

**Decision 9/COP.5**

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 21 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which establishes *inter alia* that "The Conference of the Parties shall promote the availability of financial mechanisms and shall encourage such mechanisms to seek to maximize the availability of funding for affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa, to implement the Convention",

*Being aware* that adequate and predictable financial resources are required in pursuit of the implementation of the Convention and the full and effective achievement of its objectives,

*Noting* the report of the Executive Secretary on the follow-up to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council decisions made in response to decision 9/COP.4 on collaboration with the GEF,

1. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the GEF Council at its May 2001 session to pursue the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a GEF focal area as a means of enhancing GEF support for the successful implementation of the UNCCD;

2. *Encourages* the GEF Council to take the necessary next steps in pursuit of designating land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a GEF focal area;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to continue to cooperate actively in the GEF secretariat's work on modalities for designating land degradation as a focal area;

4. *Encourages* further meetings of the Third Replenishment of the GEF to consider the need for new and additional financial resources, in the context of the Third Replenishment, to assist in achieving the objectives of the UNCCD;

5. *Further encourages* the GEF at its forthcoming meetings on replenishment, in the light of the possible designation by the GEF Assembly of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a new focal area of the GEF, to consider the needs arising from such designation.

*11th plenary meeting  
12 October 2001*