26. By the end of 1999, 160 countries had acceded the Convention; 42 African countries had submitted their national reports to the COP. Altogether, 29 national action programmes were finalized in various regions. Three subregional action programmes were launched in the African region and three in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Six regional thematic programme networks were prepared both in the African and Asian regions. Support was also provided for the functioning of three regional coordination units through extrabudgetary contributions.

28. Through the above-mentioned activities, the Convention has moved from awareness-raising to facilitating the preparation of programmes for combating desertification and seeking to promote partnership arrangements for their timely implementation.

Combine the two paragraphs, which should read

26. By the end of 1999, 160 countries had acceded the Convention; 42 African countries had submitted their national reports to the COP. Altogether, 29 national action programmes were finalized in various regions. Three subregional action programmes were launched in the African region and three in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Six regional thematic programme networks were prepared both in the African and Asian regions. Support was also provided for the functioning of three regional coordination units through extrabudgetary contributions. Through the above-mentioned activities, the Convention has moved from awareness-raising to facilitating the preparation of programmes for combating desertification and seeking to promote partnership arrangements for their timely implementation.

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