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The United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

**The United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification
(2010–2020)**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In its decision 27/COP.8, the Conference of the Parties decided to include the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) in the agenda of its ninth session.

In view of the status of General Assembly resolution 62/195, the Parties may wish to provide guidance on ways in which the Decade could be implemented in light of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).

I. Background

1. In decision 27/COP.8, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to include the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) in the agenda of its ninth session.
2. The present document provides information on the status of General Assembly resolution 62/195 in which the Assembly decided to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and Fight Against Desertification, following the recommendation contained in decision 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its twenty-fourth session.¹
3. At its sixty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/218, entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa” in which it reaffirmed the decision taken in resolution 62/195.
4. However, resolutions 62/195 and 63/218 fell short of prescribing operational modalities for the implementation of the Decade. This means that resolution 62/195 remains without such operational modalities, until the General Assembly instructs otherwise.

II. Recommendations

5. In view of the current status of General Assembly resolution 62/195, the COP at its ninth session may wish to provide guidance on ways in which the Decade could be implemented in light of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) by:

(a) Submitting a recommendation to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly to call for the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

(b) Inviting all countries to organize activities to promote the observance of the Decade in raising awareness of the causes of and solutions to ongoing land degradation and desertification;

(c) Recommending that all relevant international organizations and developed countries support the observance events and activities worldwide;

(d) Requesting the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to facilitate the implementation of the Decade.

¹ A/62/25, pp. 39–40.