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**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
ON ITS SIXTH SESSION, HELD IN HAVANA
FROM 25 AUGUST TO 5 SEPTEMBER 2003**

PART ONE: PROCEEDINGS

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 25 August 2003, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, delivered a welcoming address.
2. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, welcomed participants to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and made a statement.

B. Official opening

3. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the UNCCD, was officially opened in Havana, Cuba, on 25 August 2003, by Mr. Charles Bassett (Canada), President of the fifth session of the COP.
4. The COP observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Iraq, and his colleagues who had lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.
5. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, made a statement.

C. Election of the President (Agenda item 1)

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 August, the COP elected by acclamation H.E. Ms. Rosa Elena Simeón Negrín, Minister for Science and Technology and the Environment of Cuba, as President of its sixth session. Ms. Simeón Negrín made a statement.

D. Opening and general statements

7. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 26 August, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Italy (on behalf of the European Union), Armenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), the Syrian Arab Republic (on behalf of the Asian Group), Swaziland (on behalf of the African Group) and Chile (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).
8. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
9. The representative of the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU) made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 3)

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 August, the COP adopted the agenda contained in document ICCD/COP(6)/1, and orally amended it by placing sub-item 6(a), entitled “Need for modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of regional coordination units” on the agenda as a separate item, on the understanding that it would also be given appropriate consideration under the item on the programme and budget.

B. Election of other officers

(Agenda item 2)

11. At its 1st, 3rd, 7th and 11th plenary meetings on 25 and 27 August and 2 and 5 September, the COP elected the following officers for its sixth session:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Vladimir Savchenko (Belarus)
Mr. Jozef Buys (Belgium)
Mr. Yi Xianlang (China)
Ms. Ana María Hernandez Salgar (Colombia)
Ms. Dóra Kulauzov (Hungary)
Mr. Mohammed Arouchi (Morocco)
Mr. Bongani Masuku (Swaziland)
Mr. Saad Al Numeiry (United Arab Emirates)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Ms. Anne Marie Skjold (Norway)

Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Mr. Riccardo Valentini (Italy)

Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention:

Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

12. At the 11th plenary meeting, at the election of the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the President and the representative of Italy (on behalf of the European Union) made statements which are reproduced in annex VIII.

C. Organization of work

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, the COP approved its organization of work for the session as contained in annex II to document ICCD/COP(6)/1.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and designation of its Chairperson

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, the COP decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its sixth session to consider items on the agenda allocated to it by the COP and to submit recommendations thereon to the COP.

15. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the COP designated Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria) as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, who would also act as *ex officio* member of the Bureau.

Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for its second session

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, the COP took note of the communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin that Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) had been named to replace H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biauou (Benin) as Chairperson of the Committee for the remainder of the latter's term of office.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

17. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the chairpersonship of Mr. Riccardo Valentini (Italy). The Committee held eight meetings, from 26 to 29 August 2003.

18. At its 1st meeting on 26 August, the Committee elected Mr. Julio Roberto Curruchiche Gómez (Guatemala), Mr. Moussa Hassane (Niger), Mr. Pavol Bielek (Slovakia) and Mr. Sapon Chomchan (Thailand) as Vice-Chairpersons. At the same meeting, the Committee designated the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Bielek (Slovakia), to act also as Rapporteur. At its 3rd meeting, Mr. Moussa Hassane was replaced by Mr. Georges Rigondja (Gabon) as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

19. The Committee on Science and Technology submitted a number of recommendations to the COP, which took action on them at its 9th meeting on 3 September 2003.

E. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

20. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was convened under the chairpersonship of Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania). The Committee held four meetings, from 26 to 29 August 2003.

21. At its 4th meeting on 29 August, the Committee elected Mr. Victor del Angel González (Mexico), Mr. Evgeny Gorshkov (Russian Federation) and Mr. Khaled Al-Shara'a (Syrian Arab Republic) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee.

22. At its 11th plenary meeting on 5 September, the COP elected Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia) as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

23. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention submitted a number of recommendations to the COP, which took action on them at its 9th meeting on 3 September 2003.

F. Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole was convened under the chairpersonship of Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria). The Committee held six meetings, from 26 August to 5 September 2003.

25. The Committee submitted a number of recommendations to the COP, which took action on them at its 11th meeting on 5 September 2003.

G. Ad Hoc Group of Experts

26. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts was convened under the chairpersonship of Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Group held three meetings, from 3 to 4 September 2003.

27. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts submitted a recommendation to the COP, which took action on it at its 11th meeting on 5 September 2003.

28. The Chairperson's summary of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts is to be found in annex V.

H. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers (Agenda item 5)

Accreditation of national, international, governmental and intergovernmental organizations

29. At its 1st plenary meeting on 25 August, the COP decided to accord observer status to the national, international, governmental and intergovernmental organizations listed in annex I to document ICCD/COP(6)/9/Add.1, as well as to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

30. At its 1st plenary meeting, the COP also decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in annex I to document ICCD/COP(6)/9 and annex II to document ICCD/COP(6)/9/Add.1.

I. Attendance

31. The sixth session of the COP was attended by representatives of the following 170 Parties to the UNCCD:

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the	Kyrgyzstan
Albania	Congo	Lao People's Democratic
Algeria	Denmark	Republic
Angola	Djibouti	Latvia
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Lebanon
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Lesotho
Armenia	Ecuador	Liberia
Australia	Egypt	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Austria	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar
Azerbaijan	Eritrea	Malawi
Bahamas	Ethiopia	Malaysia
Bahrain	European Community	Maldives
Bangladesh	Fiji	Mali
Barbados	Finland	Marshall Islands
Belarus	France	Mauritania
Belgium	Gabon	Mauritius
Belize	Gambia	Mexico
Benin	Georgia	Mongolia
Bolivia	Germany	Morocco
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Mozambique
Botswana	Greece	Myanmar
Brazil	Grenada	Namibia
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Nauru
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Nepal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands
Cambodia	Guyana	Nicaragua
Cameroon	Haiti	Niger
Canada	Honduras	Nigeria
Cape Verde	Hungary	Niue
Central African Republic	India	Norway
Chad	Indonesia	Pakistan
Chile	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Palau
China	Ireland	Panama
Colombia	Israel	Papua New Guinea
Comoros	Italy	Paraguay
Congo	Jamaica	Peru
Cook Islands	Japan	Philippines
Costa Rica	Jordan	Poland
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Portugal
Cuba	Kenya	Qatar
Cyprus	Kiribati	Republic of Korea
Czech Republic	Kuwait	Republic of Moldova

Romania	Sri Lanka	Ukraine
Russian Federation	Sudan	United Arab Emirates
Rwanda	Suriname	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Swaziland	United Republic of Tanzania
Saint Lucia	Sweden	United States of America
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Switzerland	Uruguay
Samoa	Syrian Arab Republic	Uzbekistan
Sao Tome and Principe	Tajikistan	Vanuatu
Saudi Arabia	Thailand	Venezuela
Senegal	Togo	Viet Nam
Seychelles	Tonga	Yemen
Sierra Leone	Trinidad and Tobago	Zambia
Slovak Republic	Tunisia	Zimbabwe
Somalia	Turkey	
South Africa	Turkmenistan	
Spain	Tuvalu	
	Uganda	

32. The session was also attended by observers from the following four States not Parties to the Convention:

Bhutan	Serbia and Montenegro
Holy See	Timor-Leste

33. Observers from Palestine also attended the session.

34. The following United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Bank
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

35. 18 intergovernmental and 72 non-governmental organizations were also represented.

