

Decision 11/COP.7

Rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 6/COP.5 on the consideration of the regional coordination units (RCUs) initiative,

Recalling also decision 11/COP.6 on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and the feasibility and possible terms of reference of the RCUs,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(7)/7 on rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the RCUs,

Noting the request of Central and Eastern European country Parties to explore the possibility of the establishment of regional coordination arrangements, inter alia an RCU,

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

Welcoming in this regard the efforts made by institutions hosting the RCUs, various country Parties and multilateral agencies to support the activities of the RCUs,

1. *Invites* hosting organizations to continue supporting the running costs of the existing RCUs;
2. *Invites also* the developed country Parties and multilateral agencies to continue contributing on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the activities of the RCUs;
3. *Considers* that, until this agenda item is considered by COP 8, funding for this RCUs initiative, inter alia for the salaries of existing posts and the funds for necessary activities, shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund;
4. *Decides* to establish an open-ended group to review available reports and information received from Parties and other entities and make recommendations to COP 8 on options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing RCUs and other relevant regional and subregional entities, and take a decision at COP 8 on the role of, and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to, the RCUs;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the President of the COP, to facilitate the consultations among the members of the open-ended group by using, inter alia, the informal opportunities arising at any meetings, in particular at the fifth session of the CRIC, and *invites* Parties to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the activities of the open-ended group.

13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005