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**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

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Item 13(a) of the provisional agenda

## **OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

### **Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure**

Note by the secretariat

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This document provides information on the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties (COP) since its second session on rule 47 of the rules of procedure (majority required).

The COP at its seventh session may wish to consider the relevant background information and may decide to remove the text in brackets, giving final shape to this rule on the majority required in order for decisions taken by the COP to be adopted; the COP may, alternatively, wish to seek other solutions.

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## I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Background information is provided in ICCD/COP(6)/6 regarding the deliberations on and development of this outstanding item from the second to the fifth sessions of the COP.
2. At its sixth session, the COP took note of the report of the secretariat contained in ICCD/COP(6)/6, and requested the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of its seventh session (decision 21/COP.6).
3. The text of rule 47 of the rules of procedure as amended by decision 21/COP.2 is attached to ICCD/COP(3)/13.

## II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. As proposed in ICCD/COP(6)/6, the COP may wish to consider the relevant background information on rule 47 of the rules of procedure in order to reach an agreement and remove the text in brackets.
5. The alternative solutions put forward in the document *supra* are still relevant and applicable to give final shape to this rule on the majority required in order for decisions taken by the COP to be adopted:
  - (a) To adopt the principle of consensus on all matters of substance;
  - (b) To reach agreement by a simple or qualified majority when it is impossible to obtain a decision by consensus;
  - (c) To determine which decisions should be reached by consensus and which by majority vote; and
  - (d) To decide whether votes by Parties on such matters should be counted according to the Parties present and voting, or according to the total number of Parties to the Convention.

## III. REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

ICCD/COP(6)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixth session – Action taken
ICCD/COP(6)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixth session – Proceedings
ICCD/COP(6)/6	Outstanding items – Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session – Action taken

ICCD/COP(5)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session – Proceedings
ICCD/COP(5)/7	Outstanding items – Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session – Action taken
ICCD/COP(4)/7	Outstanding items – Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session – Action taken
ICCD/COP(3)/13	Outstanding items – Consideration and approval of the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon: Rule 47
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session – Action taken
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session – Action taken

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