J. Documentation

36. The documents submitted for the consideration of the COP at its sixth session are listed in annex IX.

III. SPECIAL SEGMENT

(Agenda item 13)

37. The COP held a special segment from 1 to 3 September 2003.
38. A round table of Heads of State and Government took place on 1 and 2 September. On 2 September 2003, Heads of State and Government adopted the Havana Declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This Declaration is attached in annex I.
39. An inter-agency panel with heads of United Nations agencies and international organizations and an interactive dialogue of ministers on the UNCCD as a new opportunity for an enhanced framework of cooperation in Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for the promotion of sustainable development in arid ecosystems, took place at the 6th and 7th plenary meetings on 2 and 3 September. The President's summary of statements made during the inter-agency panel and interactive dialogue of ministers is contained in annex II.
40. A list of speakers at the 5th, 8th and 9th plenary meetings is to be found in annex III.

IV. INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: OPEN DIALOGUE SESSIONS

(Agenda item 11)

41. The COP held two open dialogue sessions on the inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the COP, at its 4th plenary meeting on 29 August and its 10th plenary meeting on 4 September.
42. The Declaration of non-governmental organizations attending the sixth session of the COP is attached in annex IV.

V. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President

43. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP took the following decisions at the recommendation of the President:

- 10/COP.6 Date and venue of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 25/COP.6 Declaration of Heads of State and Government on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 26/COP.6 Declaration of non-governmental organizations attending the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 27/COP.6 Report on the fifth Round Table of Members of Parliament
- 28/COP.6 Report on the Forum of Arts and Culture
- 30/COP.6 Date and venue of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties

B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau

44. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP took the following decision at the recommendation of the Bureau of the COP:

- 24/COP.6 Credentials of representatives of Parties attending the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

C. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

45. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP took the following decisions at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole:

- 2/COP.6 Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 7/COP.6 Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention
- 8/COP.6 Follow-up to the regional meetings held in preparation for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 11/COP.6 Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the Regional Coordination Units
- 12/COP.6 Review of the activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies
- 21/COP.6 Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
- 23/COP.6 Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005
- 29/COP.6 Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

D. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

46. At its 9th meeting on 3 September, the COP took the following decisions at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention:

- 1/COP.6 Further steps in the implementation of the Convention
- 3/COP.6 Overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention
- 4/COP.6 Implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention
- 5/COP.6 Review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
- 6/COP.6 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility
- 9/COP.6 Programme of work of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

E. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

47. At its 9th meeting on 3 September, the COP took the following decisions at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology:

- 13/COP.6 Roster of independent experts
- 14/COP.6 Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
- 15/COP.6 Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 16/COP.6 Traditional knowledge
- 17/COP.6 Benchmarks and indicators
- 18/COP.6 Early warning systems
- 19/COP.6 Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)
- 20/COP.6 Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

F. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

48. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP took the following decision at the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts:

- 22/COP.6 Resolution of questions on implementation, arbitration and conciliation procedures

G. Resolution

49. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP adopted the following resolution:

- 1/COP.6 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Cuba

VI. CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

A. Adoption of the report on credentials (Agenda item 4)

50. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP, having considered the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau (ICCD/COP(6)/10) and the recommendation contained therein, approved the report on credentials, as orally corrected.

B. Date and venue of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties

51. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP adopted decision 30/COP.6 on the date and venue of the seventh session of the COP.

C. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixth session (Agenda item 15)

52. At its 11th meeting on 5 September, the COP adopted the draft report on its sixth session (ICCD/COP(6)/L.28) and authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete this report, as appropriate.

D. Closure of the session

53. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD made a statement.

54. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Colombia (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Belarus (on behalf of the Parties of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe), Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Italy (on behalf of the European Union), Jamaica, Guatemala, Pakistan (on behalf of the Asian Group) and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

55. The representative of the International Central Asian Biodiversity Institute (BIOSTAN), Uzbekistan, made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

56. The President made a concluding statement and declared the sixth session of the COP closed.

Annex I

**HAVANA DECLARATION OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

We, Heads of State and Government and their duly mandated representatives of country Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), participating in the High-Level Segment of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Havana, Cuba, from 25 August to 5 September 2003,

Reaffirming our decision to work together to fulfill the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which recognizes the UNCCD as one of the important tools for eradicating poverty and confers on it a fundamental role for the achievement of that objective,

Recalling chapter 17 of Agenda 21, which recognizes that Small Island Developing States are ecologically especially vulnerable and fragile, and are a special case for sustainable development,

Reiterating our commitment to peace, sustainable development, multilateralism and to the application of the principles of international law, particularly sovereignty, self-determination, independence and non-use or threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in internal affairs of States, all of which constitute pillars of respect in the world and are essential prerequisites to eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development,

Deeply concerned about desertification and drought, which are growing problems directly affecting one sixth of the world's population and 70 per cent of all dry lands in more than 100 countries,

Deeply concerned also about underdevelopment and extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition, disease and illiteracy prevailing in numerous underdeveloped countries, mainly in rural areas,

Conscious that this serious process of environmental deterioration, particularly desertification and drought, is one of the causes of the economic and social differences which are currently affecting our world, mainly the underdeveloped countries, and making this situation worse,

Reiterating our commitment to build an economically just and socially equal world society,

Aware of the imperative need to achieve true human dignity for all, in a world free of the inequalities caused by poverty, environmental degradation and unsustainable development patterns,

Realizing that while all nations share the responsibility for combating desertification and the effects of drought, developed countries should assume their particular obligations as provided for in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, reflecting their greater responsibility for current environmental deterioration and their larger financial capacity to tackle the present challenges,

Underlining the urgent need for collective responsibility to improve international cooperation, both North-South and among the countries of the South, in combating desertification in the context of the various strategies to reduce poverty,

Underlining also our conviction that the resources provided by the industrialized countries as a contribution to solving the enormous environmental problems facing the Third World do not constitute an endowment, but payment of these countries' enormous ecological debt, considering that their lifestyles and patterns of consumption have been the main cause of the environmental deterioration currently affecting our world,

Stressing the need to adopt urgent measures to tackle the problems affecting underdeveloped countries as a result of the impact of external debt, unequal trade, recession caused by the persistence of unjust policies, and financial uncertainty in international relations, to mention only a few of the essential factors that have caused such a critical situation. The results are higher levels of poverty, food insecurity, poor hygiene and public health, illiteracy, the loss of cultural values and an ever-widening gap separating the Third World from the industrialized countries,

Declare:

1. *Our conviction* that the people living in the affected or threatened areas should be at the centre of concern of all programmes to combat desertification and drought. In order to achieve that goal, the economic, social and environmental conditions of the inhabitants of these areas must be improved as a matter of urgency;
2. *Our commitment* to direct all our efforts to fight poverty and food insecurity and to promote the development and progress of all the nations of the world;
3. *Our determination* to redouble our efforts in the search for peace and fair and equal international relations, to oppose war, intimidation and threat, and to create an international system guaranteeing underdeveloped countries special and differentiated treatment which would contribute to overcoming the serious problems these countries are facing in addressing the challenge of combating desertification and eradicating poverty;
4. *Our will* to meet the obligations entered into under the Convention, fully supporting their complete and effective implementation;
5. *Our conviction* that achievement of the objectives set forth in the Convention requires that internationally agreed objectives relating to official development assistance (ODA) be implemented.

