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**Item 9 of the provisional agenda**

**Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and strategy development  
to foster the implementation of the Convention**

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to foster the implementation of the Convention**

**Note by the secretariat\***

**Addendum**

**Report, based on the review by the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working  
Group of the report by the Joint Inspection Unit, including how best  
to address the recommendations therein**

*Summary*

This document contains one part of the expected outcome of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG) established by decision 3/COP.7. The annex contains a summary of how and where the 25 recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) are addressed in the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention through relevant actions by Parties and Convention institutions. The IIWG members have made sure that the strategic plan is fully consistent with the views expressed in the JIU report.

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\* The submission of this document was delayed due to the short time available between the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

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## **I. Background information**

1. The Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG) established by decision 3/COP.7 was requested to develop a ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention by addressing, inter alia, the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report. In line with decision 3/COP.7, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) was assigned to prepare the terms of reference of the IIWG. These terms of reference state that the documentary output of the IIWG would include:

(a) A report, based on the IIWG's review of the JIU report, including how best to address the recommendations therein;

(b) A draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

2. This report mentioned in paragraph 1 (a) is contained in this document, and the draft mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/10/Add.2.

## **II. Proceedings of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group**

3. In accordance with its mandate, the IIWG conducted a detailed review of the JIU report in preparing the present report. At its first meeting, which took place on 22–23 May 2006 in Bonn, Germany, the IIWG invited a member of the JIU to present the JIU report. Members of the IIWG then reviewed the JIU report in full. In reviewing the report, the IIWG took note of actions already taken by the Executive Secretary, who had accepted and already acted upon several JIU recommendations. The IIWG also took note of comments made by Parties on these recommendations.

4. At the request of members of the IIWG, a synthesis was prepared of comments and views on the JIU report, received from country Parties in accordance with paragraph 3 of decision 3/COP.7. This synthesis was circulated to members of the IIWG and to Parties, together with the comments and views of the UNCCD Executive Secretary on the JIU report.

5. Members of the IIWG met again in Bonn on 12–14 July 2006 to consider further the content of the documentary output to be prepared, including the response to the JIU report. Consultants were hired to assist the IIWG in the preparation of the two documents requested from the IIWG, including the response to the JIU report. During the first meeting with the core consultancy team, on 10–11 November 2006 in Montreal, Canada, the Chair of the IIWG advised the team on how to address the response to the JIU report based on the work of the first two IIWG meetings.

6. In the preparation of their first report, the consultants fully considered the synthesis of comments on the JIU report prepared for the IIWG. In reviewing the JIU report, the consultants took note of actions already taken by the Executive Secretary with regard to several JIU recommendations.

7. The consultants' first report was circulated by the Chair to IIWG members, and comments received were forwarded to the consultants. A draft strategic plan was submitted to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) at its fifth session for information. Parties and stakeholders were invited to submit written comments on the strategic plan, including on how best to address the JIU report, by 31 March 2007.

8. At their third meeting, members of the IIWG considered the draft response to the JIU report and agreed to fully integrate the issues and recommendations contained in the JIU report into their work on the strategic plan, and to report to the COP accordingly.

9. On 11 May 2007, based on the discussions of the IIWG at its third meeting, the consultants submitted a revised draft of the "Report, based on the IIWG's review of the JIU report, including how best to address the recommendations therein", for further consultations by and through the IIWG regional representatives. The draft, and comments received on it, were discussed by the IIWG at its fourth meeting, held on 29–31 May 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

10. The annex to this document summarizes how and where the 25 JIU recommendations are addressed in the "Ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD" through relevant actions by Parties and Convention institutions. IIWG members have made sure that the strategic plan is fully consistent with the recommendations expressed in the JIU report.

