



Convention to Combat Desertification

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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
First session
18-29 November 2002
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2(a) AND (b), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN,
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES,
INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS, AND ON EXPERIENCE GAINED AND
RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES

Addendum

INPUTS FROM THE REGIONAL MEETING OF NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN,
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES

Note by the secretariat

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening of the meeting

1. The regional meeting for Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European (CEE) and other affected country Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 26 July 2002, to enable the country Parties and their partners to formulate conclusions and recommendations as a regional input to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with funding from the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, organized the meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

2. Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat, delivered an opening statement highlighting recent developments at global and European levels on issues relating to combating desertification and land degradation as well as on sustainable development. He also described the status of the implementation of the Convention in Europe and stressed the potential for development of subregional, regional and interregional cooperation in the context of the UNCCD.

B. Election of the chairperson and other officers

3. The participants elected Mr. Maurizio Sciortino (Italy) as chairperson of the meeting. Ms. Ketevan Tsereteli (Georgia) was elected vice-chairperson. Mr. Ryszard Debicki (Poland) was elected rapporteur of the meeting.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. The participants adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat. This was followed by a general introduction, presenting a history of the reporting process and highlighting the seven key thematic topics as adopted by the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 5).

5. The meeting drew up a number of conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the first session of the CRIC. These are contained in chapter III.

6. The meeting heard presentations of sixteen national reports from the following Northern Mediterranean, CEE and other affected country Parties:

Albania	Georgia	Portugal
Armenia	Greece	Republic of Moldova
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Spain
Belarus	Italy	Turkey
Bulgaria	Israel	
Cyprus	Malta	

The representative of Ukraine also made a statement as an Observer.

7. It also heard a presentation of the subregional report from the Regional Implementation Annex for Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV), which was presented by Greece as holder of the Presidency of the subgroup. In addition, the Czech Republic as the host country presented information on a consultative meeting to prepare for implementation of the UNCCD in the CEE countries, which was held in Prague in September 2001.

8. It further heard a presentation of the report from the Czech Republic as a developed country Party.

9. The following United Nations organizations, international and multilateral agencies also made presentations:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Regional Office for Europe;
Mediterranean Action Plan
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
World Conservation Union (IUCN)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The European Community also made a presentation.

10. A non-governmental organization (NGO) from the Republic of Moldova made a presentation.

11. As requested by decision 1/COP.5, the representative of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) from the Eastern Group, as well as the representative from the Global Mechanism (GM), also provided advice and information to the meeting.

12. An open-ended drafting group was established to prepare draft conclusions and recommendations resulting from the meeting.

13. The UNCCD secretariat introduced the tentative organization of the first session of the CRIC to be held from 18 to 29 November 2002. The matter of presentation of case studies as well as the designation of vice-chairpersons of the Bureau of the CRIC were also presented (see annex I).

D. Attendance

14. The list of participants is given in annex II to this document.

E. Documentation

15. The following documents were made available for consideration by the meeting:

ICCD/CRIC(1)/5	Review of reports on implementation by Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties, including on the
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participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes

ICCD/CRIC(1)/5/Add.1 Synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in reports submitted by Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties, and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in the Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe and other affected country Parties

ICCD/CRIC(1)/6 Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of all regions, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention

ICCD/CRIC(1)/6/Add.1 Synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in reports submitted by developed country Parties

ICCD/CRIC(1)/7 Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

16. Presentations by affected country Parties were followed by discussion, which provided an occasion for an extended exchange among participants. Most of the presentations highlighted the key thematic points as requested, and provided a view of the reality of the UNCCD implementation in their countries, stressing the difficulties encountered and sometimes requesting solutions or asking for an exchange of views with other countries, which might have faced similar problems. Many presentations by CEE countries were based on the summaries from their national reports. Affected Parties from Annexes IV and V as well as other affected country Parties showed a mutual interest in exchanging experience. The United Nations organizations as well as the developed countries and cooperation partners reported on their activities in the region in combating land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought as well as on general sustainable development, and contributed to the discussions. It was also an occasion to receive feedback from some European NGOs such as those from Armenia, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova.