We further agree to:

6. *Invite* all the affected Parties to integrate desertification into their sustainable strategies and to include programmes to combat desertification and drought in their policies relating to land, water, rural development, forestry, energy, education and culture;
7. *Promote* the mobilization of new and additional financial resources from public and private sources and, to that effect, to urge the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in particular the OPEC Fund for International Development, to provide the necessary financial resources to implement the activities and projects identified under the Interregional Platform of Cooperation among Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;
8. *Welcome* the readiness of the Global Environment Facility to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention and its decision to designate land degradation (deforestation and desertification) as a new focal area;
9. *Call* on the Global Environment Facility to develop specific guidelines to facilitate easy and timely access by Small Island Developing States to financing;
10. *Increase* North-South and South-South cooperation in order to contribute to giving concrete effect to the content of this Declaration;
11. *Call* on trade ministers attending the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, to note the impact that agricultural, trade and other subsidies have on agriculture and rural development and hence desertification in developing countries, and to consider accelerating the phasing out of such subsidies;
12. *Call* on the forthcoming World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, to note the important role of conservation in addressing problems of desertification.

At the same time, we express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba for hosting this Conference and for their generosity, warm hospitality and excellent organization.

Havana, 2 September 2003

LIST OF SIGNATORIES:

His Excellency Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz
President of the Council of State, and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré
President of the Republic of Burkina Faso

His Excellency Dr. Alhaji Yahya Jemus Junkung Jammeh
President of the Republic of the Gambia

The Right Honourable Percival James Patterson
Prime Minister of Jamaica

The Right Honourable Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

His Excellency Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré
President of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma
President of the Republic of Namibia

The Honourable Keith Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada

The Honourable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

His Excellency Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

His Excellency Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma
Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Osho
Minister of State of the Republic of Benin
on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Mathieu Kérékou, President of the Republic of Benin

His Excellency Hon. Dr. Aristides Raimundo Lima
President of the National Assembly of Cape Verde
on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Pedro Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde

Colonel Bala Mande
Minister of Environment of Nigeria
on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy
Interim Chairperson of the African Union

Her Excellency Hon. Jhanett Madriz
President of the Andean Parliament

Annex II

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE SPECIAL SEGMENT (Inter-agency panel and interactive dialogue of ministers)

Introduction

An interactive dialogue of ministers was held during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, within the formal meetings of the Conference's Special Segment. The intention of the dialogue was to encourage the involvement of political authorities in the Convention process, in order to elicit critical ideas and to ensure that the Ministerial representatives had an opportunity to voice their considerations with respect to the combat against desertification in the aftermath of recent important international events, particularly the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development.

The topic suggested for the dialogue was *The UNCCD: A new opportunity for an enhanced framework of cooperation in Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for the promotion of sustainable development in arid ecosystems*.

Inter-agency panel

An inter-agency panel focusing on the above-mentioned topic preceded the dialogue, with the aim of stimulating the Ministerial debate. The panel consisted of high-level representatives of ten international organizations, and it was moderated by Mr. Ian Johnson, Vice-President of the World Bank. The presentations of the members of the Panel focused on the issues and challenges in combating desertification, rather than on promotion of the work of each organization.

The major issues highlighted by the members of the panel included:

- Means of integrating issues concerning biodiversity, climate change and desertification into plans and programmes, as well as into financing;
- Means of assessing results of the financing of activities to combat desertification; and
- Means of ensuring proper prioritization within the agencies themselves as well as by national governments in the usual transactions of the agencies with these governments.

The members of the panel reiterated their willingness to work together as a team whose task was to facilitate implementation of the UNCCD, particularly in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction, and the identification of the Convention as an instrument in achieving this goal.

Ministerial interactive dialogue

The dialogue took place in two sessions, on 2 and 3 September. Three introductory statements, reflecting the work of the inter-agency panel, were made by the high-level representatives of Barbados, Pakistan and the United States of America. Furthermore, presentations were made on the four sub-topics before the Ministers and other high-level representatives

participating in the dialogue, as follows:

1. ODA inflow to rural development: High-level representative of Burkina Faso
2. Poverty alleviation: High-level representatives of Indonesia and South Africa
3. GEF and synergies: High-level representatives of Georgia and Guatemala
4. UNCCD potential to deliver strategic priorities: High-level representative of Italy (on behalf of the European Union).

The presentations of the developing country representatives in general insisted on reversing the negative trend of official development assistance allocations to rural areas with the aim of reducing poverty effectively. They highlighted the efforts taken to establish desertification-related priorities, in particular through the national, subregional and regional action programmes. They referred to the difficulties posed by the demands of international organizations and financial institutions in project formulation.

Other presentations emphasized the importance of mainstreaming the activities to combat desertification into national planning and programming frameworks; mention was made of relevant scientific processes, and the potential for synergistic implementation of the three Rio conventions was considered, particularly in the light of the opening of the Global Environment Facility to projects in the field of combating desertification.

The interactive dialogue was facilitated by Mr. Pierre Marc Johnson.

Several Ministers from developing country Parties underlined in their interventions the significance of political will in bringing forward implementation of the Convention. National policies and action taken to combat desertification were presented, with particular attention given to efforts to enhance synergies between different national stakeholders and programming instruments. The importance of involving local communities in the implementation of the Convention was recognized, and the donor community was requested to strengthen the allocation of resources to local-level field projects.

Many Ministers from developing country Parties brought up the need for improved coordination and harmonization of procedures amongst the donor countries, as well as amongst international agencies and institutions. The UNCCD was considered to be the main tool for land-related cooperation, and better inclusion of the activities contained in the national action programmes in various cooperation frameworks, including the poverty reduction strategies, was called for.

The high-level representatives of the developed country Parties asked from their developing partners not only information concerning each country's priorities in the implementation of the UNCCD, but also for clear signals from the governments that the combat against desertification was high on the national agenda. They expressed concern over the level of integration of departmental policies into national and particularly local-level activities, and emphasized the importance of addressing a broad range of issues, such as science-based agricultural assessments, in cooperation with various types of international institutions. In the field of funding for the combat against desertification, the developed country Parties' representatives unanimously insisted on the

importance of alternative funding mechanisms, such as the private sector and foundations, for this purpose.

Conclusion

To conclude, it can be noted that the UNCCD is a complex case among the international instruments – it does not focus on a conservation approach, but rather constitutes a truly sustainable development tool.

The interactive dialogue demonstrated that the developing countries, quite legitimately, expect the developed country Parties to follow their commitments made at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in the context of the statements made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It is also obvious that the developed country Parties will not finance projects to combat desertification unless there is a strong indication that these projects are among the national priorities of their developing partners. Furthermore, the international agencies, organizations and financial institutions should ensure that their transaction processes become more client- and user-friendly.

