

Decision 18/COP.9

Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) referred to in decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, the implementation framework of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Acknowledging the need to mobilize scientific and technical expertise to address the problems of desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought,

1. *Requests* the CST to conduct an assessment at its next two sessions of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, taking into account the need to ensure transparency and geographical balance, and to consider options for determining agreed channels for consideration of the advice in the Convention process;
2. *Invites* the Parties, the scientific community and relevant stakeholders to provide input into the assessment process referred to in paragraph 1;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a progress report for consideration at the second special session of the CST and a final report for consideration at the tenth session of the CST on the outcomes of the assessment process referred to in paragraph 1;
4. *Also requests* the CST to submit recommendations for consideration at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
5. *Invites* 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 targeting donors to support this assessment.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*