

Decision 8/COP.10

Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” and the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 7/COP.9,

Further recalling the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals adopted at its sixty-fifth session (General Assembly resolution 65/1),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/160, the subsequent sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly and the high-level meeting on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 64/236 convening the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Further recalling the objective of the Conference, which is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging challenges,

Aware that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including its preparatory process, should ensure the balanced integration of economic development, social development and environmental protection, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development,

Underlining the relevance of the core issues of the UNCCD to the themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),

Drawing attention to the need to raise the profile of desertification, land degradation and drought among the priority issues to be addressed by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development during its preparatory process,

Noting that one of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was the recognition of the Convention as an important tool in eradicating poverty,

Noting that the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” emphasized that desertification, land degradation and drought are pervasive problems, particularly in arid, semi-arid and dry sub humid areas, and need to be addressed in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Noting further that the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” emphasized that the UNCCD serves as a tool, inter alia, to achieve food security, poverty eradication and sustainable development, to promote sustainable land use in drylands, and to enhance the scientific process so that desertification, land degradation and drought issues are better understood and addressed;

1. *Expresses* its deep appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for convening and holding at its sixty-sixth session, on 20 September 2011, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”;
2. *Takes note of* the summary of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” presented by the President of the General Assembly at this Conference of the Parties;
3. *Takes note also of* the decision of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Rio+20 held in New York on 7 and 8 March 2011 requesting its Bureau to initiate an open, transparent and inclusive process led by Member States, to prepare in a timely manner a draft text, based upon all preparatory inputs, to serve as the basis for an outcome document for the Conference and inviting all Member States, the relevant United Nations system organizations, and relevant stakeholders to provide their inputs and contributions in writing by 1 November 2011 for inclusion in a compilation document to serve as the basis for the preparation of zero-draft of the outcome document;
4. *Invites* Parties to submit their inputs to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for inclusion in the compilation document by 1 November 2011;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to actively prepare for and participate in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to contribute to the compilation document within the context of the conference themes, with a view to ensuring that due regard is paid to desertification, land degradation and drought issues;
6. *Invites* the President of the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session to convey this decision to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a contribution of the Conference of the Parties to the document referred to in paragraph 3 above;
7. *Decides* to include in the agenda of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session an agenda item entitled: “Follow up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on ‘Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’ and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session on the implementation of the present decision.

*9th plenary meeting
21 October 2011*