Annex III

LIST OF SPEAKERS AT THE SPECIAL SEGMENT

List of speakers at the 5th plenary meeting

His Excellency Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz
President of the Republic of Cuba

Mr. Hama Arba Diallo
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Mr. Ibrahim Gambari
Under-Secretary-General and Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré
President of the Republic of Burkina Faso

His Excellency Dr. Alhaji Yahya Jemus Junkung Jammeh
President of the Republic of the Gambia

The Right Honourable Percival James Patterson
Prime Minister of Jamaica

The Right Honourable Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

His Excellency Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré
President of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma
President of the Republic of Namibia

The Right Honourable Dr. Keith C. Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada

The Right Honourable Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

His Excellency Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

His Excellency Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma
Deputy President, Republic of South Africa

His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy
Interim Chairperson of the African Union

Mr. Mohammed Arrouchi
Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

His Excellency Mr. Altero Matteoli
Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Italy (on behalf of the European Union)

His Excellency Mr. Vasily Podolyako
First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (on behalf of the Parties of Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe)

Ms. Sina Maiga Damba
President of l'Association de formation et d'appui au développement (AFAD), Mali (on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations)

List of members of the inter-agency panel at the 6th plenary meeting

Mr. Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Mr. Koos Richelle
Director-General, European Commission

Mr. Len Good
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Mr. Jack Wilkinson
President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

Mr. Lennart Båge
President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
Assistant Administrator, Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel
Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Pekka Patosaari
Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Mr. Ian Johnson

Vice-President of the World Bank

List of speakers at the 8th and 9th plenary meetings

H.E. Mr. John Kachamila

Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs of Mozambique

H.E. Mr. Hisham Gharaibeh

Minister of the Environment of Jordan

H.E. Mr. El Tigani Adam El Tahir

Minister for Environment and Urban Development of Sudan

H.E. Mr. Adnan Khozam

Minister of the Environment of the Syrian Arab Republic

H.E. Mr. Hasan Swaid

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen

H.E. Mr. Patrick Kalifungwa

Minister of Tourism, the Environment and Natural Resources of Zambia

H.E. Mr. Virgílio Fontes Pereira

Minister for Urbanism and Environment of Angola

H.E. Mr. Estanislau A. da Silva

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Timor-Leste

The Honourable Pelonomi Venson

Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of Botswana

H.E. Mr. Menandro Grisetti

Minister of the Environment of Paraguay

H.E. Mr. Zhu Lieke

Vice-Minister, State Forestry Administration of China

Mr. José Manuel Ovalle

Director of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile

H.E. Ms. Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries of Cape Verde

H.E. Mr. Jafrul Islam Chowdhury
State Minister for Environment and Forest of Bangladesh

H.E. Ms. Mary R. Mugenyi
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda

H.E. Mr. Gulmakhmadov D. Kurbonalievich
Minister of Land Management of Tajikistan

Colonel Bala Mande
Minister of the Environment of Nigeria

The Honourable Uladi Mussa
Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs of Malawi

H.E. Mr. Tahir Iqbal
Minister of State of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Jackleen Reuben Tiket Ambilmasdan
Minister of Lands, Survey, Environment, Energy, Minerals and Water Resources of Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific Island countries)

H.E. Mr. Vasily Podolyako
First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus

H.E. Mr. Matthew K. Antwi
Deputy Minister for the Environment and Science of Ghana

Mr. Ghalam Mustafa Jawad
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Afghanistan

Mr. Lennart Båge
President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Mohammad Al Saghan
Director-General, Forest and Range Organization of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Salem Al Dhaheri
Director General, Federal Environmental Agency, Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates

Mr. Denys Gauer
Ambassador for the Environment of France

Ms. María Esther Bondanza
Director-General for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Argentina

Mr. Ratemo W. Michieka
Director General, National Environment Management Authority of Kenya

Mr. Nasar Moghaddasi
Director-General of Engineering Department, Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization, Ministry of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Binh
Director General of the Department for Forestry Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam

Mr. Hans-Peter Schipulle
Deputy Director-General
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany

Mr. Koichi Ito
Director, Global Environmental Division, Multilateral Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. Van Voorst tot Voorst
Director of the Department for Environment and Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Mr. Lok Man Singh Karki
Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment of Nepal

Prof. Uriel Safriel
Department of Ecology, Systematics and Evolution, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Ms. Meena Gupta
Additional Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Forests of India

Ms. Annemarie Watt
Head of delegation of Australia

Ms. Nakira Wilchcombe
Ministry of Health and Environment of the Bahamas

Mr. Evgeny Gliok
Head of delegation of the Russian Federation

Mr. Imad Jada'a
Ambassador of Palestine to Cuba

Mr. Dane Ratliff
Permanent Court of Arbitration

Mr. Gilani Abdelgawad

Director, Soil and Water Use Division, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Ms. Margarita Astralaga

Regional Coordinator for the Americas of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Mr. Joachim Gratzfeld

Senior Drylands Programme Officer of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Mr. César Morales

Economic Affairs Officer in Charge of Desertification, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Annex IV**DECLARATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

NGO representatives from all regions of the world, gathered in Havana, Cuba, on the occasion of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, would like to thank the UNCCD secretariat, the Bureau of the Conference and the sponsoring Parties and agencies for the opportunity to participate in this important session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD.

Since ratification, the UNCCD has been moving steadily towards becoming fully operational at both the global and regional levels, including the growing number of NAPs that have completed and validated. These commitments were strengthened during the 2002 WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa, reflecting recognition that the UNCCD is not only an environmental convention but a convention on sustainable development focusing on poverty and food security at the grassroots level. The UNCCD is increasingly understood as a major vehicle for achieving the Millennium Development Goal (targeted at halving poverty levels by 2015).

In order to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD, NGOs urge government delegates participating in COP 6 to adopt decisions contributing to the institutional strengthening of the UNCCD, including:

- The commitment to harmonize national development policies and UNCCD recommendations. There is still a small number of countries which have elaborated their NAPs and we urge developed and developing country Parties to raise the priority of resource allocation for the implementation of NAPs;
- Raising the level of NGO/CBO participation and ensuring the equal participation of women in the NAPs, SRAPs, RAPs and other UNCCD processes. Until now community participation in these remains low;
- The strengthening of provision addressing the specific needs of indigenous populations and those of Small Island States;
- The endorsement of the decision to make the Global Environment Facility (GEF) a funding mechanism of the UNCCD raises hopes with a view to increasing resources for UNCCD implementation;
- The reinforcement of the Global Mechanism as a resource mobilization instrument, so as to create a synergistic effect based on the new role devoted to the GEF, and implementation of NGO participation in its Facilitation Committee;
- The strengthening of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), which should include benchmarks and indicators for the evaluation of the next national reports;
- The strengthening of the UNCCD secretariat to meet its obligations and further the implementation process of the UNCCD.

When assessing the level of performance of governments in discharging their contractual obligations under the Convention and, particularly on the effective inclusion of UNCCD principles in national policies, the results are rather discouraging.

The youth, as they also constitute a segment of the population, which is vulnerable to the effects of desertification, advocate for the inclusion in NAPs of strategies aimed at enabling their prior consent and effective participation in improving living standards for present and future generations.

We, NGO and CBO representatives, also feel that governments should comply with their obligations to streamline their national action programmes into their respective development strategies and plans, as implementation requires that implementing authorities be given the legal and technical capacity for an adequate cross cutting, decentralized and participatory coordination. We also request all governments, particularly those of beneficiary countries, to exercise full transparency and greater efficiency in allocating and using resources and to direct the resources needed for ensuring effective civil society participation in the whole process, including better access to financial resources for projects and programs.

In this situation, we, as representatives of civil society organizations, express our strong commitment to redirect our activities towards a better implementation of policies. We believe that partnerships between all stakeholders will be vital for the greater effectiveness of the implementation process at all levels.

As NGOs, we recognize that the current international economic system does not contribute to addressing the most urgent environment, economic and social needs of affected populations. It is therefore essential that all stakeholders commit themselves to promote the strengthening of the UNCCD as an important component of United Nations and the multilateral system. In that respect, the rules of the international trading system should take into account the negative impact they have on policies addressing poverty and land degradation issues.

NGOs urge the governments of developed countries, whose production and consumption patterns contribute to the deterioration of the natural environment, to provide the funds needed for the implementation of the Convention, as part of their obligations, and as agreed upon since the 1970s when they accepted to contribute 0.7% of their GDP to development assistance. Thirty years down the road, the current level is at a mere one third of the one agreed upon.

We are also convinced that a key factor to stop the growing level of deterioration of the productive capacity of the soils resides in legislation which is absent in many countries, to ensure an adequate protection of the environment, as for example in reducing the negative impact of transnational corporations activities in the exploitation of mineral and vegetable resources, and intensive agriculture against which there is no international protection, and the increasing marginalization of rural populations as a consequence of increasing poverty.

