

Decision 6/COP.6Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(2)/6,

Taking into consideration the report of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in referring to issues Parties would wish to see addressed in the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management,

Designation of a financial mechanism

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August-September 2002, which, *inter alia*, recognized the complementary roles of the GEF and the Global Mechanism of the Convention in providing and mobilizing resources, and called on the Second GEF Assembly to consider making the GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention;
2. *Welcomes also* the decision of the Second GEF Assembly in October 2002, in Beijing, China, declaring that the GEF should be available as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, if the Conference of the Parties should so decide;
3. *Further welcomes* the decision of the GEF Council in May 2003 in Washington D.C., United States of America, establishing a new operational programme on sustainable land management;
4. *Decides* to accept the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention and in accordance with the GEF Instrument as amended;

Arrangements for establishing a working relationship with the Global Environment Facility

5. *Welcomes* the decision by the GEF Council at its meeting in May 2003, requesting the GEF secretariat to discuss with the UNCCD secretariat the arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, to consult with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the GEF with a view to preparing and agreeing upon a Memorandum of Understanding on the arrangements called for in paragraph 5 above for consideration and adoption by the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties and *Requests* that such arrangements should be concluded between the secretariat and the GEF and elaborate on how the GEF should take into consideration policies, strategies and priorities agreed upon by the COP;

7. *Invites* Parties to submit, before 1 January 2004, their views on the policies, strategies and priorities mentioned in paragraph 6 above to the secretariat; and requests the secretariat to compile these submissions to assist the COP in its considerations and decision-making in this regard;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on measures taken to implement this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*