

**Decision 20/COP.7**

Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, and in particular paragraph 18 of the annex to that decision, which concerns the review process,

*Recalling* also decisions 16/COP.3, 16/COP.4, 16/COP.5 and 20/COP.6 on the programme of work of the CST,

*Taking into account* the observations and recommendations made by the CST and its Group of Experts during the seventh session of the CST, in particular the need to focus and prioritize work,

*Taking note* of the interest by the CST in the relationship between climate and land degradation, monitoring and assessment, soil and water conservation, renewable energies, vulnerability and livelihood improvement,

1. *Decides* that the priority theme for discussion by the CST at its eighth session will be “The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement”;
2. *Welcomes* the offer of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to organize and find the necessary funding for an international workshop on climate and land degradation in 2006 to mark the IYDD, and *invites* the CST to assist the WMO in bringing together experts for the workshop and to present the workshop’s results to the COP at its eighth session;
3. *Encourages* Parties and all accredited organizations to prepare concise reports concerning this priority theme and to transmit them to the secretariat no later than six months before the next session of the CST;
4. *Requests* the CST Bureau to select three representative submissions for presentation to, and discussion by, the Parties at the eighth session of the CST;
5. *Further decides* that work on benchmarks and indicators (decision 17/COP.7) is the most urgent activity for the next two-year period, taking into account the results achieved in the framework of the relevant TPNs;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give priority to the activities identified in paragraph 5 when allocating funds within the Science and technology budget line;

7. *Encourages* Parties to support and continue work in other priority areas of the CST programme of work, inter alia the communication and information strategy (THEMANET) and the development of an integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation;

8. *Invites* the CST to work in collaboration with the WMO and other relevant organizations to address the interaction between climate, land degradation and livelihood security.

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