

## **Decision 2/COP.8**

### **Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the Convention and preparation for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 2/COP.6 and 2/COP.7 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its follow-up,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 61/202 underlining the importance of the issue of desertification in the process of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and in particular in the context of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD dealing with thematic clusters on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and with Africa,

*Emphasizing* the potential of these sessions to strengthen international awareness of and commitment to the implementation of the Convention, and the need for timely and substantive preparations for UNCCD input into this process,

*Taking note* of documents ICCD/COP(8)/5 and ICCD/COP(8)/5/Add.1 on the follow-up to the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD and the preparation for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD,

*Acknowledging* the potential of the UNCCD to build on links between combating desertification and land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and integrated water management,

*Noting with appreciation* the activities relating to the follow-up of the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the Convention undertaken by the Executive Secretary and his necessary efforts, in the aftermath of the International Year on Deserts and Desertification, to promote and raise awareness of the UNCCD and of its contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, actively to prepare for and participate in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD core issues, particularly those relating to land degradation, drought, desertification and their nexus with poverty eradication, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development, are duly considered during the deliberations of the review session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the CSD;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in this context, on the basis of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008 –2018), to submit for the consideration of the CSD, inter alia, the following matters:

(a) The need to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, including sustainable land management;

(b) Strengthening of those policies and measures, including capacity-building at local level, which contribute to sustainable land management;

(c) Enhanced national and international support for frameworks that promote access to food and water for affected populations;

(d) Combating desertification through, inter alia, the rehabilitation of degraded land, as a means of adaptation to climate change;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to participate in, and to continue to contribute input to, as appropriate, activities carried out at regional level preparatory to the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;

4. *Further encourages* Parties to involve UNCCD national focal points and non-governmental organizations in the work carried out in the context of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;

5. *Invites* Parties, in accordance with national capacities, to provide support to the UNCCD preparations for, and participation in, the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the CSD;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on activities carried out to implement this decision.

*9th plenary meeting  
14 September 2007*