

## Decision 5/COP.11

### **Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 22, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

*Recalling also* rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties on the participation of other bodies or agencies, and decisions 1/COP.1 and 26/COP.1 on the accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations,

*Further recalling* decisions 5/COP.9 and 5/COP.10,

*Stressing* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the involvement of these stakeholders in the implementation of the UNCCD and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy),

*Taking note* of the recommendations made by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its eleventh session on the above-mentioned issues as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1,

*Concerned with* the limited attendance of civil society at the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

*Having considered* document ICCD/COP(11)/4,

1. *Invites* Parties to promote the active involvement of civil society organizations, including those of indigenous people, local communities and youth, in the Convention process at the international level, including through the accreditation process, with a view to ensuring the increased and more representative participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to further promote the involvement of business and private entities in UNCCD meetings and processes, and to develop a business engagement strategy outlining the objectives, modalities and conditions of UNCCD partnerships with business and private entities for consideration and approval of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties ad interim and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session;
3. *Urges* those Parties, organizations and private sector entities in a position to do so to make voluntary and in-kind contributions to support a wider participation of civil society organizations in UNCCD meetings; and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to, as appropriate, explore ways and means to raise more funding in this regard through specific initiatives based on substantive inputs from civil society organizations in the intergovernmental process;

4. *Decides* that the composition of the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel should include two representatives from the secretariat and one representative from civil society organizations from countries belonging to each of the five United Nations Regional Groups of Member States,<sup>1</sup>
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the renewal of memberships to the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel by January 2014, and *decides* that these memberships should be renewed every two years;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on the implementation of this decision, including the report of the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel on the implementation of its tasks.

*10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
27 September 2013*

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<sup>1</sup> African Group, Asia-Pacific Group, Eastern European Group, Latin American and Caribbean Group, Western European and Others Group.