

Decision 20/COP.9

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention and decision 15/COP.7 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Acknowledging the report of the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6 and the support expressed by the Committee on Science and Technology during its ninth session,

Taking note of the generic proposal contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6 for a revised United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) fellowship programme to be developed by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Bearing in mind the need for scientific capacity-building in the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) at national level and the potential benefits of a UNCCD fellowship programme for developing country Parties and for scientific networking in the regions,

Taking note of the report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, contained in documents ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.2 and ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.3, on the need for national scientific capacity-building,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee, to take the necessary actions to further develop the proposal for a revised UNCCD fellowship programme;
2. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee to develop, with the support of the secretariat, detailed criteria and mechanisms for selection of scientific institutions and fellowship candidates in line with the revised programme;
3. *Encourages* the secretariat, the Bureau of the Committee, Parties, agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations to promote the involvement of scientific institutions with the capacity to do so in contributing to the implementation of a revised UNCCD fellowship programme;
4. *Invites* Parties and other interested organizations with the capacity to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the UNCCD fellowship programme.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*