

### Decision 11/COP.6

#### Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the Regional Coordination Units

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 6/COP.5 on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility of the regional coordination units,

*Having considered* document ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6 and additional information provided by the secretariat, and noting that more information is needed in order fully to consider the feasibility of regional coordination units,

*Recognizing* the need of the affected developing country Parties and other country Parties for consistent and cost-effective support in promoting regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the potential of the regional coordination in linking the activities under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with those of other regional frameworks relating to sustainable development issues, and the role that could be played by the regional coordination units in this regard,

*Noting* with appreciation the efforts which the existing regional coordination units are making to assist, *inter alia*, in elaborating programmes and networks in their respective regions with regard to the implementation of the regional action programmes,

*Noting also* the cost-effectiveness and efficiency that could be brought about by the location of the existing regional coordination units in the regions in providing assistance to the affected developing countries,

1. *Invites* the Parties, the existing regional coordination units, the Global Mechanism and any other relevant regional and subregional entities to submit their views in writing, no later than 1 January 2004, on the best arrangements for strengthening regional coordination. In particular, the submissions should include views on the *rationale* for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on the possible functions, institutional arrangements, modalities and collaborative arrangements of options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing regional coordination units and other relevant regional and subregional entities. The study should take into consideration the submissions mentioned in paragraph 1 above. The study should be implemented in close consultation with other relevant regional coordination mechanisms. The secretariat is requested to circulate the study to the Parties by 1 August 2004;

3. *Requests* the Bureau of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6), with the assistance of the secretariat, to initiate, on the basis of the feasibility study, consultations among and between the regional groups, so as to facilitate the decision-making process; requests the secretariat to report on these consultations at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7); requests the President of the COP 6 to place this issue on the regular agenda of the Bureau;
4. *Encourages* Parties to exchange views and consult with other Parties on the outcome of the feasibility study with a view to strengthening regional coordination, using *inter alia* the informal opportunities arising at any meeting, but in particular at the meetings relating to the preparations for COP 7;
5. *Invites* hosting organizations to continue supporting the running costs of the existing regional coordination units;
6. *Invites also* the developed countries and multilateral agencies to continue contributing on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the activities of the regional coordination units;
7. *Decides also* that, until this agenda item is considered by COP 7, funding for this regional coordination units initiative, *inter alia* for the salaries of existing posts and the funds for necessary activities, shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund;
8. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session, taking into account the outcome of the feasibility study and associated consultations, to take a decision on the role of and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to the regional coordination units.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
5 September 2003*