17. During the active discussion which followed the presentations, clarification and information were requested from the various speakers,

especially regarding the form of public awareness raising, feedback from the media and NGOs, effectiveness of the application of policies, political support for the focal points, use of a code of good practice, the level of involvement of the scientific community at field levels. Several technical issues were also discussed such as pesticides and fertilizers, forestry as carbon sinks, private funding strategies, water irrigation management, risk mapping, the use of treated waste water, and genetically modified substances.

18. The problem for affected countries, even affected developed countries, of lack of funding or access to funding was the subject of several exchanges among participants. Access to funding from the Global Mechanism (GM), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the European Commission was also discussed. One developed non-affected country, which is emerging as a donor country from the region, expressed interest in actively participating in the process of subregional, regional and interregional cooperation.

19. The European Community raised the topic of interpretation of the UNCCD definition of land degradation and of the status of an affected country. Proposals were made to discuss this issue at the first session of the CRIC or at a special regional meeting. Special attention was paid to drought mitigation and possible cooperation between Annex IV and Annex V country Parties in this respect. Those United Nations specialized organizations present reiterated their interest in the Convention and their readiness to cooperate and share their experience.

20. Finally, during the discussion on the CST presentation the topics of development of synergies at field level, the involvement of civil society in CST activities, and linkages between desertification and migration, as well as between combating desertification and the creation of new carbon sinks, were raised.

21. The draft conclusions and recommendations resulting from the meeting were reviewed by the participants, and the text was finalized taking into account their comments and amendments. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the meeting will be submitted for consideration and appropriate action at the first session of the CRIC.

22. The meeting authorized the rapporteur and the UNCCD secretariat to prepare this report.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The participants at the regional meeting for Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties,

Pursuant to decision 1/COP.5 on the procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Underlining the importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as a useful instrument to promote sustainable development, in particular to stimulate an integrated approach to land degradation,

Recognizing also the potential of the Convention to facilitate land-use planning, the identification of coping strategies and preventive measures in a context of worsening water scarcity in wide areas and the growing threat from extreme weather events due to accelerating climate change,

Having reviewed the reports and information presented by country Parties, the United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations,

Adopted the following conclusions and recommendations to be submitted for consideration and appropriate action to the first session of the CRIC to be held from 18 to 29 November 2002.

A. Reporting and monitoring process

24. The second cycle of national reporting under the UNCCD shows that the UNCCD process is gaining momentum throughout the Northern Mediterranean, CEE and other affected country Parties.

25. Participants at the meeting recognized that national reports provide indispensable information regarding the state and dynamics of the UNCCD process in individual country Parties and also serve as important elements in decision-making by potential partners.

26. Hence, the need further to improve the quality of national reports was recognized, for example by avoiding lacunas, repetitions, mixing actions already implemented with those still planned, or providing insufficient information on important subjects such as science and technology.

27. The involvement of NGOs in the assessment of progress was welcomed and should be facilitated in order to ensure a more representative assessment of national efforts to implement the Convention. In this context, financial resources should be available for supporting the involvement of NGOs into reporting and reviewing processes.

28. The Help Guide for affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean should be reviewed to reflect the specific needs of the country Parties in these regions.

B. Participatory process

29. Progress in the development of the participatory process, targeting a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, is taking place in many countries, but more still needs to be done in this regard. The utilization of various methodologies and tools in awareness-raising was also reported, in particular the European Awareness Scenario Workshop (EASW) methodology in the countries of Annex IV.

30. The meeting underlined the importance of including into national reports the outcome of participatory activities. Success stories should be collected and disseminated with the help of the UNCCD secretariat.

31. The World Day to Combat Desertification should be widely used to promote the UNCCD, involving a wider mobilization of all stakeholders as well as the participatory approach at local and national levels.

32. Innovative methods should be identified and proposed to reach vulnerable rural affected areas. Awareness-raising campaigns would benefit from sustained follow-up on the part of political and administrative authorities in order to ensure a dynamic continuity of the process.

