

Decision 15/COP.7**Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 15/COP.6 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST,

Recalling also decision 1/COP.6, in particular as it relates to information and communication,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the GoE in completing the tasks assigned to it within its work programme, as contained in documents ICCD/COP(7)/CST/3, Add.1 and Add.2,

Bearing in mind that decision 1/COP.6 invited the secretariat, with the support of relevant institutions, to provide more support for activities such as training at universities, internships and scholarships with reference to the action programmes,

Noting the recommendations made by the Bureau of the CST on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST,

Bearing in mind decision 17/COP.5, in particular paragraphs 8 and 15 of the annex thereto, which recognizes that the programme of work of the GoE should be pluri-annual in nature, for a maximum of four years,

Noting that the current mandate of the GoE will come to an end before the eighth session of the CST,

1. *Requests* the GoE to continue its priority activities, including the development of a communication and information strategy (THEMANET), of a land degradation and poverty strategy, and of benchmarks and indicators, and to submit its report to the eighth session of the CST;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the GoE up to the eighth session of the CST;
3. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to review the functions and the work of the GoE and to report to the CST at its eighth session;
4. *Requests* that members of the GoE who have not responded to letters of enquiry regarding their commitment to participate in the GoE be replaced before the next GoE meeting;
5. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to prepare revised procedures for renewal of the membership of the GoE for consideration by the CST at its eighth session, taking into account the recommendations of the CST review of the functions and the work of the GoE;

6. *Encourages* country Parties to select a science and technology correspondent to the CST under the coordination of the national focal point;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication linkages between the GoE and the Bureau of the CST;
8. *Invites* the CST Bureau to establish a need for a specific UNCCD fellowship programme taking account of NCSA reports and existing fellowship programmes, and to present its findings to CST 8;
9. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the CST at its next session on the implementation of this decision.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*