

Decision 22/COP.10

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the UNCCD,

Also recalling decision 15/COP.7 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness 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) (The Strategy),

Recalling the consensus on the need to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme expressed by the Committee on Science and Technology at its seventh, eighth and ninth sessions,

Taking note of the overview of previous initiatives towards the creation of a fellowship programme contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8,

1. *Decides* that the multi-stakeholder partnership model should be applied in launching the fellowship programme;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to form a steering group, in collaboration with those institutions that formally express interest in the development of the fellowship programme, to articulate a clear strategy for the fellowship programme and to take advantage of existing opportunities for training and exchanges, catalysing further support where possible;
3. *Invites* the steering group to build partnerships, working with other institutions, including United Nations organizations, and with Parties to the Convention, to review the scope of the fellowship programme in order to ensure that it meets the current and future needs of Parties;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to link this approach to its efforts on capacity-building activities in the context of the implementation of operational objective 4 of The Strategy, ensuring regional balance and an appropriate curriculum;
5. *Invites* Parties and interested organizations with the capacity to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the fellowship programme in its multi-stakeholder partnership model;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to explore, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, the possibilities of having national, regional and international institutions support the fellowship programme;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate, in collaboration with the multi-stakeholder partnership, the establishment of the fellowship programme and to report on progress at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

3rd plenary meeting

14 October 2011