33. Stakeholders' involvement must be facilitated. Better communication and exchange of information is a prerequisite for cooperation between technical and scientific actors and decision makers and natural resources users. NGO involvement in the decision-making process must be encouraged and Parties were encouraged to nominate representatives from NGOs into the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Further, a more intense involvement of the private sector in sustainable development practices was called for. Decentralization may promote the participatory process in many affected European countries. In the CEE countries, the end users of natural resources and final owners of the land have to be specifically targeted.

34. The CEE countries, especially those which have recently acceded to the UNCCD, requested their partners and the UNCCD secretariat to strengthen their assistance in capacity-building, education and awareness raising.

35. The early introduction of environmental issues, in particular desertification and land degradation, into education programmes for schools and universities was considered to be essential for the UNCCD process. The UNCCD secretariat, together with partner agencies, was requested to develop information materials adjusted to the specific conditions in Europe. The importance of translating and publishing UNCCD-related materials in local languages was emphasized.

C. Legislative and institutional frameworks

36. Legislative frameworks should undergo adjustments in line with the need to harmonize the existing legislation, to facilitate the evolution of the national action programme (NAP) process and, whenever necessary, to promote decentralization and privatization.

37. In the field of establishment of relevant legislative and institutional frameworks, accession countries to the European Union (EU) stressed the important impact of EU directives on the formulation of their NAPs. Certain changes to their legislative and institutional frameworks will also be needed to make them compatible with EU standards and practices. In this regard, consultancy assistance from the international community would be welcomed.

38. In this context, soil, land use, and air and water protection legislative frameworks should integrate aspects relating to desertification and land degradation due to various factors, including preventive measures. The meeting highlighted the importance of the European Soil Strategy and its linkages with the UNCCD.

39. The participants recognized the crucial role of national focal points in the implementation of the UNCCD, servicing the national coordinating bodies (NCBs) and fostering a greater coherence in strategic planning for natural resources management. The institutional capacities of their office should be strengthened.

40. The meeting noted that beside positive cases, several affected developed countries recognize institutional difficulties linked, *inter alia*, to the lack of resources and the lack of enforcement of pertinent legislation for the national focal points, which hamper the satisfactory exercise of their coordination functions.

41. Six countries have completed the preparation of their NAPs. The other affected countries were encouraged to accelerate the preparation of their NAPs in line with the provisions of the Recife Initiative (decision 8/COP.4). Interlinkages between NAPs and relevant sectoral programmes, particularly in such areas as agriculture, forestry, water management, energy and tourism, should be looked for. NAPs should become an integral part of countries' long-term socio-economic strategies and overall national environmental protection, sustainable development programmes and poverty reduction strategy. In this regard, capacity-building in policy and planning at the national level was considered to be essential.

42. In order to enable the NCBs to carry out their responsibilities effectively, there is a need for strong political support of their activities as well as for providing them with a relevant legal status. Participants noted the importance of the effective involvement in the NCBs of all ministries and institutions concerned, including the scientific community.

D. Resource mobilization and partnership arrangements

43. Provisions in the national budget should be earmarked to reflect the priority of the UNCCD for affected country Parties. The lack of adequate financial and technical assistance from the international community was deplored. Some assistance provided by a few bilateral and multilateral partners was highly appreciated as a crucial factor for progress in the UNCCD process. The difficult challenge of mobilizing domestic funds for NAP implementation was underlined.

44. The meeting drew the attention of the GM to the need to mobilize financial resources for relevant affected countries in Europe to support the implementation of their NAPs. In this context, the GM, together with developed countries, partner agencies and the UNCCD secretariat, was requested to launch preparatory processes leading to the establishment of partnership agreements for those countries which, having adopted their NAP, were waiting to enter into the implementation phase. European development partners were encouraged to back such efforts in creating a platform of cooperation to implement the UNCCD in Europe.

45. The European Commission and the UNCCD secretariat were invited to explore together the possibility of convening an initial meeting of CEE focal points and European Community representatives in CEE countries in order to facilitate the identification of concrete mechanisms for partnership building.

