

Decision 5/COP.3

Consideration of reports on implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 10/COP.1 and 10/COP.2 on review of the implementation of the Convention as well as decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Having considered reports submitted by affected African country Parties, subregional organizations, developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the Convention and the compilation and synthesis of these by the secretariat,

Having also considered the relevance of comments, suggestions and recommendations contained in the reports and those made during the panel discussions at its current session,

A. Reports by affected developing countries

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in affected African country Parties, demonstrating the considerable range of activities and efforts already undertaken in implementation of the Convention, particularly in the elaboration, adoption and implementation of action programmes;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the considerable number of reports submitted by African country Parties for review by the Conference of the Parties at its current session;

3. *Encourages* affected developing countries to sustain and strengthen reforms currently in progress toward greater decentralization and to pursue their efforts in implementing the Convention, notably at local level;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the empowerment of people and their involvement in the process of formulating, implementing, and evaluating national action programmes;

5. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties to strengthen, as appropriate, links between national focal points and their authorities responsible for development cooperation;

6. *Also encourages* affected developing country Parties to enhance integration of the implementation of the Convention into national development strategies and other relevant policy areas;

B. Reports by subregional and regional organizations

7. *Recognizes* the important role played by African subregional and regional organizations in the elaboration and implementation of regional and subregional action programmes and through assisting some countries in the elaboration and implementation of their national action programmes;

8. *Recognizes* the need to take necessary measures to integrate African countries not members of the aforementioned organizations in the preparation and implementation of subregional action programmes covering the five African subregions as stated in article 10 of the regional implementation annex for Africa;

9. *Recognizes* the subregional and regional action programmes as potential tools to address, inter alia, sustainable management of transboundary natural resources and promote initiatives where increased efficiency can be obtained through joint action;

10. *Invites* the regional and subregional organizations to include as appropriate in their agenda the promotion of cooperation and exchange of experience between their member States related to implementation of the Convention;

11. *Also invites* African affected country Parties to establish the appropriate interface between national, subregional and regional action programmes through sufficient consultations between the processes;

12. *Recommends* that affected developing country Parties should ensure that subregional and regional action programmes do not implement projects and activities similar to those deriving from national action programmes, by focusing on themes where subregional and regional activities clearly have a comparative advantage over national action programmes.

C. Reports by developed countries

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the continuous support provided by several developed country Parties for activities related to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

14. *Takes note* of the need to clearly differentiate the contributions allocated for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and land degradation from other official development assistance and to disseminate that information;

15. *Urges* developed country Parties to strengthen their efforts in creating awareness of matters related to the Convention among all their relevant institutions and bodies;

16. *Encourages* developed country Parties, in order for the Convention to be effectively and efficiently implemented, to coordinate and strengthen their efforts to integrate implementation of the Convention into ongoing and future bilateral and multilateral development cooperation;

17. *Calls upon* developed country Parties to undertake efforts to improve their reports on measures taken to assist affected developing country Parties in the implementation of the Convention, and to submit these reports in timely fashion for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Urges* developed country Parties to support affected developing country Parties in strengthening the linkages between the Convention and other Rio conventions, in order to share experience and to use, as appropriate, common data;

D. Reports by United Nations system organizations
and by intergovernmental organizations

19. *Recommends* that the experience and lessons learned from establishing technical networks between affected countries and from developing monitoring systems for drought and freshwater and environmental management systems by the United Nations specialized agencies, are disseminated to all relevant forums;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the coordination of technical work between the United Nations specialized agencies and the secretariat;

E. Reports by non-governmental organizations

21. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the reports and case studies presented by non-governmental organizations on their activities in the implementation of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, and encourages submission of reports especially through their network organizations;

22. *Recognizes* the special role and contribution of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of measures to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought and encourages Parties to draw upon their capabilities to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

F. Other issues

23. *Encourages* Parties to assess and evaluate progress made in implementing the Convention by using pertinent, quantifiable and readily verifiable indicators and benchmarks, including those related to measuring the participation of all local populations, communities and major groups, particularly women and youth;

24. *Requests* the Parties to take measures to ensure that women's capacity, particularly at grass-roots level, is reinforced through the national action programmes, including: awareness raising, education, training, income-generating activities and access to credit; and to encourage the participation of women in decision-making processes for the implementation of the Convention;

25. *Calls upon* Governments, developed countries, United Nations agencies and programmes, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector for further support in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention by providing financial resources and by facilitating the transfer of technology to affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, as well as by improving coordination among all actors;

26. *Requests* the secretariat to provide for the forthcoming sessions of the Conference of the Parties a synthesis by each subregion, with the aim of elaborating a comparative document on the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

27. *Takes note* of the collaboration between the secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the process of

establishing regional coordination units in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean and also takes note of the decision made at the Conference of the Parties at its third session to request the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the need for, feasibility of, and modalities for the regional coordination units, and the costs involved, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision;

28. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to prepare a guide to help affected developing country Parties in the convening of consultative processes leading to the conclusion of partnership agreements based on experience with other such arrangements and innovative processes;

29. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, to effectively assist affected African country Parties, upon request, in facilitating the convocation of consultative processes in order to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes;

30. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report at each session on their role to facilitate these processes and the results obtained.

*12th plenary
26 November 1999*