

Decision 17/COP.7

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2, 11/COP.3, 11/COP.4, 11/COP.5 and 17/COP.6,

Noting with satisfaction the work carried out by the Parties, as well as the reports contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/6,

Mindful of the report of the CRIC on its third session,

Acknowledging the need to improve the country profile as a promising tool for presenting data on the implementation of the Convention, as recommended by the CRIC,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Bureau of the CST and the recommendations of the GoE,

Noting the work of the GoE in providing assistance for the development of appropriate benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of desertification,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant actors in the field, to facilitate the assimilation and/or development of regional or country-specific benchmarks and indicators;
2. *Encourages* the Parties and interested organizations, including NGOs, to involve all stakeholders in the development, where required, and in the use of benchmarks and indicators at appropriate scales;
3. *Requests* the CST, through the GoE, to develop consistent and relevant guidelines on utilizing benchmarks and indicators in the preparation of national reports and to provide guidance on the inclusion of benchmarks and indicators in the country profile;
4. *Requests* the GoE to give high priority to work on benchmarks and indicators and take into consideration all relevant initiatives, and to present the final report to the CST at its eighth session;
5. *Further requests* the GoE to give special attention to participatory and integrated approaches to benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of socio-economic and bio-physical aspects of desertification, and to present the final report to the COP through the CST at its eighth session;

6. *Encourages* Parties to develop and use indicators to assess the impact of intervention measures in order to indicate progress in implementing the Convention.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*