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Desertification**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Programme and budget

Consideration of the increase in the Convention's budget for the biennium 2008–2009

Programme and budget

**Consideration of the increase in the Convention's budget
for the biennium 2008–2009**

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties at its eighth session (COP 8) did not complete consideration of agenda item 6 of its agenda and deferred action on document ICCD/COP(8)/L.27 submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, containing the draft decision on the programme and budget for the biennium 2008–2009.
2. In accordance with rule 4 of the financial rules of the COP, the COP shall consider the budget estimates and adopt by consensus a core budget authorizing expenditures other than those from the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, prior to the commencement of the financial period covered by the budget.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference thus decided to convene an extraordinary session of the COP to agree upon the level of increase in the Convention's budget for the biennium 2008–2009, without reopening negotiations on the remaining text of the aforementioned draft decision, on which consensus was reached by Parties at COP 8.
4. Annexed to the present document is the text of the draft decision on the programme and budget for the biennium 2008–2009 as contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/L.27, for reference and any decision that the Conference may wish to take.

Annex

Programme and budget for the biennium 2008–2009

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the adoption of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008–2018) (The Strategy) by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session,

Recalling paragraphs 3, 9 and 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,¹

Noting that actions have been taken on several recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report while further measures are planned in the aftermath of the strategic guidance of the COP,

Recalling recommendation 16 of the JIU report and decision 23/COP.7 to adopt the euro as the budget and accounting currency of the secretariat,

Noting that the secretariat must change its underlying accounting systems in conjunction with the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the beginning of 2010,

Agreeing that forthcoming programme and budget proposals must be presented in a timely manner in the most informative, clear and transparent way possible to reflect the strategic guidance of the COP,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau of the COP on all further actions that he may consider necessary to implement all recommendations included in audit reports for the biennium 2004–2005 and for any still outstanding recommendations from prior bienniums;
2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for consulting with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and proceeding with the co-financing of a shared internal auditor at the P-3 level;
3. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent for the Convention or any other international instrument, to draw on unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to cover over-expenditures on contractual commitments for staff costs and, to the extent strictly necessary, unavoidable recurring operating expenses, in headings 1 to 6 of the budget for the biennium 2006–2007, that may occur as a result of further declines in the value of the United States dollar against the euro through 31 December 2007;

¹ Decision 2/COP.1.

4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2008 and 2009 contained in the annex to this decision and in accordance with the financial rules of the Convention;
5. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary for the biennium 2008–2009 to notify the Parties of their indicative euro and United States dollar contributions for 2008 and 2009, which should be payable in euros or the current United States dollar equivalent;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to notify Parties of their contributions for 2008 by 20 October 2007, and for 2009 by 1 October 2008 to encourage early payment;
7. *Decides* to introduce the euro as the accounting currency from 2010–2011 and, consistent with decision 23/COP.7, *confirms* that from the biennium 2010–2011 notifications should be in euros, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on all necessary changes and associated costs in the programme and budget document for the ninth session of the COP (COP 9);
8. *Approves* the core budget for the biennium 2008–2009, amounting to 15,049,000 euros for the purposes specified in table 1 below;
9. *Notes* with appreciation the annual contribution from the host Government of 511,292 euros to the core budget, which offsets planned expenditures, and its generous contribution through the Bonn Fund of 511,292 euros to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;
10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to introduce results-based management, and to realign, as needed, the current programmes, staffing structure, and terms of reference for posts of the secretariat, to facilitate implementation of The Strategy, working within the allocated budget and guided by the following principles:
 - (a) Optimization of expenditures and improvements in efficiency, as appropriate;
 - (b) The reallocation of resources to strengthen key capacities;
 - (c) The need for transparency and clarity in accounting;
 - (d) Increased support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies;and to report to COP 9 on the outcomes of this realignment;
11. *Takes note* of the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the new Executive Secretary at the Assistant Secretary-General level;
12. *Notes* that the operations of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism must be managed on the basis of the amount of the approved biennium core budget (see paragraph 8), and that this takes precedence over all other tables or figures in the budget decision, unless amended by the COP;

13. *Approves* a contingency budget for conference servicing, amounting to 1,985,000 euros to be added to the programme budget for the coming biennium in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2008–2009 (see table 2 below);