We, the representatives of civil society consider that COP 6 constitutes an opportunity for country Parties to adopt decisions which will make it possible to stride forward in a decisive manner, in order to overcome the dual situation mentioned earlier.

We further propose that COP 6 adopt a decision for making a global assessment of the advances and difficulties in UNCCD implementation, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its entry into force, and that in the preparatory process, national analyses and evaluations be conducted with effective participation of civil society.

We, NGOs/CBOs, expressing the sentiments of our communities and peoples, launch a strong appeal to all governments and the international community to unite with us and work for peace and say NO to war.

Havana, 24 August 2003

Annex V

CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts met three times between 3 and 4 September 2003. It considered, in a preliminary manner, the matters arising under articles 27 and 28 of the Convention and the document prepared by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(6)/7).

Due to the complex nature of the issues at hand, the Group was of the view that it should continue consideration of these matters during the seventh session of the COP.

The Group strongly stressed the need for further submissions by the Parties on article 27 and by the Parties as well as by interested institutions and organizations on article 28. The Group hoped that the existing compilation of submissions together with forthcoming submissions would assist further negotiations in the future.

The Group furthermore asked the secretariat to prepare two separate documents (one on article 27 and another on article 28) for its consideration during the next session of the COP.

Annex VI

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*Adopted by the participants of the Fifth Round Table of Members of Parliament
in parallel with the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Havana, 3 - 4 September 2003*

The role of members of parliament in promoting sustainable human development at national level in the context of a successful implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

I. *We, members of parliament*, meeting in Havana on 3 and 4 September 2003 for the fifth Round Table at the invitation of the Convention secretariat, with the full support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the assistance of the Government of Cuba, alongside the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Reaffirming our commitment to sustainable human development as a universal concept which incorporates the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development - economic development, social development and environmental protection - at local, national, regional and global levels while remaining committed to the indivisibility of human dignity for all and to democratic systems as well as to democratic global governance with more effective and accountable international and multilateral institutions,

Deeply concerned by the persistent trends of environmental degradation and increase in poverty, particularly in the fragile ecosystems and drylands of developing countries,

Aware of the degradation of land, the loss of forests, topsoil and biodiversity due to the intensification of desertification, and the effects of climatic variations and their direct consequences for global equilibrium, particularly in so far as they relate to food production and availability, to the disruption of traditional migration flows and to human security,

Conscious of the global threat which lies in the continuing degradation of the land that sustains us,

Mindful of the direct causal links between land degradation and poverty, which generate vicious circles of land over-exploitation by increasingly deprived communities,

Bearing in mind the increasing deprivation suffered by poor people in terms of social, educational, economic, environmental and cultural services and opportunities,

Bearing in mind that desertification and drought have a special and negative impact on living conditions, including food security, health and water quality,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,¹ the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, and in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)² and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development,³ which define a complete vision for the future of humanity and provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international level, with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, sustainable development and an improvement in the living conditions of people everywhere,

Underlining the relevance of water and access to water for combating desertification, and welcoming the outcome of the third World Water Forum,⁴ which recommended actions for sustainable water resource management vital for combating desertification,

Recognizing that poverty eradication, changes in consumption and production patterns, and the protection of natural resources are essential for sustainable development,

Conscious that the gap between the rich and the poor constitutes a threat to global security,

Declare that:

1. We are deeply alarmed by increasing environmental degradation, particularly desertification, which has now reached such a magnitude that it threatens the very basis of life on earth, and are determined to correct this dangerous course; it is therefore more than ever incumbent on us, parliamentarians and representatives of our peoples, to work together towards the common objective of sustainability - social, economic, environmental and political;
2. We are greatly concerned by the continuous losses in agricultural productivity; agriculture still constitutes the main source of revenue for the economies of the majority of developing countries;
3. We are, further, seriously worried by substantiated data indicating that desertification processes severely undermine sustainable economic growth, limit food security and exacerbate susceptibility to famine, at times accompanied by large-scale movements of displaced people and by armed conflicts;
4. We are conscious of the fact that the established trends of natural renewable and non-renewable resource exploitation and the current patterns of consumption have by far exceeded the earth's carrying capacities;
5. We are convinced that addressing poverty eradication, particularly widespread environment-induced poverty (generated, *inter alia*, by the increasing lack of water) and its tragic consequences in terms of macro-social disruptions, must be conceived as a total priority of integrated international policy schemes towards the promotion of sustainable human development;

¹ Adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit held from 6 to 8 September 2000 in New York.

² Adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

³ International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002.

⁴ Kyoto, Japan, from 17 to 22 March 2003.

6. We are persuaded of the necessity to recognize that the land feeding us, and particularly what is known as its topsoil layer, are a precious resource requiring imperative, urgent, concerted and worldwide protection;

7. We firmly believe that public policies should be clearly oriented towards eliminating the root causes of poverty through participative and democratic processes leading to the real and efficient empowerment of communities, especially women and youth, at the front line of the sustainable development struggle;

8. We underline our conviction that growth cannot constitute an objective per se nor a justification for environmental degradation and should therefore be accompanied by social policies which ensure an equitable redistribution of wealth amongst all, which address the issue of land tenure and which guarantee access to education in order to empower poor people and allow them to realize their potential, and in order to reduce their vulnerability to exodus pressures;

9. We reaffirm all the measures to combat desertification promoted by the previous round tables of parliamentarians, including sustainable land use and erosion control, rehabilitation of degraded land, effective reforestation programmes and sustainable forest, water and land management, use of renewable sources of energy, capacity building and environmental education programmes;

10. We acknowledge the encouraging signs of progress contained in the 151 national reports which were submitted to the UNCCD for review in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 22 November 2002; however, we deplore the fact that too often national poverty eradication programmes supported by the donor community do not take desertification issues sufficiently into account;

11. We recognize that prevailing macro-economic policies may have a great impact on the process of impoverishment, and we therefore call upon developed countries, in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Convention, to take appropriate action to relieve the current burden of developing countries, particularly through the promotion of economic reforms aimed at combining growth with human development, equity and social justice by, *inter alia*:

- Relieving external debt
- Reducing interest rates
- Removing barriers to freer and fairer trade
- Facilitating access to essential drugs to combat pandemics.

II. *In affirming our commitment*, as members of parliament, to support sustainable human development, we note with appreciation the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which aim to strengthen the implementation of the Convention in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, to address the causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation. We call upon all parties involved to make every effort to ensure that the WSSD declarations of intent are followed up with definite actions.

In this regard:

12. We fully support the call of the WSSD to the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to designate land degradation (deforestation and desertification) as a focal area of the GEF as a means of GEF support for the successful implementation of the Convention and, consequently, to consider making the GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention. We therefore welcome the decision of the GEF Assembly, in Beijing, China, in 2002 to endorse this request by making land degradation (deforestation) a fully-fledged GEF focal area along with biodiversity, climate change, the protection of the ozone layer and international waters, as approved by the GEF Council in May 2003.
13. We strongly support the decision by the VI Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD at its sixth session held in Havana, Cuba, in 2003 to designate the GEF as an operational financial mechanism of the UNCCD, in order to provide it with substantial and predictable financial resources that will enable it to achieve its objectives in a timely and efficient manner.
14. We address an urgent appeal to all civil-society participants to support the mobilization of financial resources for the fight against desertification.
15. We also agree with the decision of the WSSD to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in order to promote regional cooperation and sustainable development, and we support the creation of the Pan-African Parliament of the African Union which, *inter alia*, could serve as the African Development Bank's parliamentary oversight mechanism.
16. We propose the establishment of a parliamentary oversight mechanism for the Global Environment Facility.
17. We firmly believe that all major environmental issues are intrinsically linked and require a concerted international effort if they are to be addressed synergistically. Emphasis should be placed on building up a culture of synergism in the implementation of the Rio conventions, in particular at national level.
18. We fully support all initiatives which aim at encouraging sustainable development promotion in order to ensure the best use of financial and human resources and the effective use of available expertise and comparative advantages, including traditional knowledge, in both developed and developing countries in the public and private sectors.
19. We reaffirm the vital role of local participation in sustainable development.
20. We reiterate our support to multilateral, governmental, non-governmental and volunteer action at all levels for promoting forestation, reforestation, rural agricultural development and sustainable alternative livelihood development in the context of UNCCD implementation.
21. We request all presiding officers to take steps to publicize the present declaration by placing it on the agenda of their national parliaments or by bringing it to the attention of all members of their parliaments in some other appropriate way.

III. *We endorse a parliamentary action plan*, taking into account the Parliamentary Declaration on the occasion of the WSSD, which was adopted unanimously at the Parliamentary Meeting organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of South Africa (Johannesburg, 29 and 30 August 2002). We recognize the unique role of parliamentarians in scrutinizing, monitoring and holding national governments to account in respect of the implementation of international agreements and we shall work to put in place:

- (a) New regulatory and administrative foundations to make the integrated approach to sustainable development permeate every act of government;
- (b) National strategies for sustainable development that include a measure of decentralization of public and private institutions for appropriate local decisions in order to provide a coherent policy framework and measurable targets;
- (c) Requirements for thorough environmental and social impact assessments;
- (d) Systems providing timely access to information relevant to people, decision-makers and others;
- (e) Regulations to implement new and rigorous methods of green accounting in both the public and private sectors;
- (f) Democratic institutions and processes which are accountable, which allow for consultation with, and input from civil society, which abide by the rule of law and which respect fundamental human rights and human dignity.

We acknowledge that parliaments can contribute decisively to good governance grounded on democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, on anti-corruption measures, gender equality and a favourable atmosphere and environment for investment.⁵

22. We propose the creation - under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union - of a Parliamentary Network on the UNCCD (PNoUNCCD), a network of information, interaction and influence aimed at increasing parliamentary involvement and efficiency in the fields of combating desertification, soil erosion and land degradation, at pooling information and at ensuring greater parliamentary input into international negotiations and organizations, to be facilitated by a parliamentary steering committee with the technical support of the UNCCD secretariat.

23. We request the active involvement of elected representatives at regional, subregional, national and local level and the strengthening of the capacity of parliaments and their members to influence and monitor their governments' actions. We undertake to promote in our respective parliaments, as appropriate:

- (a) The strengthening of national legislation and its harmonization with the provisions of the UNCCD, and the streamlining of desertification issues in national action programmes (NAPs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and country programmes supported by the donor community;

⁵ Cf. IPU Resolution *Parliaments' Role in Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Human Development in a Fragmented World*, adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003).

- (b) The pursuit of coherent and better coordinated policies in the area of anti-poverty and sustainable human development strategies including anti-desertification, the enhancement of synergies between the Rio conventions and the building up of a culture of coordination of the NAPs with other national development priorities;
- (c) The creation of specific budget lines for combating land degradation and the observance of consistent budget strategies appropriately integrating foreign assistance into a country's own development plans;
- (d) The monitoring of executive actions and control of whether desertification issues are included in overall government agendas (by means of oral and written questions to ministers, motions, committee hearings and so on);
- (e) The submission of regular 'green accounting' reports on the state of combating poverty, on land and natural resource degradation and on the progress achieved (by a Parliamentary or Government Commissioner for Future Generations), thus providing citizens with the information needed to hold governments accountable and ensuring an effective process within parliaments for reviewing progress with regard to the economic, social, environmental and political aspects of sustainable development at the national level, but also in order to monitor the international agenda for sustainable development;
- (f) The mobilization of public opinion and the raising of awareness on sustainable human development and desertification issues through campaigns, annual events (World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17 June), special parliamentary debates, environmental education, the involvement of schools, academics and artists, and commemorative postage stamps;
- (g) Partnership building between policy-makers, the academic community, the business sector, and non-governmental and community-based organizations;
- (h) Forms of international, regional and subregional cooperation favourable to improving relations between the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and actors, including - if necessary - parliamentary diplomatic activities;
- (i) Further examination, in the light of the outcome of the Fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001, of the relationship between trade, environment and development, and actions undertaken in particular to reduce the current system of subsidizing agricultural production and exports as well as to dismantle the barriers to the import of food from developing countries, to the increase of official development assistance as promised in Monterrey, and to the realization of the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

24. We are determined to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the UNCCD at country and regional level through appropriate measures, including the submission of national action programmes by all the affected country Parties.

IV. *Finally, as members of parliament*, we request the secretariat of the UNCCD, with the assistance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

25. To organize the next round table of members of parliament in conjunction with the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

26. To take follow-up action on the decisions of the present round table and to develop strategies to achieve universal awareness of the declarations and progress reports of the parliamentary round table process in respect of UNCCD implementation.

Annex VII

[Original: Spanish]

CALL OF CULTURE AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

*Adopted by the participants of the Forum on Arts and Culture in the context of
the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Havana, 30-31 August 2003*

Call of culture

Mankind has entered upon one of the most difficult periods in its history, and the next few years will be decisive for all the peoples living on the planet.

Over the past century, when we still had more than enough time to foresee and confront most of the serious problems overwhelming us today, many years were wasted in fighting wars, dividing up the world, plunder and exploitation.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, enormous progress had been made in science and technology, and there were still abundant areas of virgin land, extensive forests, water and mineral deposits that could have been used sustainably. The air and seas were not so saturated with pollutants and chemical waste as they are today.

In less than a century, much of the hydrocarbon reserves that it took nature hundreds of millions of years to lay down have been squandered and spewed into the atmosphere and oceans. The drive for profit above all else, with no morals, ethics or foresight whatsoever, has already had devastating consequences for present and future generations.

Nature is mankind's greatest inheritance. We men and women of culture cannot remain impassive in the face of the challenge to conserve and manage our natural resources properly - in particular water, on which life itself depends.

We, writers and artists from a variety of geographical and historical backgrounds, have gathered in Havana at the invitation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), born of the 1992 Earth Summit, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the firm and noble purpose of ruminating on the growing poverty that afflicts the dispossessed of this world and appealing to every creative artistic and literary spirit on Earth to speak out against it, thereby promoting the sustainable development of fragile ecosystems.

Our objective is to foster an inclination to preserve the natural world, to create a forum for thought and action, a place where we can ruminate and exchange ideas on the role of the arts and culture in the fight against underdevelopment, poverty and environmental degradation, particularly desertification and drought. This is an economic, social and environmental problem that primarily affects the countries of the Third World and threatens the survival of the human species.

In striving to overcome hunger, poverty, desertification, enmity and injustice, all peoples on earth are brothers.

Despite a deteriorating environment and poverty, Third World countries still have the key assets of natural and cultural diversity that are essential to global stability and the continuation of life on our planet; there will need to be systematic give-and-take between developing and developed countries to preserve and make sustainable use of that diversity, with suitable financing mechanisms to reward the environmental services rendered by nature in Third World countries to the global biosphere system.

