

Decision 7/COP.9

Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and outcome of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of a solid policy basis for the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling decision 3/COP.8 which called on the Executive Secretary to consider engaging in policy dialogue on The Strategy to foster awareness of and buy-in among relevant policy decision makers, making use, inter alia, of the opportunities provided by the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 63/218,

Appreciating that the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions focused on desertification, drought, rural development, land, agriculture and Africa's development,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions;
2. *Takes note also* of the call to member states made at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to support and to strengthen the implementation of The Strategy;
3. *Invites* relevant organizations and agencies, especially from the United Nations system, inter alia, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, to provide technical and financial support to eligible countries in order, to implement the policy recommendations of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on land-use options, drought mitigation and combating desertification;
4. *Invites* all relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate with the secretariat in supporting an effective response to desertification and drought;

5. *Encourages* Parties to develop national, regional and sub-regional research centres and networks for the exchange of research, information, traditional and cultural knowledge, and technology concerning arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*