14. *Notes* estimated additional costs of up to 1,492,000 euros (see table 3) which will be incurred in the event that COP 9 is held in Bonn, and *decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for this purpose does not enable this amount to be reached, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing as set out in table 2 below;

15. *Requests* the General Assembly of the United Nations to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2008–2009, the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

16. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 – 5 as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditures for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line 1 – 5 shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP on any such transfers;

17. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of annual estimated expenditure, including overhead charges, of the amount of the core budget;

18. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, for the biennium 2008–2009, to draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give priority in allocating the budget to implementing decisions agreed by Parties at COP 8, arrangements for sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, and facilitation of requests from affected developing country Parties for assistance with the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention;

20. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 4 of 14,383,000 euros with the understanding that the Supplementary Fund will be revised and integrated into The Strategy, and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules of the Convention, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their participation in regional conferences or meetings of the Convention;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Facilitate implementation activities and strategic objectives formulated in The Strategy;

(d) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

21. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 5 of 2,427,000 euros (USD 3,277,000), 1,172,000 euros (USD 1,582,000) for the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and 1,255,000 euros (USD 1,695,000) for COP 9 for the biennium 2008–2009, and *invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties to the Convention, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules, in order to support the participation of developing country Parties, and in particular least-developed country Parties, affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to COP 9 on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules.

Table 1. Resource requirements by object of expenditure
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	2006–2007		2008		2009		2008–2009	
	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD
Staff-related costs	7 480	8 746						
Consultants and experts	327	382						
Official travel of staff	917	1 073						
General operating expenses and related costs	1 491	1 744						
Subtotal secretariat	10 215	11 945						
Global Mechanism	3 323	3 886						
Total for secretariat and Global Mechanism	13 538	15 831						
Overheads	1 759	2 058						
Working capital reserve	10	12						
Total resource requirements	15 307	17 901						
Less: Contribution from host country Government	1 023	1 196						
Net required as indicative contributions	14 284	16 705						

Note: The budget is approved in euros, and amounts are shown in United States dollars for information purposes only.

Table 2. Estimates for contingency for conference services
(in the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in its regular budget)
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	2008		2009		Total 2008-2009	
	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR
Conference services	691	512	1 680	1 244	2 371	1 757
Overheads	90	66	218	162	308	228
Total resource requirements	781	578	1 898	1 406	2 679	1 985

Table 3. Operating costs of holding the ninth session of the COP in Bonn
(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	Estimate for COP 2009	
	USD	EUR
Logistic costs	1 620	1 200
Contingencies	162	120
Subtotal	1 782	1 320
Overheads	232	172
Total resource requirements	2 014	1 492

**Table 4. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements
by programme**
(amounts in thousands)

Programme/expenditure items	Total	Total
	USD	EUR
Executive Direction and Management	400 000	296 000
Substantive support to the COP, its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues	1 488 000	1 102 000
Science and technology	2 301 000	1 704 000
Facilitation of implementation	11 020 000	8 162 000
External relations and public information	1 327 000	983 000
Administrative services	650 000	481 000
Subtotal programmes	17 186 000	12 728 000
Overheads	2 234 000	1 655 000
Total resource requirements	19 420 000	14 383 000

Table 5. Special Fund estimated resource requirements

(amounts in thousands)

Object of expenditure	2008–2009	
	USD	EUR
<i>Exchange rate used</i>		<i>1,35</i>
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings		
CRIC 7	1 400	1 037
COP 9	1 500	1 111
Overheads	377	279
Total resource requirements	3 277	2 427

Appendix

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2008–2009										
Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
1	Afghanistan	LDC	0.001	0.001						
2	Albania		0.006	0.006						
3	Algeria		0.085	0.082						
4	Andorra		0.008	0.008						
5	Angola	LDC	0.003	0.003						
6	Antigua and Barbuda		0.002	0.002						
7	Argentina		0.325	0.315						
8	Armenia		0.002	0.002						
9	Australia		1.787	1.731						
10	Austria		0.887	0.859						
11	Azerbaijan		0.005	0.005						
12	Bahamas		0.016	0.015						
13	Bahrain		0.033	0.032						
14	Bangladesh	LDC	0.010	0.010						
15	Barbados		0.009	0.009						
16	Belarus		0.020	0.019						
17	Belgium		1.102	1.067						
18	Belize		0.001	0.001						
19	Benin	LDC	0.001	0.001						
20	Bhutan	LDC	0.001	0.001						
21	Bolivia		0.006	0.006						
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.006	0.006						
23	Botswana		0.014	0.014						
24	Brazil		0.876	0.848						

