

Decision 3/COP.9

Mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 3 (b) of the Convention, and the specificity of this treaty compared to the other Rio conventions as articulated in its Regional Implementation Annexes for Africa (Annex I); Asia (Annex II); Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex III); the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV); and Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V),

Recalling also articles 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 of the Convention, further emphasizing the need for effective regional cooperation and coordination on implementation of the Convention,

Recalling further decisions 3/COP.3, 4/COP.4, 6/COP.5, 11/COP.6 and 11/COP.7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) on regional coordination units as well as decision 3/COP.8,

Recognizing the importance of regional coordination in the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), and the need for coordination mechanisms responsive to existing and emerging challenges, capacities and the specific issues of regions,

Stressing the need to facilitate dialogue between affected country Parties on the global threat of desertification and land degradation, as well as regional specific challenges that can better be addressed by creating an enabling policy environment,

Recalling the integration of aligned action programmes into national, subregional and regional development policies and instruments, their monitoring and reporting to the Conference of the Parties on progress achieved,

Stressing the need for coordination between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) at all levels, including at subregional and regional levels,

Taking into account the need to explore ways to enhance synergies among the existing relevant institutions involved in the implementation of the Convention, as well as to build effective partnerships between national, regional and international actors,

Taking also into account the need to avoid duplication and overlapping and to take action at the appropriate level(s),

Taking further into account the existing mechanisms of regional coordination, the thematic network programmes (TPNs) and the regional coordination units (RCUs), and the

important results achieved so far in assisting affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention, *while recognizing* the need to improve their effectiveness,

Taking into account paragraphs 29 to 33 of decision 3/COP.8 on The Strategy, containing provisions on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of document ICCD/CRIC(7)/INF.6, and in particular of its annex II containing factual information on services or engagements relating to coordination that are currently provided by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism at subregional and regional levels,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(9)/MISC.2, containing the regional proposals for mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of implementation of the Convention prepared by the Regional Implementation Annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe,

Taking note of document ICCD/COP(9)/3 entitled “Evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements”, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the GM,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs) to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, as requested in The Strategy, to facilitate cooperation among affected country Parties within the regions, and to enhance synergies among the relevant institutions, programmes and mechanisms of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, bilateral donors and other regional and subregional actors and mechanisms in order to facilitate regional and subregional action programmes and, where appropriate, provide technical assistance to the national action programmes;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM within available resources to assist regional coordination according to existing and emerging needs, capacities and specific issues, in consultation with the regions, with a view to enhancing interaction with and between affected country Parties and other organizations and institutions, as well as strengthening the efficiency and impact of their activities in support of the achievement of the operational objectives of The Strategy and the objectives of the Convention;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to support regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs), as appropriate. The RCMs could include, inter alia, regional committees, TPNs and regional coordination units (RCUs). The Executive Secretary should, if so requested by the regions, provide one post per region within the available resources of the core budget, as reflected in costed two-year work programmes, in order to support the RCMs. Staff provided by the GM within available resources should be co-located with posts deployed from the secretariat in the same host institution or host country. The RCMs would utilize, as appropriate, locations and components of the existing RCUs. The secretariat and the GM would ensure that the work undertaken in order to facilitate regional cooperation does not duplicate the work being undertaken at headquarters. The posts deployed by the

Executive Secretary to support the RCMs would report to the appropriate unit in the secretariat. The Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM should provide these posts/staff to each of the RCMs, as requested by the regions, within available resources, before the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in 2010;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to actively collaborate on the joint work programme, in order to enhance their cooperation and provide effective support to affected country Parties, in a way that is consistent with their respective mandates as identified in the Convention, and to facilitate regional coordination and contribute to cooperation in the regions, including, inter alia, capacity-building, transfer of technology and other needs;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to review the current hosting arrangements of the existing RCUs, and to conclude, where appropriate, new memorandums of understanding with host institutions and host countries, with a view to reducing direct operational costs, accommodating additional staff, and strengthening partnerships at subregional and regional levels, and to explore alternatives, where appropriate;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, at the initiative of Central and Eastern European country Parties, to facilitate the establishment of a RCM for Annex V, by exploring synergies with relevant national, subregional and regional institutions which have expressed interest in hosting such a mechanism. For this purpose, *further requests* the Executive Secretary to provide one post as indicated in operative paragraph 3. In the beginning this post might be based at the secretariat headquarters and be relocated to the region at a later stage at the request of Central and Eastern European country Parties;

7. *Invites* developed country Parties, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to provide technical and financial support to the RCUs, including through voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund and contributions in kind, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its tenth session on the implementation of this process and the results achieved, with a comprehensive review of the RCM arrangements as a component of the mid-term review of The Strategy.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*