46. Institutions and organizations involved in environmental activities in Europe were invited to cooperate with the UNCCD secretariat and the GM to integrate land degradation, desertification and drought issues into their assistance programmes. In addition, cooperation between their respective local representatives and the UNCCD focal points should be encouraged.

47. The European Community as a Party to the UNCCD was encouraged to strengthen its participation in the activities under Annex IV and Annex V.

48. The importance of strengthening human resources mobilization was underlined and, in this regard, partners from the region were invited to support activities such as exchange of expertise, technology transfers, training at universities, internships, scholarships in desertification and land degradation, and networking of scientific institutions.

49. Participation in the regional meeting of United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations involved in activities in Europe was welcomed. At the same time, the participation from developed country Parties was not found adequate to foster the peer review of CEE national reports that was required under the CRIC process.

50. Taking into account that external financing must play its role in the process of UNCCD implementation, the regional meeting strongly supported the proposal regarding the establishment of land degradation as a focal area of the GEF to contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD, as well as regarding the designation of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD.

E. Synergies with other environmental conventions

51. The complexity of coordination and establishing synergies was fully acknowledged. Some time and resources must be invested to achieve results in these matters. In most instances, synergies with other conventions are weak and should be strengthened. The meeting highly appreciated the active participation and readiness for cooperation of international organizations having activities in the European region, such as the FAO, the Regional

Office for Europe as well as Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP, UNECE, WMO, UNISDR, the European Commission, IUCN and UNFCCC.

52. The importance of synergies with the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was recognized. At the same time, linkages with other conventions and agreements such as the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership should be encouraged. Cooperation should also be promoted between the focal points of these agreements and the UNCCD focal points at country level, with a view to jointly encouraging field activities of common interest.

53. Affected countries were also invited to involve representatives from local and national agendas²¹ in NAP preparation and implementation. Partners are welcome to provide assistance for preparing and implementing pilot projects where synergies between conventions at field level are ensured.

54. Mitigation and adaptation measures taken under the UNFCCC should be pursued in full recognition of, and greater partnership with, measures taken to this date under the UNCCD process. The role of forestry for carbon sinks, biodiversity protection, in particular in drylands, and soil conservation are examples where the obligations of Parties under the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD must be discharged in an integrated manner through synergistic programmes which can be promoted in the NAP context.

F. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land

55. NAPs should promote best practices of sustainable soil and water management, effective watershed management and erosion control, control of soil salinization and reduction of nitrate pollution of the ground water. Water scarcity, forest decline and severe droughts need urgent attention in many countries. The promotion of organic agriculture and traditional practices is to be enhanced. A higher level of preparedness to natural catastrophes such as prolonged droughts and forest fires is required. The impact of economic activities on coastal areas in dry ecosystems should be fully assessed. Environmental risks assessment, notably for fertilizer use, treated waste-water use or genetically modified organisms, are tools to be systematically utilized in charting the course of NAP implementation.

56. Parties recognized that the rehabilitation and the sustainable management of degraded drylands in Europe often call for infrastructure projects and a continuous flow of investment from national and international sources. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was invited to assist CEE countries in associating the private sector to the common effort for drylands rehabilitation.

57. Institutions and programmes should be promoted and resources should be allocated for training, demonstration of successful measures and exchange involving farmers, community leaders, trainees and experts at all levels.

58. Linking the pilot areas, a network project was demanded to build common criteria for evaluating progress and to exchange experience between civil societies living in different pilot areas and related experts.

G. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment

59. Drought is seen as a worsening threat. Desertification assessment in some countries of the region is still at a preliminary stage. The weakness of networking among scientific institutions, the absence of operational early warning systems on drought and soil moisture, limited exchange of data and work carried out at varying geographic scales represent some of the difficulties that continue to challenge progress in monitoring drought and desertification and implementing the recommendations of the CST.

60. Better coordination and sharing of relevant information and data at national, subregional and regional levels to mitigate the adverse effects of drought should be developed.