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2008–2009										
Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
25	Brunei Darussalam		0.026	0.025						
26	Bulgaria		0.020	0.019						
27	Burkina Faso	LDC	0.002	0.002						
28	Burundi	LDC	0.001	0.001						
29	Cambodia	LDC	0.001	0.001						
30	Cameroon		0.009	0.009						
31	Canada		2.977	2.883						
32	Cape Verde	LDC	0.001	0.001						
33	Central African Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001						
34	Chad	LDC	0.001	0.001						
35	Chile		0.161	0.156						
36	China		2.667	2.583						
37	Colombia		0.105	0.102						
38	Comoros	LDC	0.001	0.001						
39	Cook Islands		0.001	0.001						
40	Congo		0.001	0.001						
41	Costa Rica		0.032	0.031						
42	Côte d'Ivoire		0.009	0.009						
43	Croatia		0.050	0.048						
44	Cuba		0.054	0.052						
45	Cyprus		0.044	0.043						
46	Czech Republic		0.281	0.272						
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea		0.007	0.007						
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	LDC	0.003	0.003						
49	Denmark		0.739	0.716						
50	Djibouti	LDC	0.001	0.001						

**Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget
of the Convention for 2008–2009**

Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
51	Dominica		0.001	0.001						
52	Dominican Republic		0.024	0.023						
53	Ecuador		0.021	0.020						
54	Egypt		0.088	0.085						
55	El Salvador		0.020	0.019						
56	Equatorial Guinea	LDC	0.002	0.002						
57	Eritrea	LDC	0.001	0.001						
58	Ethiopia	LDC	0.003	0.003						
59	European Community		2.500	2.500						
60	Fiji		0.003	0.003						
61	Finland		0.564	0.546						
62	France		6.301	6.103						
63	Gabon		0.008	0.008						
64	Gambia	LDC	0.001	0.001						
65	Georgia		0.003	0.003						
66	Germany		8.577	8.307						
67	Ghana		0.004	0.004						
68	Greece		0.596	0.577						
69	Grenada		0.001	0.001						
70	Guatemala		0.032	0.031						
71	Guinea	LDC	0.001	0.001						
72	Guinea-Bissau	LDC	0.001	0.001						
73	Guyana		0.001	0.001						
74	Haiti	LDC	0.002	0.002						
75	Honduras		0.005	0.005						
76	Hungary		0.244	0.236						

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2008–2009										
Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
77	Iceland		0.037	0.036						
78	India		0.450	0.436						
79	Indonesia		0.161	0.156						
80	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		0.180	0.174						
81	Ireland		0.445	0.431						
82	Israel		0.419	0.406						
83	Italy		5.079	4.919						
84	Jamaica		0.010	0.010						
85	Japan		16.624	16.101						
86	Jordan		0.012	0.012						
87	Kazakhstan		0.029	0.028						
88	Kenya		0.010	0.010						
89	Kiribati	LDC	0.001	0.001						
90	Kuwait		0.182	0.176						
91	Kyrgyzstan		0.001	0.001						
92	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001						
93	Latvia		0.018	0.017						
94	Lebanon		0.034	0.033						
95	Lesotho	LDC	0.001	0.001						
96	Liberia	LDC	0.001	0.001						
97	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		0.062	0.060						
98	Liechtenstein		0.010	0.010						
99	Lithuania		0.031	0.030						
100	Luxembourg		0.085	0.082						
101	Madagascar	LDC	0.002	0.002						
102	Malawi	LDC	0.001	0.001						

**Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget
of the Convention for 2008–2009**

Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
103	Malaysia		0.190	0.184						
104	Maldives	LDC	0.001	0.001						
105	Mali	LDC	0.001	0.001						
106	Malta		0.017	0.016						
107	Marshall Islands		0.001	0.001						
108	Mauritania	LDC	0.001	0.001						
109	Mauritius		0.011	0.011						
110	Mexico		2.257	2.186						
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)		0.001	0.001						
112	Moldova		0.001	0.001						
113	Monaco		0.003	0.003						
114	Mongolia		0.001	0.001						
115	Montenegro		0.001	0.001						
116	Morocco		0.042	0.041						
117	Mozambique	LDC	0.001	0.001						
118	Myanmar	LDC	0.005	0.005						
119	Namibia		0.006	0.006						
120	Nauru		0.001	0.001						
121	Nepal	LDC	0.003	0.003						
122	Netherlands		1.873	1.814						
123	New Zealand		0.256	0.248						
124	Nicaragua		0.002	0.002						
125	Niger	LDC	0.001	0.001						
126	Nigeria		0.048	0.046						
127	Niue		0.001	0.001						
128	Norway		0.782	0.757						

