

Decision 28/COP.7

Celebration of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the interim report of the secretariat on the status of preparation of the 2006 IYDD (ICCD/COP(7)/13 and Add.1),

Recalling resolution 58/211 of the General Assembly which declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Noting the concern of the General Assembly with respect to the exacerbation of desertification, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the MDGs, in particular on poverty eradication,

Aware of the opportunity offered by the IYDD to raise public awareness of the issue of desertification and to protect the biological diversity, knowledge and traditions of communities affected by desertification,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* resolution 58/211 of the General Assembly;
2. *Welcomes also* the designation by the General Assembly of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD as focal point of the IYDD;
3. *Reiterates* the call made by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/211 to all relevant international organizations and Member States to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected country Parties, in particular African countries and the least developed countries
4. *Reiterates also* the call made by the same resolution to Parties to contribute, as they are able, to the Convention and to undertake special initiatives in observance of the Year with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the Convention;
5. *Invites* those Parties, international and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to inform the secretariat of activities envisaged for the observance of the IYDD;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to make available to the Parties and observers a consolidated list containing all activities reported in order to coordinate the information and avoid overlapping of activities;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat to prepare an interim report to the CRIC at its fifth session on the status of celebration of the IYDD;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the COP at its eighth session on the outcomes of the IYDD;

9. *Encourages* in that regard country Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund in order to ensure adequate implementation of General Assembly resolution 58/211.

*13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*