1. By its decision 23/COP.1, on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), the Conference of the Parties (COP) approved the proposal contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1 submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on behalf of itself and a consortium of members, for the work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

2. In the same decision, the COP adopted terms of reference for the work and requested the head of the secretariat to enter into any necessary contractual arrangements on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for completion of the work within the framework of the terms of reference.

3. The COP also requested UNEP to include the participation of any other organization qualified and able to contribute to the work contemplated in the proposal, provided that such organization indicated its interest to UNEP no later than 15 December 1997.

4. The interim report of UNEP on progress on this work is before the COP in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1.