

## I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

### Decision 1/COP.7

#### Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Africa

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) places priority on Africa,

*Having reviewed with appreciation* the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its third session, which builds upon the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention in Africa and the recommendations from the three subregional workshops held in Africa and the consultations of the Parties covered by the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa held in Bonn,

*Aware* that African country Parties continue to face considerable difficulties, notably in accessing funding to support national undertakings to eradicate poverty and diversify livelihoods while combating desertification, land degradation and rural poverty,

*Welcoming* the renewed commitment of the international community to strengthen its support for eradicating poverty in Africa and *underlining* the potential of the Convention in this regard,

*Welcoming further* the increased efforts made by developing country Parties to integrate the objectives of the Convention into their overall sustainable development strategies,

*Recognizing* the need for effective legislative frameworks, including land tenure regimes, in the fight against land degradation,

#### Capacity-building

1. *Encourages* African country Parties to decentralize and devolve rights and management responsibilities in respect of natural resources to appropriate local levels through institutional arrangements, technical and enterprise support and adequate financing mechanisms;
2. *Urges* African country Parties to strengthen national coordinating bodies through budgetary and human resource support and by integrating them into the administrative structure at an appropriate level of authority with a view to effectively influencing policy-making processes in order to deliver coordination and mainstreaming functions;
3. *Invites* Parties to enhance approaches for civil society participation and to strengthen organizational, technical and financial mechanisms and structures at field level for addressing jointly environmental management and poverty eradication;

4. *Calls on* African country Parties, with the support of international organizations, to strengthen the capacities of Government and civil society, and to support agencies in the delivery of services for the formulation, execution and evaluation of participatory local area development programmes under the national action programme (NAP), including community/private/public partnerships;
5. *Encourages* African country Parties to enhance and improve their national reports, including their country profiles, as a tool to access and utilize data and information on the implementation of the Convention;
6. *Invites* African country Parties to synergistically implement the three Rio conventions and other relevant instruments;
7. *Urges* Parties and international organizations, with a view to developing an enabling environment, to increase cross-sectoral coordination and partnership development for pro-poor investments in the drylands, and to support capacity-building in a predictable and sustainable manner in all areas relevant to the implementation of the NAPs by African country Parties, including:
  - (a) Policy, programme and project planning and development, as well as negotiations skills;
  - (b) Adaptive natural resource management;
  - (c) Socio-economic analysis and development;
  - (d) Research, monitoring and information management;
  - (e) Analysis, documentation and dissemination of best practices; and
  - (f) Enterprise development and community/private partnerships;

Partnership building, mainstreaming, mobilization and channelling of resources for the implementation of NAPs in Africa

8. *Encourages* African country Parties to reflect national budgetary allocations for rural development and related initiatives that contribute to UNCCD activities and to indicate national shortfalls;
9. *Also encourages* developed country Parties and multilateral organizations to make information available on financial expenditures relating to the UNCCD process with information on agencies through which support was directed;
10. *Urges* developed country Parties and multilateral organizations to respond in a timely fashion to requests from African country Parties for financial resources relating to the implementation of the NAPs, including partnership building, mainstreaming, synergistic activities, development of local funding initiatives and intersectoral coordination, and to back efforts to achieve greater coherence for sustainable land management;
11. *Invites* Parties to systematically develop incentive frameworks linking conservation with productivity and income in rural areas and to target local entrepreneurs;

12. *Urges* the Global Mechanism (GM), together with the members of its Facilitation Committee, to expedite resource mobilization for the implementation of NAPs and sustainable land management;

13. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a financial mechanism of the Convention to provide support to developing country Parties for the implementation of NAPs and to report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session in this regard;

Enabling environment for knowledge sharing and for access to appropriate technologies, know-how and traditional knowledge

14. *Invites* developed country Parties and international organizations to support UNCCD programmes in Africa in promoting sustainable land management and poverty alleviation and in assisting the efforts of developing country Parties to disseminate and use traditional knowledge and to upscale good practices;

15. *Urges* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to pay particular attention to meeting the knowledge needs of African country Parties, including local communities, to combat desertification and poverty and to manage land sustainably by applying a mixture of traditional knowledge and modern technology, including information technology;

16. *Invites* the CST to consult with the GEF and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and its Implementing and Executing Agencies, to facilitate coherence and consistency in the elaboration of a compendium of benchmarking approaches for sustainable land management, to support the standardization of UNCCD-relevant benchmarks and to strengthen related information systems and processes that should devolve to, and assist African country Parties in, monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
28 October 2005*