

Decision 1/COP.8

Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in all regions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 1/COP.7 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Africa and the continuing relevance of its provisions,

Having reviewed with appreciation the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its fifth session, which builds upon the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention in regions other than Africa and the recommendations from the three regional workshops held in Panama City, Bangkok and Bonn covering the Regional Implementation Annexes II to V,

Recognizing that the outcome of the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in regions other than Africa during the fifth session of the CRIC often confirms the trends and findings identified through the review of implementation in Africa which was completed during the third session of the CRIC,

Aware of the need to identify the major aspects of land degradation arising in the various eco-geographical zones and to measure their severity in order to find appropriate solutions to protecting threatened ecosystems and eradicating poverty,

1. *Invites* Parties and international institutions to strengthen and standardize UNCCD reporting as well as to improve comprehensive and participatory monitoring and evaluation;
2. *Also invites* Parties and international institutions to strengthen capacities for the sharing of information on successful micro-level interventions at the level of local area programmes within the national action programmes (NAPs), since such interventions can be scaled up and thereby have the potential to influence national policies;
3. *Urges* affected country Parties to facilitate the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention, including, inter alia, environmental and socio-economic non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and local development associations, in accordance with national policy;
4. *Further urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* international organizations, to support capacity-building in a sustainable manner in all areas relevant to the implementation of the NAPs;
5. *Invites* developing countries to develop an enabling environment for sustainable land management and integrated water management, which includes economic measures, in accordance with international law, and coordination of sectoral policies, consistent with national policies;

6. *Encourages* affected country Parties and donors to ensure civil society participation in UNCCD processes and to take this issue into account when setting priorities in national development strategies;
7. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* multilateral organizations to mobilize and provide substantial financial resources from all sources, in particular for developing countries and for other eligible countries, where appropriate, for implementation of the objectives of the Convention;
8. *Requests* the Global Mechanism (GM) to play a more active role in mobilizing resources and maintaining a geographical balance so that countries with less capacity are also able to benefit from the resources, and *also requests* the GM to capitalize better on the demand-driven policy formulation process taking place in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes and the NAPs to facilitate responses from developed country Parties;
9. *Invites* Parties and international organizations to support participatory natural resource management as a tool to prevent land degradation and to promote the sharing of approaches and experiences in this regard;
10. *Also invites* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to assist in creating an international policy environment for the provision and transfer of adequate technology, particularly remote sensing technology, to affected country Parties for the establishment of effective monitoring and assessment systems;
11. *Urges* the CST to accelerate its efforts to establish links with scientific communities in order to make full use of relevant initiatives in areas relating to sustainable land and water management;
12. *Requests* affected Parties to focus their action programmes on implementing the Convention in the light of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);
13. *Further requests*, in the above context, developed country Parties to assist affected country Parties, particularly developing and other eligible countries, with the implementation of NAPs;
14. *Decides*, while the review process outlined in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 of decision 3/COP.8 is taking place, and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue through the Supplementary Fund to support, and where possible strengthen, the existing Regional Coordination Units, and *encourages* donors and, in accordance with national capacities and where appropriate, the Parties in the regions concerned to provide funds to this end.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*