

I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision 1/COP.6

Further steps in the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the extensive process of assessment by the Parties of the implementation of the Convention initiated with the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted to the fifth session of the Conference of Parties,

Mindful of the deliberations and outcome of the various regional meetings and the ministerial conferences organized in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention,

Having reviewed the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its first session, held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

Acknowledging the high degree of consistency between the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the measures advocated in the above report,

Resource mobilization including coordination and partnership agreements

1. *Recalls* the commitments of the Bonn Declaration and *Urges* that resources mobilization must be based on national and local needs and priorities and aim at national action programme (NAP) implementation in the context of a broader development framework such as poverty reduction strategies, national strategies for sustainable development, country assistance strategies and country strategy papers;
2. *Urges* the Global Mechanism (GM), together with the members of its Facilitation Committee, to promote resource mobilization for NAP implementation as a matter of the highest priority, as highlighted by the Declaration on the commitments to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4), without neglecting support to the subregional and regional action programmes;
3. *Invites* Parties, with the collaboration of relevant multilateral organizations including the GEF implementing agencies and the GM, to use the country-driven consultative mechanisms to identify the best options for mainstreaming the NAPs into national development frameworks and to mobilize the needed financial resources in a more predictable and coordinated manner;
4. *Urges* Parties to use the review process of the Convention to further strengthen the coherence of their ongoing bilateral and multilateral assistance within the framework of the implementation of the Convention and to actively incorporate findings into their procedures and programming of future assistance measures;

5. *Invites* affected developing countries, other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to identify, as appropriate, *chefs de file* to expedite the necessary consultative process, including the country-driven consultative mechanisms for partnership arrangements under the UNCCD to enhance the efforts for partnership building;
6. *Recognizes* that South-South and North-South cooperation needs more consistent support in the form of capacity building and financial allocation;
7. *Invites* the appropriate institutions to undertake a comprehensive study on the cost of inaction and to share this at the COP;

Rehabilitation of degraded land

8. *Urges* Parties, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to promote and facilitate the implementation of the programmes of the UNCCD relevant to the rehabilitation of degraded lands, in particular in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, as well as integrated water resources management and mountain ecosystem preservation;
9. *Encourages* Parties to take action at a specific spatial scale so as to address the local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic manner, notably through the promotion of small and medium-sized projects and activities at the local level, taking into account existing rehabilitation projects and promoting new rehabilitation projects;
10. *Urges* Parties, particularly developed country Parties, to support the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and habitats including those caused by refugee influxes;
11. *Invites* bilateral and multilateral agencies to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Convention in the light of the above provisions to vulnerable developing country Parties, particularly to those in Africa and Small Island Developing States, taking into account their vulnerability to the combined effects of land degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity;
12. *Invites* the GEF in its UNCCD-related activities to give support, within its mandate, to activities that lead directly to the enhancement of livelihood systems and prevention of land degradation;

Promotion of private sector and economic opportunities in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions/countries

13. *Encourages* Parties, concerned institutions and stakeholders to promote and expand economic and commercial opportunities in the drylands by linking private-sector initiatives to the identification of equal and fair economic opportunities for dryland goods and services;
14. *Recommends* to Parties and the private sector the taking of measures to increase the competitiveness of products and services in the drylands through the development of appropriate technologies for sustainable development in areas such as cash crop and livestock production,

aquaculture, recreation, ecotourism and adherence by the mining/extraction industry to codes of sustainable land use practice;

15. *Invites* Parties to adopt and enhance policy measures and incentive schemes to encourage private-sector support for technological and scientific cooperation benefiting the drylands, in order to encourage the dissemination of incentive systems and best practices which help mobilize private sector investments and promote public/private joint ventures, including within the NAPs;

16. *Requests* the secretariat to liaise with those concerned institutions which are exploring measures to facilitate opportunities for dryland products to access international markets;

Capacity building, including in the area of participatory processes, legislative and institutional frameworks and promotion of synergies

17. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with the support of developed country Parties, and concerned institutions, to promote gender-sensitive capacity-building measures for stakeholders to carry out specific participatory and synergistic programmes as part of their NAPs to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, protect biodiversity, facilitate the regeneration of degraded forests, while promoting sustainable livelihoods at local level;

18. *Encourages* Parties to mainstream NAPs into national development plans and institutional frameworks through national consultative processes, as appropriate;

19. *Urges* Parties to promote appropriate and transparent resource tenure systems and the protection of natural resources while establishing or reviewing effective means to combat land degradation, desertification and drought;

20. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with the support of developed country Parties and concerned institutions, to promote capacity-building measures and participatory processes in the field of natural resources management;

21. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to reflect in the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, the capacity-building needs identified by affected developing countries and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention in the implementation of the UNCCD;

22. *Urges* relevant institutions to make available to the national focal points further support in the form of information and training programmes, including training for negotiation, multi-sectoral programme planning and awareness of financial and technical resource mobilization opportunities within the programming cycle of bilateral and multilateral development partners;

23. *Encourages* the triangular arrangements with partners from the North, United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the initiatives for promoting training programmes and capacity building;

Monitoring and assessment, including the improvement of the reporting process

24. *Requests* the secretariat in collaboration with partner agencies, to support in a timely manner the process of national reporting;
25. *Also requests* the secretariat, together with partner agencies and in close collaboration with the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), to review the help guide for the preparation of national reports and update it where appropriate, to include indicators on, *inter alia*, women and youth participation, as well as social indicators;
26. *Further requests* the secretariat, with the support of the partner agencies, to ensure that future sessions of the CRIC be organized in such a manner as to facilitate inputs from scientists such as those involved in the work of CST, as well as to provide the Parties with outputs of previous related meetings at the regional and international levels;
27. *Invites* affected Parties to fully involve members of the scientific community in the UNCCD process and in particular in the NAP process;
28. *Recommends* to country Parties the adoption and prioritization of forest resources assessment techniques as a rational approach for effective analysis of the status of land cover in the decision-making and reporting process;
29. *Invites* the secretariat with the support of relevant institutions, to continue to promote the development of thematic programme networks (TPNs), best practices to combat desertification and, in particular, to bring more support to activities such as the networking of scientific institutions, technology transfer to developing countries, training at universities, internships and scholarships into the process of the development of subregional and regional programmes;

Awareness raising, information and communication

30. *Invites* Parties to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought for renewed national commitment, while launching awareness campaigns linking education and research programmes, and targeting a wide range of stakeholders;
31. *Recommends* that participatory awareness campaigns on desertification and drought, particularly the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, include tree planting events and focus on the following elements: (i) recognition of the growing threat to ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods under a scenario of increasingly extreme climatic events; (ii) advocacy for participatory rural development as a key element in poverty eradication strategies; (iii) recognition of the widespread downstream geopolitical consequences of phenomena such as forced migrations and conflicts; (iv) in the light of the above, recognition that prevention of further land degradation is more cost-effective than facing later the devastating consequences of inaction in the face of a worsening threat; (v) dissemination of lessons learned and best practices from successful dryland developments;
32. *Calls for* sensitization campaigns in developed country Parties to reflect better the global nature of the threats of land degradation, desertification and drought and of their multiple consequences;

33. *Requests* the CST to review the provisions of the report of the CRIC on participatory processes, benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems, research, technologies and knowledge and know-how, with a view to proposing appropriate scientific measures while taking into account progress made in this respect in the respective regions;

34. *Also requests* the secretariat and concerned institutions to collect and disseminate success stories and best practices in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought which keep in mind the due focus on poverty eradication in affected areas;

35. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to collect and disseminate information on financing opportunities and modalities of access to these funds and success stories and information on best practices on resource mobilization to enhance cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and to promote the exchange of experience among affected country Parties.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*