

Decision 16/COP.8

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention and decision 15/COP.7 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Noting that during its discussion on ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), at its third session, supported the formulation of a fellowship programme initiative,

Taking note of the clear distinction between the proposed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) fellowship programme and other existing fellowship programmes,

Bearing in mind the potential benefits for developing country Parties of a UNCCD fellowship programme,

Acknowledging the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5 and the support expressed by the CST during its eighth session,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), in particular its operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge, and its outcome 3.3 which states that knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas should be improved to enable better decision-making,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme, subject to voluntary funding, according to the terms of reference annexed to the report of the CST Bureau contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5.

2. *Encourages* Parties and other interested organizations with the capacity to do so to make available the necessary funds through a variety of sources including voluntary contributions and targeted donor support.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*