

**Decision 15/COP.5**

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 revised roster of independent experts prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision 15/COP.4, on submissions received from Parties through diplomatic channels,

*Having reviewed also* the report<sup>1</sup> prepared by the secretariat for the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties,

*Recalling* the important role played by community-based organizations and 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 on this subject,

1. *Encourages* the Parties using the appropriate mechanisms, such as, for example, focal points, to include in their submissions experts from community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations in the roster of independent experts;

2. *Invites* Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster using the format contained in annex 2 of ICCD/COP(5)/5/Add.1, with the aim in particular of:

- (a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender;
- (b) Ensuring better representation of all relevant disciplines;
- (c) Including expertise from civil society;

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, six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Further invites* Parties to report to the secretariat on the use that they have made of the roster, six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster of experts is made available in electronic form, as appropriate;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to distribute a hard copy of the roster to Parties before the next session of the Conference of the Parties.

*11th plenary meeting  
12 October 2001*

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<sup>1</sup> ICCD/COP(5)/5/Add.1