

Decision 3/COP.7Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and strategy
development to foster the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System (JIU) commissioned in decision 23/COP.6,

Noting that the report presents Parties and stakeholders with a unique opportunity to provide strategic guidance and direction in order to foster the full and effective implementation of the Convention,

Stressing the need for strategic guidance and targets in order to foster the implementation of the Convention as stated in article 4 of the UNCCD, for the Parties to implement their obligations under the Convention, individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate, emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long-term strategy at all levels,

Recognizing the need for an in-depth analysis, time and process to determine the actions required to give effect to the recommendations contained in the JIU report,

Recognizing also the need to define the process and modalities for dealing with the JIU report in order to foster the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing furthermore the sense of urgency to commence with this process as soon as possible,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with the mandate to review the JIU report in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD by addressing, inter alia, the recommendations of the JIU report;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the Parties and the working group with comments and views on the JIU report, including his management response to the recommendations pertaining to the secretariat contained in the report, in accordance with article 11(4)(d) of the Statute of the JIU, and *invites* the Executive Secretary to provide additional comments and views to further the work of the working group;
3. *Calls upon* the Parties to submit views and comments on the JIU report to the working group as early as possible after the closure of COP 7, and no later than 1 March 2006;
4. *Invites* the Parties as well as other stakeholders to submit views and comments to the working group to assist it in the development of the strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD;

5. *Decides* that the working group will consist of 18 members, comprising the President of COP 7, the Chairperson of the CRIC, the Chairperson of the CST and three members from each of the five regional groups to be nominated no later than 1 February 2006. The working group may decide to draw upon the expertise of resource persons and institutions, as it may deem necessary, for the fulfilment of its mandate;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of COP 7, by 1 February 2006, to develop terms of reference covering the mandate and functioning of the working group, as outlined in this decision;
7. *Further requests* the working group to develop a work programme to implement its mandate by 3 April 2006;
8. *Requests* the working group to report periodically to the Bureau of COP 7 on its activities and on progress made, and to transmit periodic reports and other outputs to the secretariat for posting on the UNCCD website;
9. *Requests* the working group to consult with Parties, as well as other stakeholders, in order to further its work, making use of planned Convention-related meetings whenever possible;
10. *Requests* the Bureau of COP 7 to consider, inter alia, the following issues in further developing the terms of reference for the working group:
 - (a) How to enhance Parties' capacities to integrate UNCCD objectives into regional, subregional and national development plans and strategies;
 - (b) How to engage the international community in setting benchmarks and defining indicators for progress;
 - (c) How to make the Convention a centre of excellence in scientific and technical knowledge and best practices;
 - (d) Synergies:
 - (i) How to enhance synergies between combating desertification and land degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
 - (ii) How to ensure that enhanced synergies contribute to fulfilment of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to implementation of the MDGs, as agreed at the Millennium Summit;
 - (e) How to improve political will and commitment to the Convention;
 - (f) How to improve the engagement and commitment of Parties to the Convention;
 - (g) How to ensure a better balance between the resourcing of the secretariat and the core functions that the Parties are asking it to perform;

- (h) Resource mobilization:
- (i) How to ensure better targeting of existing resources and how to mobilize new resources for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (ii) How to build capacities of affected developing country Parties to access financial resources, especially the GEF, for funding activities to combat desertification and land degradation;
 - (iii) How to improve resourcing for activities to combat desertification and land degradation, especially through the GEF;

11. *Urges* Parties to contribute on a voluntary basis either to the Supplementary Fund or in kind to cover the cost of the activities of the working group, and *authorizes* the Executive Secretary to seek contributions;

12. *Directs* the working group, by 1 June 2007, to complete its work and transmit its report and the draft strategic plan and framework to COP 8 for appropriate action.

13th plenary meeting
28 October 2005