

Decision 13/COP.6

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Having reviewed the roster of independent experts as revised by the secretariat, in accordance with decision 15/COP.5, on the basis of submissions received from Parties through diplomatic channels,

Having reviewed also the report prepared by the secretariat for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system,

Noting also the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) on this subject,

Noting that there remains an imbalance regarding gender and geographical distribution,

Noting further that a balance among the relevant disciplines has not been achieved and that civil society is under-represented in the various disciplines,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to revise the format for the curricula vitae contained in annex II of ICCD/COP(5)/5/Add.1, taking into account non-governmental organizations;
2. *Encourages* the Parties to revise, update and propose new candidates for the roster of independent experts in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines and of women and a more balanced geographical distribution of non-governmental organizations;
3. *Invites* Parties that have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster to do so, including full postal and e-mail addresses, via regular diplomatic channels, no later than six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Further invites* Parties to report to the secretariat on the use they have made of the roster, including the work of the experts at the various levels, such as the national, subregional and regional action programmes, no later than six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Invites* the CST through its Group of Experts fully to utilize the roster in carrying out the programme of work of the Group of Experts;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster is made available in electronic form, as appropriate;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat to distribute a hard copy of the roster to Parties requesting it before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;
8. *Also invites* the CST at its next session to evaluate the progress made on revising and using the roster.

9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003