

Decision 18/COP.3Enhancement of the participation of non-governmental organizations
in the work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 27/COP.1,

Recalling also the important role of the Parties in facilitating the participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives from all over the world, particularly from affected developing countries, in the work of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the important role of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives in implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Acknowledging the need for inputs from the non-governmental actors in discussions on issues related to implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging also that participation of non-governmental actors at all levels is a key to the successful implementation of the Convention,

Concerned by the low level of participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives, particularly from developing countries, at its third session,

1. *Welcomes* the important contributions made by non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives during the two half-day open dialogue sessions at its third session;

2. *Invites* non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives involved and interested in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought to participate in its forthcoming sessions;

3. *Decides that* adequate time shall be allowed at an appropriate point in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions for interactive dialogue, as well as coordinated reporting by non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives on their activities in implementing the Convention;

4. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives shall be given opportunities to express their coordinated views at its sessions and in meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

5. *Invites* the international community, particularly developed countries, to provide support for ensuring a greater participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives, particularly from affected developing countries, in its future sessions, through bilateral cooperation and/or through contributions to the Supplementary Fund administered by the Convention secretariat;

6. Also invites international development institutions and intergovernmental bodies to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and/or other civil society representatives in its future sessions.

12th plenary
26 November 1999