In areas under threat of desertification, such as those identified in Africa, Asia and Latin America, socio-economic relief is vital: so also is South-South unification into one system with different focal points for emergencies relating to environmental sustainability, from frozen deserts to lush forest land to the depths of the sea, all of which, without exception, stem directly or indirectly from environmental decline which is also causing desert encroachment and desertification under the influence of global and environmental change.

The regional and global networks of the various international cultural and environmental programmes must join forces to launch sustainable models for the conservation and management of natural resources in different environmental zones, allocating a suitable proportion of the benefits to the indigenous communities that generate them. These benefits should include instruction, training in extrapolating from experience, and capacity building.

The essential task of this forum will therefore be to stimulate the search for areas where activities and projects harnessing creativity within different fields of art and culture converge and can work together, helping to improve the quality of life in the most degraded parts of the planet: producing art for the people and with the people.

Our aim is to espouse positive arguments and creative initiatives and stimulate alternative, innovative insights into the challenges facing a world influenced, and increasingly scarred, by neoliberal globalization, developing countries' external debts, and irrational patterns of exploitation, production and consumption in the wealthiest countries whose adverse consequences constantly hamper efforts to arrive at environmental balance, development and social justice.

Given the urgent need to stave off the destruction of the planet, we must reconsider the way in which the various branches and agencies of the United Nations system operate.

For 30 years now we have witnessed United Nations agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with their structural adjustment policies and overt support for transnational corporations, undermining sustainable agricultural practices in places like Africa and making a policy of financing large dams that damage ecosystems; their backing for transnational agricultural corporations introducing foreign, environment-unfriendly crops and transgenic seeds has ruined local farming, increased desertification, drought and famine, and sapped national public benefit schemes.

We must call these agencies, with their financial policies and activities that negate and contradict the best practices promoted by UNICEF, UNESCO and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification itself, to account.

Although the 1992 Rio Earth Summit made a public commitment to decreasing the rate of environmental degradation and social impoverishment, the figures presented at the Johannesburg summit a decade later are more alarming than ever:

- The very survival of 1 billion people in over 100 countries, who depend on the land for most of their needs and tend to be among the poorest people on the planet, is at risk;
- Some 60 million people are expected to abandon the desert-stricken areas of sub-Saharan Africa for the north of the continent and Europe between 1997 and 2020, but at the moment the flow of migrants to Europe amounts to 450,000 people;
- Between 70,000 and 90,000 Mexicans leave their homes and farmlands every year in search of a better life as immigrants to the United States; today, total migration to the United States and Canada is only 600,000 people;
- A quarter of the land in Latin America and the Caribbean is desert or arid;
- Since the 1950s, sandstorms and increasing desertification in China have devastated approximately 700,000 hectares of cultivated land, 2.35 million hectares of grazing land, and 6.4 million hectares of forest, woodland and wooded areas;
- A fifth of the land in Spain is at risk of desertification;
- More than 30 per cent of the land in the United States is suffering from soil degradation.

Overall, desertification affects 250 million people and a third of the earth's surface, roughly 4 million hectares of land. Fertile soil is increasingly being degraded all over the world by overcropping and overgrazing, deforestation, inadequate irrigation and overexploitation. This phenomenon is especially pronounced in some parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South America, resulting in the loss of arable land, peasants migrating to the cities, and the collapse of many rural communities, especially in developing countries.

Some 70 per cent of the 5.2 million hectares of drylands used for agriculture are already degraded and threatened by desertification.

On a planet that is 70 per cent water, only 2.5 per cent of the total is fresh water and only a fraction of that is accessible, since nearly two thirds of it is in glaciers and snow cover. Although water is essential for a minimum quality of life, it is estimated that at present 1.1 billion people do not have access to drinkable water. Twelve million people die every year for lack of water or from drinking polluted water.

Underdevelopment, a consequence of our colonial past and the prevailing unjust, unequal international economic order, is the principal cause of desertification and poverty. Poverty drives those who live off the land to overexploit it in order to obtain food, energy, shelter and income. Unfortunately, research has placed the blame for desertification on its victims, without analysing the underlying causes that drive them to overwork the land. It is underdevelopment and poverty that force those living in Third World countries to extract all that they can from the land in the interests of short-term survival.

Despite the commitment that all entered into at Rio, few developed countries honour their specific responsibilities, forgetting that, sooner or later, the effects of environmental degradation will reach them as well.

It is not pleasant to be the bearers of such bad news. The news must, nevertheless, be brought to everybody's attention. If not, not only shall we not find the answers, but the problems will continue to grow worse.

As exponents of the arts, we cannot remain transfixed by these uncomfortable facts or continue to smother under euphemisms the starkness of the current situation and worsening trends of which we are well aware. It is time for a radical change in pace and direction from today's complacent acceptance of, not to say connivance at, programmed destruction, environmental catastrophe and unmitigated cruelty.

The world will be at permanent risk of a relapse into barbarism, of nuclear holocaust or of geological cataclysm until the weapons of culture and technology are set aside for the sake of mankind's common interests. Poverty makes people vulnerable, and there is a danger that gross inequality will spawn new threats to peaceful coexistence on the planet. Famine is perhaps the most fearsome threat of all, destroying human life and condemning millions to impotence.

It is no accident that hunger-stricken population groups live in parts of the planet that were for centuries subject to colonial depredation and an inhuman trans-Atlantic slave trade that carried off millions of their offspring, and that today they face serious environmental damage and high population growth, for all these phenomena are closely interlinked and it is only by paying attention to the intricate bonds that connect them that we shall be able to come up with solutions.

Economic and social pressure is growing, with a consequent increase in poverty around the world. In 1960, incomes in the wealthiest countries were 37 times as large as in the poorest countries; today, they are 74 times as large. The three richest people on the planet today own assets equivalent to the combined GDP of the 48 poorest countries.

We are sure that, among the many strategies that must be followed, the movement that we, men and women of culture aware of the gravity of these problems, are launching today, placing our knowledge and talents at the service of a new environmental awareness, will be an effective one. We have a moral obligation and commitment to address the pressing problems of our societies and future generations, and are thus moved to take up the human and professional challenges and act accordingly.

We are not facing these challenges alone. The time has come for artists, intellectuals and writers to join forces with other parts of the scientific community and civil society, national and international bodies and Governments in taking concrete action to improve the present state of affairs. Global awareness of the direct and indirect natural, political and economic causes particular to each nation or stemming from the current international economic order also requires global involvement. The present and future inhabitants of the planet will be all the better citizens if they have internalized the notions of solidarity, equality among individuals and nations, and the need to protect all that lives and supports life on earth.

We need fresh inspiration for culture, a new design, a different outline. We intend to make it as visible and palpable as a house - a house for everybody, a home for everybody.

We must pledge ourselves to strive for a maximum of transparency in accomplishing these objectives. It is our vocation to forge a collective awareness that will prompt our societies to apply sustainable models for the conservation and management of natural resources, with special emphasis, in our case, on forests, land and water.

The extraordinary synthesizing power of the artistic message, its ability to blend reason and emotion, enables it to rise above narrow approaches and attain a system-wide scale from where it can prod, motivate and steer both public opinion generally and the specific entities in society that are directly and indirectly involved in finding solutions.

A well-known saying has it that “if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem”. The artists and writers gathered here desire and agree to be part of the solution. Along with other scientific and professional groups in this world ravaged by war, famine, environmental degradation, inequality and lack of solidarity, we want our actions and commitment to help bring to life the poet’s words: “Where danger grows, there grows redemption”. Or as José Martí would have said, “Nature is more beautiful when the light of freedom also shines upon the world.”

