

Decision 20/COP.10

Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) contained in the annex to decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, the implementation framework of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Acknowledging the need to mobilize scientific and technical expertise to address the problems of desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought,

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology with the support of the UNCCD secretariat in the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6 and the four options presented therein, as well as ICCD/COP(10)/CST/MISC.1,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to plan both long-term and short-term measures to enable the UNCCD to provide scientific support in pursuit of operational objective 3 of The Strategy (to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought);
2. *Decides* to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification, land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD;
3. *Invites* developed country Parties, national, regional and international organizations and relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions to support the ad hoc working group.

3rd plenary meeting

14 October 2011