61. Early warning systems are under further development in the Northern Mediterranean. Some countries have established national databases of information on monitoring desertification and drought. A Mediterranean database of information on monitoring desertification and drought is being set up. Continuity of such monitoring and assessment will depend on the availability of financial resources. In some countries, desertification impact indicators are being prepared and used. Social and economic indicators are being incorporated into desertification risk scenarios.

62. Work on benchmarks and indicators is being carried out in line with the orientations of the European Commission. The future European soil monitoring system should be based on common legislation as statutory action and should include a set of parameters on desertification and land degradation.

63. Measures with regard to drought and desertification monitoring have been mainly reactive rather than preventive in nature. In some cases, actions being taken by governmental and non-governmental organizations are sporadic and inadequately coordinated. Action taken towards mitigating the effects of drought should be shifted from crisis management to risk-management.

H. Access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how

64. Accumulated knowledge on drought and desertification in Europe is considerable but the results of research often fail to be meaningfully passed on and absorbed by planners and decision-makers. Alternative scenarios for Europe must be investigated and/or synthesized under the UNCCD.

65. Better integration of the CST recommendations into UNCCD programmes, at all levels, was called for. This would help to sustain adequate financing for research into desertification, land degradation and drought and the

improved coordination and sharing of relevant information and data. More work needs to be pursued on social and economic dimensions.

66. An acute or chronic shortage of financial resources in some affected countries limits access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how. Financial resources are also required for disseminating scientific output to end-users.

I. Actions at national, subregional, regional and interregional level

67. Country Parties should report on activities and measures taken to combat desertification and should also provide evidence of the effects of these measures on the status of desertification in their countries. This added reporting assignment requires the establishment and adoption of a uniform methodology for setting benchmarks and using indicators. Once these are achieved, it will be possible to assess the progress in combating desertification at national, subregional, regional and global level, and at different temporal and spatial scales.

68. Further development of subregional cooperation was recognized as one of the cost-effective policies aimed at combating land degradation. The subgroup of Annex IV was encouraged to pursue its effort in implementing its subregional action programme. In some cases, combining resources for transboundary projects as well as for joint monitoring and forecasting appears to have particularly important potential and should be encouraged in CEE countries. Support to the formulation of a joint drought mitigation strategy and the establishment of a subregional steering committee for a drought mitigation centre in the Balkans should be provided.

69. All affected country Parties of the Northern Mediterranean welcomed full regional cooperation under Annex IV. After a rich exchange of views on the regional process, they presented several possible areas of cooperation to be explored further. The subgroup of Annex IV declared its readiness to facilitate cooperation with the newcomers to Annex IV. They requested the UNCCD secretariat to play the role of a facilitator to Annex IV and to interact with interested Parties to analyse their suggestions on scientific and technical cooperation. They also requested the UNCCD secretariat to organize a regional meeting of Annex IV country Parties on the occasion of the first session of the CRIC and to submit proposals for consideration.

70. In order to ensure effective implementation of the UNCCD at regional level, those CEE countries which are not yet Parties to the Convention were invited to accede to it as soon as possible. The CEE countries requested the UNCCD secretariat to assist in organizing, on a yearly basis, a focal points meeting of CEE country Parties in order to facilitate regional consultations.

71. Affected developed country Parties were invited to share their unique experience and information on the implementation of the UNCCD in their countries in order to enrich the process. Non-affected developed country Parties from Annex IV and Annex V were encouraged to participate in the implementation of the Convention under respective annexes.

72. At interregional level, in order to stimulate the implementation of the UNCCD in Europe, the European Commission was invited to explore the possibility of organizing a meeting on soil protection and land rehabilitation in Europe in the context of the UNCCD. Furthermore, cooperation between Northern Mediterranean countries and the other Mediterranean countries and between the CEE countries and Central Asia should be pursued.

73. The participants requested the UNCCD secretariat to contribute to the preparation of the fifth European Ministerial Conference, Environment for Europe, to be held in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2003.