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Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
129	Oman		0.073	0.071						
130	Pakistan		0.059	0.057						
131	Palau		0.001	0.001						
132	Panama		0.023	0.022						
133	Papua New Guinea		0.002	0.002						
134	Paraguay		0.005	0.005						
135	Peru		0.078	0.076						
136	Philippines		0.078	0.076						
137	Poland		0.501	0.485						
138	Portugal		0.527	0.510						
139	Qatar		0.085	0.082						
140	Republic of Korea		2.173	2.105						
141	Romania		0.070	0.068						
142	Russian Federation		1.200	1.162						
143	Rwanda	LDC	0.001	0.001						
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis		0.001	0.001						
145	Saint Lucia		0.001	0.001						
146	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		0.001	0.001						
147	Samoa	LDC	0.001	0.001						
148	San Marino		0.003	0.003						
149	Sao Tome and Principe	LDC	0.001	0.001						
150	Saudi Arabia		0.748	0.724						
151	Senegal		0.004	0.004						
152	Seychelles		0.002	0.002						
153	Sierra Leone	LDC	0.001	0.001						
154	Singapore		0.347	0.336						

**Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget
of the Convention for 2008–2009**

Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
155	Slovakia		0.063	0.061						
156	Slovenia		0.096	0.093						
157	Solomon Islands	LDC	0.001	0.001						
158	Somalia	LDC	0.001	0.001						
159	South Africa		0.290	0.281						
160	Spain		2.968	2.875						
161	Sri Lanka		0.016	0.015						
162	Sudan	LDC	0.010	0.010						
163	Suriname		0.001	0.001						
164	Swaziland		0.002	0.002						
165	Sweden		1.071	1.037						
166	Switzerland		1.216	1.178						
167	Syrian Arab Republic		0.016	0.015						
168	Tajikistan		0.001	0.001						
169	Thailand		0.186	0.180						
170	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		0.005	0.005						
171	Timor-Leste	LDC	0.001	0.001						
172	Togo	LDC	0.001	0.001						
173	Tonga		0.001	0.001						
174	Trinidad and Tobago		0.027	0.026						
175	Tunisia		0.031	0.030						
176	Turkey		0.381	0.369						
177	Turkmenistan		0.006	0.006						
178	Tuvalu	LDC	0.001	0.001						
179	Uganda	LDC	0.003	0.003						

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Parties to the UNCCD ^{a/}		(*)	United Nations scale	Indicative scale of assessment for 2008–2009	2008 assessed contributions		2009 assessed contributions		Total amount payable in 2008–2009	
			(%)	(%) ^{b/}	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR	USD ^{c/}	EUR
180	Ukraine		0.045	0.044						
181	United Arab Emirates		0.302	0.292						
182	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		6.642	6.433						
183	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC	0.006	0.006						
184	United States of America ^{d/}		22.000	22.000						
185	Uruguay		0.027	0.026						
186	Uzbekistan		0.008	0.008						
187	Vanuatu	LDC	0.001	0.001						
188	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		0.200	0.194						
189	Viet Nam		0.024	0.023						
190	Yemen	LDC	0.007	0.007						
191	Zambia	LDC	0.001	0.001						
192	Zimbabwe		0.008	0.008						
Total from Parties			102.449	100.000						

Footnotes:

^{*/} Least-developed country.

^{a/} Actual Parties include States and one regional economic integration organization that are Parties as at 31 May 2007.

^{b/} In accordance with paragraph 12 (a) of the Financial Rules, the indicative scale of assessment is based on the United Nations Scale of Assessment as contained in General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/237 of 13 February 2007.

^{c/} Amounts in United States dollars are for information purposes only. Notification to the Parties of assessments will be made in euros only.

^{d/} The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Note: Amounts on table above to be changed to reflect budget decision amount.
