requested Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in A/AC.241/INF.4 and revised in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and to report to the Conference of the Parties on the utility of such implementation indicators,*

*Recalling also its decisions 16/COP.2 and 11/COP.3,*

*Noting with appreciation the report on the synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to the benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, and an assessment thereof, contained in the reports received from country Parties for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5,*

*Taking note of the important progress achieved on benchmarks and indicators by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory (OSS) in Africa and by Parties in the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and in other regions,*

*Taking note also of the proposal of the CILSS and the OSS on the development of benchmarks and indicators,*

*Noting the comments and recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology during its fourth session,*

1. *Encourages* the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Latin American and the Caribbean Group and the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory to continue their initiative on the development of benchmarks and indicators in collaboration with other partners, and in accordance with the annexed terms of reference,

2. *Requests* the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory to report on the progress of this initiative to the fifth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*

Annex**Terms of reference**

1. CILSS, GRULAC, OSS, and other interested parties should advance their collaborative efforts:

(a) To exchange information on methods and results in the monitoring and evaluation of national, subregional, and regional action programmes;

(b) To analyse experiences in different regions at local, national, and regional levels in order to overcome technical constraints;

(c) To examine the relationships among indicators at different spatial and temporal scales;

(d) To identify selection criteria and a set of common impact and process indicators for better comparison across regions, for possible inclusion in national, subregional, and regional action programs;

2. The collaborating organizations should plan for future collaboration:

(a) To identify ways to enhance understanding of the benefits of monitoring and evaluation of national, subregional, and regional action programs and to promote political and social support for such efforts;

(b) To look for synergies among indicators developed by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.