

**Decision 19/COP.6**

Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the  
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting with appreciation* the initiatives on the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), carried out by various international organizations and institutions, with the collaboration of the secretariat,

*Taking note* of the presentations made by representatives of the LADA and the MA as well as the information contained in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7,

*Taking note* of the comments provided by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its sixth session,

*Recalling* decision 19/COP.5 on dryland degradation assessment and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

*Bearing in mind* the work of the Group of Experts in the assessment of desertification and land degradation,

1. *Encourages* the continuation of work on the LADA and the MA;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the LADA and the MA and to facilitate the involvement of the Parties, in order that the needs and concerns of the Parties are taken into account in the assessments;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary action to strengthen the links between the Group of Experts and the work of the LADA and the MA;
4. *Encourages* the LADA and the MA to involve experts from the roster of independent experts in their assessments;
5. *Requests* the LADA and the MA to involve, and take account of the needs of, the UNCCD national focal points in their further work;
6. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the seventh session of the CST on the progress of these two initiatives and on the role of the Group of Experts, the roster of independent experts and the UNCCD national focal points in carrying out their assessments.

*9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
3 September 2003*