

Decision 2/COP.6Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 8/COP.5 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD),

Having considered document ICCD/COP(6)/5 entitled “Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification”,

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the Executive Secretary to ensure that the UNCCD goals and objectives, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, were duly noted in the outcome of the Summit,

1. *Welcomes* recognition by the WSSD of the UNCCD as one of the tools for poverty eradication;
2. *Underlines* the importance of the implementation of the Convention for meeting the Millennium Development Goals;
3. *Urges* all development partners, including United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, to make use of the Convention in their strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
4. *Welcomes also* the call made by the WSSD to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD to address poverty by, *inter alia*, mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources;
5. *Resolves*, in line with the outcome of the WSSD and with the objectives and obligations as outlined in the general provisions of the UNCCD, to strengthen implementation of the Convention. This would include action at all levels to:
 - Mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources, transfer technologies and build capacity at all levels, including through the GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention, with particular emphasis on supporting sustainable development in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;
 - Formulate national action programmes as priority tools to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Convention and its related projects, with the support of the international community, including through decentralized projects at the local level;

- Encourage the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to continue exploring and enhancing synergies, within their respective mandates, in the elaboration and implementation of plans and strategies under the respective conventions;
 - Integrate measures to prevent and combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought by means of relevant policies and programmes, such as those on land, water and forest management, agriculture, rural development, early warning systems, environment, energy, natural resources, health and education, as well as poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies;
 - Provide affordable local access to information in order to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought;
 - Improve the sustainability of grassland resources through strengthening management and law enforcement and providing financial and technical support to developing countries;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate actively in the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD, including through relevant sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and to report to the Conference of the Parties accordingly;
7. *Encourages* Parties to ensure good linkages between the WSSD follow-up, in particular the CSD process, and the UNCCD.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*