11. The annex is submitted for consideration by the COP at its eighth session.

Annex

**Joint Inspection Unit recommendations and responses in the ten-year strategic plan  
and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention**

Rec #	JIU recommendation	Response in strategic plan
<i>I. Policy issues</i>		
1a	The COP should invite affected country Parties to integrate and prioritize their national action programmes (NAPs) into their national development plans.	<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Affected country Parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information while including integrated investment frameworks. <b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Affected country Parties to integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.
1b	The COP should invite developed country Parties to mainstream UNCCD objectives into their development programmes/projects.	<b>Outcome 2.4:</b> Developed country Parties to mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.
2	The COP may wish to invite all country Parties to designate high-ranking officials of relevant ministries to be in charge of UNCCD affairs.	This recommendation was duly considered by the IIWG. The group did not propose further action pursuant to this recommendation.
3	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to monitor, and report to each session of the COP on the implementation of the above recommendations.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: CRIC 3. Programme of Work (b) Priorities: iii.</b> The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is assigned the responsibility to assess on a regular basis progress made in implementing the strategic plan, including outcomes 2.2 and 2.3 which refer to JIU recommendations 1a and 1b above.
<i>II. Governance</i>		
4	The COP may wish to consider giving the Bureau sufficient legislative power to enhance its authority so as to meet any emergencies when the COP is not in session, and may wish to revise the Rules of Procedure of the COP accordingly.	<b>Additional JIU recommendations to Parties and the COP.</b> The COP may wish to consider how the Bureau deals with operational and financial contingencies when the COP is not in session.
5a	The COP may wish to schedule sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) prior to sessions of the COP.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: CST 1. Institutional arrangements: b.</b> The COP decides on the appropriate frequency of CST meetings, including the possibility of synchronized CST and CRIC meetings, with a view to ensuring continuity and providing timely policy advice to the COP in the light of this strategic plan.

Rec #	JIU recommendation	Response in strategic plan
5b	The COP may wish to request all country Parties to designate officials with relevant expertise as their representatives on the CST and to establish a specific procedure to this effect.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: CST 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> Representation in the CST and the roster of experts to be based on professional expertise and to include a wide range of disciplines and experience of biophysical and socio-economic aspects, and to respect equitable representation according to United Nations rules. Parties to establish a specific procedure to this effect as per JIU recommendations.
<b>III. Functions and activities of the UNCCD secretariat</b>		
6	In preparing submissions for the COP, particularly those on programme and budget proposals, the Executive Secretary should follow closely the guidance given by the COP, and adopt results-based planning, programming and budgeting, including on the implementation of additional activities called for in the various decisions of the COP.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
7	The Executive Secretary should ensure that the secretariat focuses on its catalytic role in its interactions with affected country Parties under Article 23, paragraph 2 (c) of the Convention.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 2. Programme of Work: b. Servicing and facilitating functions. i.</b> The secretariat performs enhanced servicing functions to support COP and CRIC sessions by: 3. Supporting the preparation of national reports.
8a	The developed country Parties are invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with article 26, paragraph 7.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Additional JIU recommendations to Parties and the COP: 1.</b> The COP is invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with article 26, paragraph 7.
8b	Developed country Parties are invited to ensure that higher levels of voluntary funding are provided to UNCCD trust funds to place them in a better position to support the implementation of the Convention.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat. 3. Budget:</b> Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the good functioning and efficient operation of the secretariat in performing its core functions and delivering required services for implementing this strategic plan through a results-based management framework as mentioned in the JIU report.
9	The Executive Secretary should, as a matter of priority, propose revised procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the COP and other activities, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 2. Programme of work: d. Civil society organization (CSO) participation: i.</b> The secretariat develops revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions in line with JIU recommendations.
10	The COP should endorse the benchmarking framework for results-based management.	The COP to adopt strategic plans and programmes of work of the CST, the CRIC, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM), as well as the GM/secretariat joint work plan.

