

Decision 4/COP.4Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 6/COP.2 and 3/COP.3,

Recalling also decision 2/COP.1 and its annex containing the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat to present the reports,

Taking note of the reports on programme and budget presented by the Executive Secretary to the Conference of Parties at its fourth session in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1 to 8,

A. The core budget

1. *Approves the increase to the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2000-2001 by US\$335,300 for the logistical costs of the inter-sessional meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group; this will not constitute a precedent for the future;*

2. *Reminds all Parties that the contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules of the Convention, and that they should pay promptly and in full their contributions for the year 2001;*

3. *Calls upon Parties that have not yet done so to pay as soon as possible and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for 1999 and 2000;*

4. *Notes the work being done to establish common administrative services in Bonn with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and requests the Executive Secretary to report to its fifth session any outcome taking into account the unique features of the convention, as well as the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;*

5. *Also notes the report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds for 1999, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3, and the report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds for 2000 as of 30 June 2000, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6;*

6. *Invites the Executive Secretary to report to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties on the performance of all the Convention's trust funds in 2000 and 2001 in accordance with the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;*

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue consultations with the relevant departments of the United Nations in order to secure more resources from the overhead to fund the Convention's activities, including those related to liaison arrangements with the United Nations Headquarters;

8. *Welcomes* the audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds in 1999, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5 (A) and (B);

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session a Programme Budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in the proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2002-2003, to include detailed tables of the proposed expenditures and resource requirements for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

11. *Further requests* the secretariat to inform at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties on activities to be funded out of the core budget, and where appropriate, out of the Supplementary Fund, and in consistency with the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Reconfirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary, as contained in decision 3/COP.3, to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 to 6 of the approved budget of the biennium 2000-2001, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, particularly for the financing of the two meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6, paragraph 22.

B. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

13. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contribution of DM 1 million to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

14. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund amounting to US\$9,256,300 for 2001, and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules for:

(a) Support to the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

15. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund amounting to US\$1,914,400, and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules, in order to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and in particular, the inter-sessional meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group following the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties; if the necessary funding for the inter-sessional meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group is not forthcoming, the Conference of the Parties *approves*, on an exceptional basis, the use of assessed financial contributions from States that become Parties to the Convention in 2000 and 2001;

16. *Notes* the estimated additional cost that will be incurred in the event that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn and *invites* the Executive Secretary to seek additional contributions to cover that cost as appropriate;

17. *Notes* that there has been insufficient time at its fourth session to consider the report ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1 on regional coordination units; and in this context, *requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a new report providing a more detailed and thorough evaluation of the need for, feasibility of, modalities for and costs involved for the regional coordination units as well as an evaluation to address the approach to regional level activities within the United Nations system, taking into account the need to avoid duplication of the mandates of existing organizations, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision at its fifth session;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the report on the performance of the Trust Fund for supplementary activities in 1999, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4, and the report on the performance of the Trust Fund for supplementary activities in 2000, as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.7;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session on the status of the trust funds established under the Financial Rules.

Annex

**Incremental costs of holding the fifth session of
the Conference of the Parties in Bonn**
(Thousands of US dollars)

Item of expenditure	2001
Incremental costs	942.2
Contingencies	29.0
Subtotal	971.2
Overhead charge	126.3
Working capital reserve	91.1
Total	1,188.6