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Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

**Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions
and international organizations, institutions and agencies**

Note by the secretariat*

Addendum

**Collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization during the period
under review**

Summary

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have a long history of collaboration on the problems of drought; this has resulted in the establishment of the Drought Management Centre for South-eastern Europe (DMCSEE). DMCSEE is expected to develop a subregional drought management strategy, implement effective drought monitoring and early warning systems, provide reliable and timely information to national decision makers, and to share any information gathered and lessons learned. With the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, WMO and the UNCCD have been working jointly since 2007 to facilitate the establishment of a Drought Management Centre for Central Asia, which will serve Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, the two organizations are working in partnership on the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System to promote capacity-building in Africa and Asia with regard to coping with

* This document has been delayed due to the need for extensive internal and external consultations in order to provide Parties with the latest available information.

sand and dust storms. The two organizations have also held a number of joint workshops that include the International Workshop on Climate and Land Degradation, held in the United Republic of Tanzania.

1. As the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for meteorology and operational hydrology, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been addressing the issue of agricultural drought since its inception.
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and WMO have a long history of collaboration on drought imperatives. Both organizations helped to establish the Drought Management Centre for South-eastern Europe (DMCSEE). The objectives of the Centre are to integrate input from the UNCCD focal points, national meteorological and hydrological services (WMO Members) and independent drought researchers from each participating country, in order to develop a subregional drought management strategy, to implement effective drought monitoring and early warning systems, to provide reliable and timely information to national decision makers, and to share the information gathered and lessons learned.
3. The International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting for DMCSEE was organized by the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia and was held in Bled, Slovenia in March 2008. The ISC discussed a number of important matters including the adoption of the terms of reference for the ISC, the DMCSEE logo and web page, existing and anticipated activities, project-financing possibilities, and the activity plan for 2008 and 2009. The second DMCSEE ISC meeting was held in Portorož, Slovenia in April 2009.
4. Following the successful establishment of DMCSEE, WMO, UNCCD and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have been working jointly since 2007 to establish a drought management centre for Central Asia, which will serve Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A Technical Seminar on Preparation of the Terms of Reference for a Regional Drought Centre in Central Asia was held in November 2007 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This was followed by a Second Workshop on Preparation of the Terms of Reference for a Drought Management Centre for Central Asia, which was held in May 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Participants in the Second Workshop reviewed the Draft Ministerial Declaration of Intent for the Establishment of the Drought Management Centre for Central Asia and endorsed the proposal that the draft be submitted to the Ministers, inviting them to adopt the declaration.
5. The UNCCD secretariat works in partnership with WMO on the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System to promote capacity-building in Africa and Asia with regard to sand and dust storms.
6. Given the UNCCD definition of desertification, which cites climatic variations as one of the factors leading to land degradation and subsequent desertification, an International Workshop on Climate and Land Degradation was organized by WMO, the UNCCD and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency in Tanzania in December 2006. The workshop recommended an

integrated approach backed up by institutional support and the regeneration of affected areas by means of agro-ecological practices and other physical interventions to reduce land degradation. Direct interaction between national meteorological and hydrological services and land users can help to enhance the direct communication of weather and climate information (that is, seasonal climate forecasts). The workshop also recommended that given current concerns regarding recurrent droughts and their impact on local communities, it is important to develop and implement a national drought policy which supports effective implementation of the national action programmes.
