

## Decision 25/COP.11

### United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 19 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decisions 3/COP.8 and 22/COP.10,

*Recalling* the consensus on the need to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme expressed by the Committee on Science and Technology and previous initiatives taken towards the creation of a fellowship programme,

*Having considered* the conclusions and recommendations contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/8,

*Welcoming* initial pledges and commitments of support by potential partners of the fellowship programme,

1. *Welcomes* the proposed Partnership Agreement and Governance Manual for establishing the fellowship programme, as provided in Annex I of document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/8;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the fellowship programme steering group to establish and launch the fellowship programme based on the agreed governance model;
3. *Invites* the fellowship programme steering group in cooperation with the secretariat and the Regional Committees, and in collaboration with the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, to broaden the fellowship programme partnership, thereby ensuring the regional geographical balance;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to link the fellowship programme with other activities of the secretariat aimed at supporting capacity-building in accordance with operational objective 4 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), and to take further actions in this regard through, inter alia, promoting direct complementarity between these activities;
5. *Invites* the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats of the Rio conventions to consider collaboration in support of the UNCCD fellowship programme and other related capacity-building activities;
6. *Further invites* country Parties to actively encourage national and regional institutions to become partners of the fellowship programme to support the realization of its objectives in accordance with its scope and strategy;
7. *Recognizes* that effective delivery of the fellowship programme will require additional resources and *invites* Parties, organizations and the private sector, with the interest and capacity to do so, to make voluntary and in-kind contributions to support the fellowship programme in its multi-stakeholder partnership model;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, as a member of the fellowship programme steering group, to report on the implementation of fellowship programme and the evolution of the multi-stakeholder partnership governance model at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties.

*3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting*  
*20 September 2013*