J. Global policy matters

74. The widespread negative consequences of land degradation, desertification and drought result in increased rural poverty, forced migrations to the cities or to neighbouring countries, or the resumption of conflicts linked to the competition for scarce natural resources. The UNCCD must be recognized at the appropriate political level as a relevant tool for integrating environmental with social policies, thus reducing such heavy human hardships and contributing to longer-term stability and peace.

75. The UNCCD secretariat, together with the partner agencies, was requested to present to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties the findings of an up-to-date study on migratory and conflict patterns from the perspective of their relationship to land degradation, desertification and drought and their potential impact in a European context.

76. Taking into account the linkage between trade and environment, the regional meeting underlined the fact that the international trading system must play an effective role in contributing to sustainable development. Capacity-building for national focal points should be provided to build positive relationships between trade and the environment in the affected country Parties with sustainable development as a primary objective.

Annex I

PREPARATION OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CRIC

A. Nomination of the vice-chairpersons of the CRIC

1. In conformity with article 4 of the terms of reference of the CRIC, as annexed to decision 1/COP.5, concerning the composition of the Bureau of the CRIC, Mr. Pavol Bielek (Slovakia) was nominated as the vice-chairperson of the CRIC on behalf of the Eastern Group. Participants from the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) were reminded that their nomination of a vice-chairperson is expected as soon as possible.

B. List of countries presenting case studies
at the first session of the CRIC

2. Decision 1/COP.5 concerning the nature of the review and methodology used by the CRIC states that the review, which is conceived as an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise, shall be conducted thematically, with due regard to geographic regions and subregions. In accordance with the provisional agenda of the first session of the CRIC (ICCD/CRIC(1)/1), which clusters seven thematic topics adopted by COP 5 into three groups, Northern Mediterranean, CEE and other affected country Parties, agreed on the following list of affected country Parties to present case studies at the session:

<u>Group I: thematic topics 1, 2 and 4</u>	<u>Country</u>
1: Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations	Portugal
2: Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements	Spain
4: Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies	Belarus
<u>Group II: thematic topics 5, 6 and 7</u>	
5: Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land	Armenia
6: Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment; early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought	Turkey
7: Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how	Israel
<u>Group III: thematic topic 3</u>	
3: Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements	Italy, Poland, Malta

3. In addition, other affected country Parties not presenting case studies were called upon to contribute actively to the discussion of each group of topics by presenting their own experience and lessons learned.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTIES

ALBANIA

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Ministry of Nature Protection

AZERBAIJAN

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Ms. Cansen Akkaya
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Hydraulic Works (DSI)

Ms. Narmin Anul
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**UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT OFFICES,
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

Mr. Michel Malagnoux
Secretary, *Silva Mediterranea*
Forestry Officer (Arid Zone Forestry
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Forest Conservation, Research and
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Forest Resources Division
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**INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER
REDUCTION**

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**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE
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**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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Environment and Human Settlements
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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Ms. Françoise Belmont
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Regional Office for Europe

Ms. Beatrice Bulwa
Regional Office for Europe

Mr. Jean De Montgolfier
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Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)/Blue
Plan

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ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. Vitaly Matsarski
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WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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Agrometeorology Unit

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR)

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Regional Coordinator for Europe

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Mr. Jozef Skultéty
Head of the Executive Director
Office

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Albania

Environment in Focus Association

Mr. Perparim Laze

Armenia

Environmental Survival

Dr. Susanna Hakobyan

Belarus

Belarussian Geographic Society

Dr. Valentin Yatsukho

France

European Networking Initiative on
Desertification (ENID) -
International NGO Network on
Desertification (RIOD) Europe

Mr. Patrice Burger

Germany

German Working Group on
Desertification - International NGO
Network on Desertification (RIOD)
Europe

Mr. Jürgen Gliese

Republic of Moldova

Bios

Mr. Valentin Ciubotaru

Spain

European Society for Soil
Conservation (ESSC)

Mr. Jose Luis Rubio

World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Mr. Jamie Skinner

Turkey

Turkish Foundation for Combating
Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and
the Protection of Natural Habitats
(TEMA)

Ms. A. Yesim Erkan

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