Note by the secretariat*

1. Since the issuance of document ICCD/COP(7)/1 containing the provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the secretariat has received a request from Norway, also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America, to include an additional item regarding the procedure for the selection of an Executive Secretary, in the COP provisional agenda.

2. Further to this request and in accordance with rule 12 (Supplementary items) of the rules of procedure of the COP as contained in decision 1/COP.1, and in agreement with the President of the COP, the secretariat is proposing to include the following supplementary agenda item: “Procedure for the appointment of an Executive Secretary”, in the provisional agenda, and to submit it for adoption.

3. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure provides that the COP may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items when adopting its agenda. Only items which are considered by the COP to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

4. If the aforementioned supplementary item is added to the agenda, the COP may wish to follow established practice in similar intergovernmental processes and invite the President to undertake consultations with regional and interest groups, including at the level of the Bureau of the COP, on the procedure for the selection of an Executive Secretary, develop terms of reference accordingly and report back to the COP on the outcome.

* The request for the release of this document was received by the secretariat on 30 September 2005.