

Decision 8/COP.8

Improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 11/COP.1, 5/COP.2, 10/COP.4, 1/COP.5, 3/COP.5, 10/COP.5, 1/COP.6, 4/COP.6 and 8/COP.7 and the clear need to take measures to implement these decisions in full,

Taking note with appreciation of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and the format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP),

Aware that the AHWG has provided its findings and recommendations and that the third cycle of communication of information was completed at the COP at its eighth session,

Acknowledging that simplification and capturing the results achieved should be features of the revised reporting guidelines of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and that for small island developing States flexibility in the reporting format is desirable,

Noting that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment provided an impetus for a more systematic assessment of the economic value of environmental assets,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the Global Mechanism, to develop draft reporting guidelines before the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, seeking external support, as appropriate, for the following entities that are requested to report regularly to the COP, or otherwise to provide information, on support to the implementation of the Convention:

- (a) Affected country Parties, including country profile
- (b) Developed country Parties
- (c) United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and relevant international financial institutions and mechanisms
- (d) The Global Environment Facility (GEF), in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF
- (e) The secretariat
- (f) The Global Mechanism (GM);

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM, to advise on and/or establish detailed draft reporting guidelines, formats and help guides, as necessary, for:
 - (a) Reports on implementation of subregional action programmes
 - (b) Reports on implementation of regional action programmes;
3. *Further requests* that the reporting guidelines should be in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and should take into consideration the report of the AHWG;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to consult with the other secretariats of the Joint Liaison Group and to advise on ways to make reporting more efficient, taking into account the reporting procedures and obligations under each Rio convention.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*