

**Decision 8/COP.3**

The Recife Initiative:  
Towards enhancing the implementation of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention related to its implementation and to the obligations of the Parties,

*Underlining* that efforts to prevent and control desertification have not been sufficient to stem its spread,

*Asserting* that achievement of the objectives of the Convention depends on the active fulfilment of commitments and effective participation of all relevant parties in the process of formulating and implementing action programmes, as well as an enabling environment,

*Taking into account* the efforts already made in the framework of regional, subregional and national action programmes and the contribution of all Parties thereto,

*Reiterating* the need to adopt measures that will contribute to the eradication of poverty by reducing the vulnerability of people living in areas of the world affected by desertification and drought,

*Reaffirming* the urgent need to mobilize substantial financial resources and to promote transfer of technology, know-how and capacity-building for combating desertification and drought processes,

*Having considered* the reports on implementation of the Convention submitted by subregional organizations and developed country Parties, as well as international organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations,

*Taking into account* the obstacles encountered by developing countries as reflected in their national reports, as well as lessons learned in their efforts to implement the Convention,

*With a view to undertaking* to identify the critical elements necessary to enhance implementation of the Convention,

1. *Stresses* the necessity to formulate, for consideration and adoption at its fourth session in the year 2000, a declaration on the commitments under the Convention to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention;

2. *Stresses also* that the declaration should cover an agreed period and be focused on a limited number of specific thematic and sectoral areas to be determined and consistent with action programmes under the Convention;

3. *Stresses further* the need to integrate implementation of the Convention into the mainstream national development strategies of affected countries, in particular developing country Parties, as well as into the relevant mainstream strategies and operations of all developed country Parties and multilateral and other development institutions;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of further work on benchmarks and indicators with a view to developing suitable quantitative and qualitative systems of evaluation;

5. *Further emphasizes* the need to provide expertise, especially to affected developing country Parties, in order to support the implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including implementation-related inputs from the Committee on Science and Technology;

6. *Invites* all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit their written proposals and/or suggestions for the text of the declaration to the secretariat no later than 30 April 2000;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to bring further efforts to the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take appropriate action for the formulation of a draft declaration and to circulate it, together with a compilation and a synthesis of proposals and/or suggestions to all Parties at least eight weeks prior to its fourth session.

*12th plenary  
26 November 1999*