

Decision 1/COP.5

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in
the review of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h) of the Convention,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Further recalling its decision 11/COP.1 on Procedures for the Communication of Information and Review of the Implementation, paragraph 4 of decision 3/COP.4 on Procedures for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, and paragraph 2 (a) of decision 5/COP.4 on the Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to establish a committee for the review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Decides also* to adopt the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as contained in the annex to this decision;

3. *Decides further* that the mandate and functions of the Committee as contained in paragraph 1 (b) of the terms of reference shall be subject to renewal at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, in the light of lessons learned during the overall review of the Committee;

4. *Decides furthermore* that the Conference of the Parties shall, no later than its seventh ordinary session, review the terms of reference of the Committee, its operations and its schedule of meetings, with a view to making any necessary modification, including reconsidering the need for and modalities of the Committee as a subsidiary body;

5. *Invites* Parties to submit written proposals to the secretariat no later than 31 January 2003 on criteria against which the Committee will be reviewed, with a view to determining such criteria at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Decides* that the first session of the CRIC, to be held in November 2002, shall review updates to reports already available and/or new reports from all regions, to be submitted no later than 30 April 2002, and that the second session of the CRIC, to be held during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, shall carry out its functions pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of the terms of reference. After the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, the review shall be conducted in accordance with the timetable outlined in paragraphs 13 to 15 of decision 11/COP.1. The review shall focus on specific thematic issues identified by Parties.

7. *Requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the terms of reference, to compile, synthesize and provide a preliminary analysis of the reports submitted by Parties and observers and the reports on regional inputs, along thematic priorities identified by the Parties for submission to the CRIC;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the preparation of regional inputs for the review process, in cooperation with interested Parties, international, regional and subregional organizations and coordinating mechanisms, and representatives of civil society;

9. *Invites* Parties, in particular developed country Parties and interested organizations as well as private sector and non-governmental organizations, to contribute financially to the organization of regional meetings, including the preparation of national reports, and to the participation of representatives of affected developing country Parties, in particular the least developed among them, with a view to facilitating the preparation of regional inputs for the review process;

10. *Decides* that the key thematic topics for the review, up to and including the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, shall be the following:

- participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;
- legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
- resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements;
- linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
- measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
- drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
- access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the first session of the Committee appropriate documentation for that session.

*11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001*

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

A. Mandate and functions

1. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) shall assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and shall facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, pursuant to article 26 of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the Conference of the Parties concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. Particularly, it shall:

(a) At sessions held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties:

(i) Use as the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, the reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates, and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for;

(ii) Identify and analyse the efficiency and effectiveness of measures taken by the Parties and stakeholders with a view to focusing on activities that meet the needs of people living in affected areas and enhancing measures to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;

(iii) Identify and synthesize best practices, experiences and lessons learned;

(iv) Identify necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes;

(v) Identify emerging and challenging issues deriving from implementation;

(vi) Consider information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievements of the objectives of the Convention, including information from the Global Mechanism;

(vii) Identify ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as for the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(viii) Identify ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer, in particular from the developed countries to the developing countries, for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

(ix) Identify ways and means of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and all other interested institutions and organizations;

(x) Draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention;

(xi) Submit a comprehensive report to the Conference of the Parties in the light of its programme of work, including conclusions and recommendations;

(b) At sessions held during the COP:

(i) Consider the comprehensive report of the inter-sessional session;

(ii) Review regularly the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism;

(iii) Review regularly reports prepared by the secretariat on the execution of its functions;

(iv) Consider reports on the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.

with a view to elaborating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties;

B. Composition

2. The Committee shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention.

3. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which wishes to be represented at a session of the Committee as an observer may be admitted unless one third of the Parties present at the session object.

4. The Committee shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, of whom one shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. The Chairperson of the CRIC shall be a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Frequency of sessions and organization of work

5. Sessions of the Committee shall be held during and once between each of the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

6. Sessions of the Committee held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall not be longer than two weeks.

7. Extraordinary sessions of the Committee shall be held at such times as may be decided by the Conference of the Parties.

8. Sessions of the Committee shall be public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

9. The programme of work of the Committee, which should include estimates regarding financial implications, shall be approved by the Conference of the Parties. At the beginning of each of its sessions, the Committee shall adopt its agenda and organization of work for the session.

10. In agreement with the Chairperson of the Committee, the secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each session.

D. Nature of the review and methodology

11. The review shall be open and transparent, inclusive, flexible and facilitative, as well as effective in terms of the use of financial, technological and human resources. It shall be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise which will identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention, but it will not be an assessment of compliance.

12. The review shall be conducted thematically with due regard to geographic regions and subregions.

E. The review process

13. The review process shall examine, *inter alia*, reports submitted by the Parties, information and advice from the Global Mechanism and the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as reports by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for.

14. National reports shall be submitted to the secretariat for compilation, synthesis and preliminary analysis. Parties shall have an opportunity to review in reasonable time the portions of such documents prepared by the secretariat that refer to them by name.

15. The secretariat should, to the extent possible, take advantage of its ongoing work and activities at the regional and/or subregional levels to disseminate information stemming from its preliminary analysis and seek to obtain feedback with a view to enriching the Committee's work base, while favouring a bottom-up and participatory approach.

16. The secretariat shall compile a synthesis report for consideration by the Committee. The regional and subregional feedback referred to in paragraph 15 shall be annexed to the secretariat's report. The CST, including through the use of its Group of Experts, and the Global Mechanism shall be invited to provide to the CRIC advice and information on the basis of the report by the secretariat.

F. Outcome

17. The Committee shall report on its work at each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties.

18. The report of the Committee shall be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and any decision the Conference may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention.

G. Transparency of work

19. All the reports and the results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain.