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**Convention to Combat
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**INTERIM REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE 2006
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION**

Addendum

Note by the secretariat

1. Document ICCD/COP(7)/13 provides information on the steps taken by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as designated focal point for the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), for the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/211.
2. The present addendum to the above-mentioned document provides the information sent by the United Nations University (UNU) and the World Bank to the secretariat on the activities these institutions are planning for the celebration of the IYDD.
3. The information provided herein complements the text given in chapter III of document ICCD/COP(7)/13.

STATUS OF PREPARATION

International

Other activities at the international level

1. The UNU, with its mandate to undertake policy research and capacity building to help resolve pressing global problems, has focused on desertification issues for many years. UNU seeks to facilitate a global dialogue on the linkages between desertification, global development, poverty reduction and the role of the international community. To this end, UNU will organize an international conference in cooperation with the United Nations and international partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS), and others, to focus on the international policy imperatives raised by droughts and desertification and on how best to meet the challenges. The Government of Algeria will host the conference "Desertification and the International Policy Imperative" in November 2006. The conference will build upon the outcome of the eighth International Conference on Development of Drylands (Beijing, February 2006) and the UNESCO Conference "The Future of Drylands" (Tunis, June 2006).

2. The World Bank will organize several activities from the end of the present year in celebration of the 2006 IYDD. In this regard, during 2005 the World Bank in addition to preparing the TerrAfrica Communication Strategy, is organizing Youth and Environment Activities for young leaders in Haiti, Mexico and Peru focusing on land management, reforestation and land rehabilitation. In 2006, two main activities will be undertaken by the World Bank: in February–March 2006, a high-level round panel discussion on meeting the Millennium Development Goals in cooperation with the GEF; and in March 2006 a targeted session on land development around the world will be held during the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESSD) Week Celebrations at the World Bank.