Programme of action

1. Promote the production and publication of literary works related to desertification, drought and poverty and to the protection of water, forests and other natural resources.
2. Produce photographic, film and visual materials that could be used to publicize the aims of the Forum.
3. Encourage painters, sculptors and others working in the plastic arts to create works and hold exhibitions dealing with the relationship between human beings and nature, particularly with regard to water, earth and forests, as part of efforts to preserve these three elements, which are essential for life on Earth.
4. Call on sculptors to create a monument to water or to the Earth in their respective countries.
5. Encourage the organization of music festivals or concerts dedicated to combating desertification, drought and poverty, and the promotion of a culture of nature conservation.
6. Produce compact discs containing music related to the themes of the Forum.
7. Promote the creation of songs with themes dealing with the importance of protecting the earth and the water and of improving the quality of life of people, especially the poorest.
8. Produce designs for use in the publication of postcards, posters, postage stamps, calendars and other publicity materials.

9. Organize competitions to test people's knowledge of international efforts to combat the evils of desertification and drought.
10. Promote the creation of choreographies for dance, ballet and/or folk groups that relate to the dramatic international situation caused by these phenomena.
11. Promote a culture of conservation, protection and non-exploitation of the environment: peace not war, love not hate, understanding, solidarity and unity.
12. Support the establishment of a prize to be awarded by an independent jury to the individuals, organizations and institutions at the forefront of the fight against desertification, drought and environmental degradation.
13. Call on writers to produce scripts for radio, television, the cinema and the theatre that deal with the causes and negative consequences of the crisis, which affects many parts of the world in this respect.
14. Make efforts to ensure that the importance of combating desertification and drought and of protecting our natural resources is addressed at national and international cultural events.
15. Organize exhibitions of posters that could be distributed in the various countries in each geographical region.
16. Promote the setting up of a web site for these purposes.
17. Organize a first cultural workshop on desertification.
18. Provide advisory services and expert cooperation for the regions most affected by desertification and drought.
19. Have a schedule drawn up of the major international cultural events and try to ensure that a representative of the Forum attends them in order to publicize the true situation in the area of concern to us and the ongoing efforts to deal with it.
20. Liaise with the media, journalists and social communicators to ensure that its work covers the issue of desertification and other issues related to the Convention.
21. Ensure that in every country the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought includes cultural activities aimed at raising awareness and stressing the importance of combating desertification.
22. Establish contacts with unions and organizations of artists and writers all over the world so that they can help find a solution to the current problems in countries suffering from desertification.
23. Encourage the publication and distribution of a guide on desertification for the general public, as well as local and regional guides in the local languages for the areas most affected by this problem.

24. Encourage painters around the world to each donate a painting on the subject so that a major international exhibition of these paintings can be organized.
25. Launch a major international campaign for the establishment of a nature-friendly culture.
26. Coordinate the creation of centers and committees in national ministries or departments of culture for the implementation of all matters related to the Forum's action plan.
27. Keep a close link with scientists and create inter-disciplinary groups to coordinate and support through non-governmental organizations pursuing the aims of the Convention in different countries.
28. Promote the development for educational curricula at all levels, from pre-school and childcare programmes onwards, of an information module on the subject of desertification.
29. Reach agreement with ministries and departments of education on the inclusion of a module on desertification in the curriculum.
30. Stress the involvement of women's organizations, in the light of women's role in the daily use of water and natural resources.
31. Involve religious organizations of all kinds in combating desertification.
32. Mobilize those working in sectors related to agriculture who are in a position to raise support for the fight against desertification (non-governmental organizations, global social movements, universities, local leaders).
33. Recognize the role of older people as the depositaries of traditions and bearers of culture, and as advisers on the promotion of the protection of water.
34. Promote the establishment of this group as the First Intellectuals' and Artists' Forum on Desertification.
35. Propose to the parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that this Forum should meet on an annual or biannual basis.
36. Suggest the call that on 21 March, 2004, designated as World Poetry Day, a poetry action be celebrated to sensitize people and world institutions about the importance and preservation of water in the planet.
37. Given that neither the countries of the North and the G-8 nor countries like China that have done a good deal of work in dealing with this kind of problem are properly represented in this Forum, suggest that it should be emphasized that environmental disasters have been shown to be global problems that can only be resolved at the global level.

38. Coordinate current UNESCO programmes with the objectives of the efforts to combat desertification and with the new alliances proposed in this programme of action.

39. Promote the creation of a Latin America-Africa Forum whose first meeting would be held in Venezuela.

Annex VIII

**STATEMENTS MADE AT THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONVENTION**

Statement made by the President of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

It gives me great pleasure to announce that there is an understanding on the issue of the chairpersonship of the CRIC. In order to reach this consensus, and without setting a precedent, it is recommended that we accept the nomination of the African Group for the Chairperson of CRIC, and establish the process of rotation with this election. In other words, the African Group is the first in the process of rotation and the chairpersonship will rotate to the other regional group at the next session of the Conference of the Parties. This understanding will be reflected in the record of this meeting.

Statement made by Italy (on behalf of the European Union)

The EU does not want to block the consensus reached, but expresses its concern about the process that has led to this decision as indicated last Friday on the occasion of the election of the CRIC Vice-Chairpersons.

We therefore request the COP to include in the agenda of the COP 7 a discussion on the rules of procedure of the CRIC so as to apply the principle of rotation between the regional groups with regard to the election of the CRIC Chairperson.

We also request that our concerns be fully reflected in the report of the meeting.

We would like to ask the President of the COP, with the support of the secretariat, to facilitate proper consultations between regional groups well in advance of the next COP in order to help us to avoid finding ourselves in a similar situation in the future.

Finally, the EU suggests that this COP elect the remaining Vice-Chairperson of the CRIC and has the honour to announce that the WEOG candidate is the Australian Head of delegation, Ms. Annemarie Watt.

Annex IX

**DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
AT ITS SIXTH SESSION**

Documents available at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties:

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(6)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.1	Programme and budget - Addendum - Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.2	Programme and budget - Addendum - Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (Supplementary Fund and Special Fund)
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.3	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.4	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.5	Programme and budget - Addendum - Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 ended 31 December 2001; Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6	Programme and budget - Addendum - Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.7	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/3	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(6)/4	Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/5	Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/6	Outstanding items - Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(6)/7	Outstanding items - Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward; Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention
ICCD/COP(6)/8	Committee on Science and Technology - Maintenance of the roster of experts
ICCD/COP(6)/8/Add.1	Committee on Science and Technology - Maintenance of the roster of experts - Addendum
ICCD/COP(6)/9	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(6)/9/Add.1	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers - Addendum
ICCD/COP(6)/10	Credentials of delegations: Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.1	Arrangements for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties - Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.2	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.3	Directory of focal points for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.4	Inputs from the regional meetings of affected country Parties
ICCD/COP(6)/MISC.1	Independent evaluation of the Global Mechanism - Final report to the World Bank Development Grant Facility submitted by the evaluation team on 26 June 2003
ICCD/COP(6)/MISC.2	Business plan 2003-2006 - The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

Documents available at the second session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention:

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/CRIC(2)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/CRIC(2)/2	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of progress made by affected country Parties in implementation of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(2)/3	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Review of the report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(2)/4	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5(d) of the Convention, of the report on activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/CRIC(2)/5	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention, of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/CRIC(2)/6	Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention

Documents available at the sixth session of the Committee on Science and Technology:

ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2	Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology - Synthesis of reports submitted by Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Preliminary report of the Group of Experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4	Traditional knowledge

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5	Benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6	Early warning systems - Pilot studies on early warning systems
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3	Early warning systems - Publication on early warning systems

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