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**Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda**

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)**

**Follow-up on outstanding Joint Inspection Unit recommendations**

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of  
the Convention (2008–2018)**

**Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on the activities of the secretariat was presented to Parties at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2005. After consideration of the report, Parties established an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group (IIWG), with a mandate to review the JIU report in full and, building on the results of that review, develop a 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention by addressing, inter alia, the recommendations of the JIU report.

The IIWG integrated a major part of the JIU recommendations into the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by Parties at COP 8.

Paragraph 20 (a) of the annex to decision 3/COP.8 requests the secretariat to implement and systematically report to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.

Parties will find herewith for consideration a table on the status of the implementation of the JIU recommendations.

Based on this submission, Parties may wish to take an informed decision taking account of other relevant information contained in the costed draft two-year work programme of the secretariat (2010–2011).

### **Joint Inspection Unit recommendations and responses in the context of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)**

<b>I. Policy issues</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1(a)	The COP should invite affected country Parties to integrate and prioritize their national action programmes (NAPs) into their national development plans.	<p>Outcome 2.2: affected country Parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information while including integrated investment frameworks.</p> <p>Outcome 2.3: 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.</p>	<p>In progress. Both the UNCCD<sup>1</sup> secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) are providing technical support to affected developing country Parties to align their action programmes with The Strategy</p> <p>Cooperation with specialized United Nations organizations (FAO, UNDP<sup>2</sup>) helps to better integrate NAPs into relevant national policy areas</p>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

<sup>2</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme.

<b>I. Policy issues</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1(b)	The Conference of the Parties (COP) should invite developed country Parties to mainstream UNCCD objectives into their development programmes/projects.	Outcome 2.4: 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.	In progress. A high-level consultation on strategic objective 4 is being prepared.  Work of OECD <sup>3</sup> countries in fields relating to UNCCD is analysed.
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 Parties. They took no decision on further actions pursuant to this recommendation.	No further actions required at this stage.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 16 (c) (ii) c: the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is assigned the responsibility of assessing on a regular basis progress made in implementing The Strategy, including outcomes 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, which refer to JIU recommendations 1(a) and 1(b) above.	In progress. CRIC 8 may wish to consider the latest development through documentation prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the CRIC and COP Bureaux.

<sup>3</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

<b>II. Governance</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
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.	Additional JIU recommendations to Parties and the COP. The COP may wish to consider how the Bureau deals with operational and financial contingencies when the COP is not in session.	Under consideration. Final decision is yet to be taken at COP level
5(a)	The COP may wish to schedule sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) prior to sessions of the COP.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 14 (a) (ii): 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.	Under consideration. COP 9 may wish to take a decision based on a proposal in the CST work programme 2010–2011.
5(b)	The COP may wish to request all country Parties to designate officials with relevant expertise as their representatives on CST and to establish a specific procedure to this effect.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 14 (a) (i): representation in 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.	In progress. Notification letters were sent to all Parties. As at end of May 2009, 114 out of 193 Parties have officially nominated their science and technology correspondents (SCTs).

<b>III. Functions and activities of the UNCCD secretariat</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</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 for the implementation of additional activities called for in the various decisions of the COP.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	The secretariat has adopted results based budgeting in preparing submissions for COP 9.  The secretariat multi-year workplans and two-year work programme are prepared following a results-based management (RBM) approach.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (b) (ii) a. iii: the secretariat carries out enhanced servicing functions to support COP and CRIC sessions by supporting the preparation of national reports.	The secretariat functions, including its support to affected country Parties, continue to be based on its mandate.
8(a)	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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 23 (a): 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.	In progress. Parties may wish to take appropriate decisions in preparing for the next national reporting cycle. Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the efficient operation and delivery of the required services under the Convention.
8(b)	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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (c): budget. 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 RBM framework as mentioned in the JIU report.	In progress. Successful organization of consultations on strategic objective 4 is considered essential.

Rec. no.	JIU recommendations	Response in The Strategy	Remarks
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (b) (iii) d. i: the secretariat develops revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations (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.	The secretariat has revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in UNCCD core events and other related processes. This includes clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions.
10	The COP should endorse the benchmarking framework for RBM.	The COP to adopt strategic plans and programmes of work of CST, CRIC, the secretariat and GM, as well as the secretariat/GM joint workplan.	As a follow-up to CRIC 7 and the first CST special session, draft programmes of work for CST, CRIC, the secretariat and GM, as well as the secretariat/GM joint workplan are submitted to COP for final consideration at its ninth session.
11	The COP should approve the establishment of a task force, comprising the main UNCCD constituencies that would use the RBM benchmarking framework, to draw up a long-term strategic framework for UNCCD, which would establish the exact functions and activities of the secretariat and enable the Executive Secretary to draw up a medium-term plan.	The COP to adopt a strategic plan, including sections C, D and E of Chapter VI – Implementation framework, dealing with GM, the secretariat and secretariat/GM coordination respectively. The COP to adopt strategic plans and programmes of work of the secretariat and GM, as well as the secretariat/GM joint workplan.	COP to adopt the two-year operational programmes submitted by the secretariat.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	The secretariat has taken appropriate action as recommended by JIU. Based on submission at COP 9, Parties may wish to take an informed decision.

<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
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 RBM.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	In progress. The secretariat has submitted the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 for consideration by Parties at COP 9.

#### **IV. Relationship between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism**

<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
14	The task force to be established under recommendation 11 above should be requested: (a) To make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of GM; (b) To review the current administrative arrangements for 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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, sections C, D and E on GM, the secretariat and secretariat/GM coordination. The COP adopts work programmes of the secretariat and GM, as well as a secretariat/GM joint workplan.  Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 18 (a) (i) and (ii): institutional arrangements with IFAD currently remain unchanged. The COP monitors the effectiveness and added-value of the institutional arrangements with IFAD in line with JIU recommendations.	Under consideration. COP 9 to take a decision based on the JIU report on the Global Mechanism.

<b>V. Financial and budgetary issues</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</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.	This recommendation is being implemented for all proposed decisions having budgetary implications.
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.	The United Nations Office at Geneva has informed UNCCD of difficulties at this stage in adapting the underlying accounting system to accept the euro as the accounting currency. This may result in a delay to the change to the euro for accounting, budgeting and assessment. Substantiated reports were submitted to Parties at COP 8

<b>VI. Other issues in administration and management</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
17	The COP should request the United Nations Secretary-General to delegate full authority to the Executive Secretary of UNCCD through a comprehensive statement of all delegated authorities and associated accountabilities, which would replace earlier delegation.	The COP to consider this recommendation further.	Still under consideration at COP level.



Rec. no.	JIU recommendations	Response in The Strategy	Remarks
18	The Executive Secretary should formulate a strategy for human resources management as an essential part of the proposed RBM strategy.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	The secretariat has taken this into account during the desk-to-desk workload analysis. COP 9 may wish to take a final decision based on proposals made.
19	The Executive Secretary should: (a) 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; (b) 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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	In progress. The secretariat fully adheres to this recommendation and it takes appropriate measures as and when opportunities arise.
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 RBM strategy.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	The secretariat has taken the necessary action. Based on submission of a comprehensive ICT strategy, Parties at COP 9 may wish to provide guidance as appropriate.

Rec. no.	JIU recommendations	Response in The Strategy	Remarks
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	Parties may take a decision in the context of the Programme budget 2010–2011.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.  Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (c): Budget. 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 RBM framework as mentioned in the JIU report.	In progress. The secretariat, together with other United Nations Bonn-based organizations, is consulting with the host country. Parties to take a decision at COP 9 based on the latest submission on this subject.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (a): institutional arrangements. The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.	In progress. The Secretariat will report to COP on any new developments relating to this recommendation. Activities such as travel and security have been contracted for the whole United Nations Campus in Bonn. Procurement services are being serviced by UNFCCC. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<b>VII. Coordination and cooperation</b>			
<b>Rec. no.</b>	<b>JIU recommendations</b>	<b>Response in The Strategy</b>	<b>Remarks</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 to boost synergies, in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation, and to systematically report to the COP on progress made.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (b) (iii) c: programme of work, other core functions. 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.	The secretariat continues to work towards enhanced coordination and cooperation with other Rio conventions. Parties may wish to take a decision based on submissions tabled at COP 9.
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.	Chapter VI – Implementation framework, paragraph 20 (b) (iii) a: programme of work, other core functions. The secretariat develops increased advocacy and awareness-raising, agenda-setting and representation activities, as appropriate, in relevant forums at the international level.	The secretariat programme of work in 2010–2011 emphasizes activities to be undertaken so as to meet expectations under this recommendation.

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