

## Decision 26/COP.11

### Roster of independent experts

*The Conference of the Parties*

*Recalling* article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

*Recalling also* decision 23/COP.10,

*Having reviewed* the reports contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/15 and document ICCD/CRIC(12)/4-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/7 and Corr.1,

*Recognizing* the need to improve the quality of services provided to Parties in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention in line with the provisions of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

*Noting* the increasing need to involve the scientific community in the implementation of The Strategy and of activities in the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology,

*Acknowledging* the ongoing efforts made by the secretariat to update and validate the roster of independent experts based on nominations submitted by Parties,

1. *Invites* Parties to propose new candidates for the roster in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, including traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices, and of women, and a more balanced geographical distribution of non-governmental organizations;
2. *Urges* Parties to confirm which of their experts currently on the roster are to remain and to nominate new experts, as they deem necessary. National focal points will be responsible for confirming existing experts and proposing new experts to the secretariat providing their full postal and e-mail addresses;
3. *Adopts* the updated lists of disciplines and thematic areas, as agreed by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and provided in annex I and annex II of document ICCD/COP(11)/15;
4. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to update and review the list of disciplines every four years on the basis of the evolution of research on desertification/land degradation and drought, also including traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices, and to ensure that it is aligned with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) priority activities;
5. *Decides* that individual experts can submit a direct electronic application to the roster, subject to electronic approval by the relevant national focal point;
6. *Decides*, taking into account the needs of national focal points or experts with limited access to the internet, to maintain the current procedures for nominating and updating information on the experts in written form;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to:

- (a) Set up web-based facilities that allow for the direct electronic application and update of information by individual experts to the roster;
  - (b) Perform a validation process of all experts in the roster every four years;
  - (c) Remove from the roster those experts who have not been confirmed by the relevant national focal points by 31 March 2014 and those who have not been confirmed during the validation process;
  - (d) Communicate directly with experts, through e-mail or by post, in order to provide information on access to the roster, the editing of personal data, opportunities offered by the roster, as well as scientific and technical information;
  - (e) Make available updated statistics related to the roster, its gender balance, and representation by discipline on the UNCCD website;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to involve the experts on the roster in the various activities of the UNCCD, including participation in working groups, surveys and peer reviews as appropriate;
9. *Invites* Parties to involve the experts on the roster in local, national, regional and global activities related to the implementation of the Convention, including in the validation of best practices;
10. *Invites* Parties, and in particular science and technology correspondents, to involve experts in the promotion of relationships and networks with the scientific community at local, national, regional and global level, with the support of national focal points;
11. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

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