Rec #	JIU recommendation	Response in strategic plan
11	The COP should approve the establishment of a task force comprising the main UNCCD constituencies that would use the results-based management benchmarking framework to draw up a long-term strategic framework for the UNCCD, which would establish the exact functions and activities of the UNCCD secretariat and enable the Executive Secretary to draw up a medium-term plan.	The COP to adopt strategic plan, including Section E - Implementation Framework: the secretariat, GM and secretariat/GM coordination sections. The COP to adopt strategic plans and programmes of work of the secretariat and the GM, as well as the GM/secretariat joint work plan.
12	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to contract an independent expert entity to conduct a desk-to-desk workload analysis as part of a needs assessment review of the human and financial resources required to deliver the expected results under the medium-term plan.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
13	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to put forward results-based budget proposals based on the findings of the needs assessment review, and linked to a medium-term plan, in line with the benchmarking framework for results-based management.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
<b><i>IV. Relationship between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism</i></b>		
14	The Task Force to be established under recommendation 11 above should be requested: (i) To make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM; (ii) To review the current administrative arrangements for the GM as contained in the memorandum of understanding between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the COP, including the possibility of separate budget submissions and performance reporting to the COP.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: secretariat, GM and secretariat/GM coordination sections.</b> The COP adopts work programmes of the secretariat and the GM, as well as a GM/secretariat joint work plan.  <b>Section E - Implementation framework: GM: 1. Administrative arrangements: a.</b> Institutional arrangements with IFAD currently remain unchanged. <b>b.</b> The COP monitors the effectiveness and added-value of the GM's institutional arrangements with IFAD in line with JIU recommendations.
<b><i>V. Financial and budgetary issues</i></b>		
15	The COP should adopt and apply similar procedures for its decision-making processes as those contained in Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.	Approved at COP 7. To be implemented at COP 8.
16	The COP should consider adopting euro budgeting and a single currency system of assessment – the euro – from the 2008–2009 biennium onwards.	Approved at COP 7. To be implemented at COP 8.

Rec #	JIU recommendation	Response in strategic plan
<i>VI. Other issues in administration and management</i>		
17	The COP should request the United Nations Secretary-General to delegate full authority to the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD through a comprehensive statement of all delegated authorities and associated accountabilities, which would replace earlier delegation.	The COP to consider this recommendation further.
18	The Executive Secretary should formulate a strategy for human resources management as an essential part of the proposed results-based management strategy.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
19	The Executive Secretary should: (i) Review the gender balance at the Professional level and above and, as opportunities arise in the secretariat, make efforts to move towards the target set by the United Nations General Assembly; (ii) Review the geographical distribution at the Professional level and above and, as opportunities arise in the secretariat, make efforts to achieve a more equitable distribution.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
20	The Executive Secretary should develop, for consideration and approval by the COP, a comprehensive information and communication technology (ICT) strategy to support the proposed results-based management strategy.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
21	Following the development and approval of the ICT strategy, the COP may wish to establish a dedicated ICT fund, preferably within the framework of the core budget.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
22	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to make an estimate of the increased operating costs of the new premises and recommend how best to meet these additional requirements.	<p><b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.</p> <p><b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 3. Budget:</b> Adequate and predictable resources are essential in order to ensure the good functioning and efficient operation of the secretariat in performing its core functions and delivering required services for implementing this strategic plan through a results-based management framework as mentioned in the JIU report.</p>



Rec #	JIU recommendation	Response in strategic plan
23	The Executive Secretary should continue to explore the possibilities for the expansion of cost-saving common and joint services with his counterparts in Bonn and systematically report on progress to the COP.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 1. Institutional arrangements: a.</b> The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
<b><i>VII. Coordination and cooperation</i></b>		
24	The COP should direct the Executive Secretary to work with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio Conventions and boost synergies in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation, and to systematically report to the COP on progress made.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 2. Programme of work: c. Other core functions: iii.</b> The secretariat works with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio Conventions in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation in line with JIU recommendations.
25	The secretariat should make strenuous efforts to play a catalytic role between the Parties concerned and the various partner organizations in order to enhance cooperation between them in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, it should formulate a concrete plan of action and systematically report to the COP on progress made.	<b>Section E - Implementation framework: Secretariat: 2. Programme of work: c. Other core functions: i.</b> The secretariat develops increased advocacy and awareness-raising, agenda-setting and representation activities, as appropriate, in relevant forums at the international level.