



UNITED
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/CRIC(3)/2
17 February 2005

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
Third session
Bonn, 2 – 11 May 2005
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND OF ITS
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2 (a) AND (b), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION,
AS WELL AS DECISION 1/COP.5, PARAGRAPH 10**

**REVIEW OF THE REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY AFFECTED AFRICAN
COUNTRY PARTIES, INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS, AND
ON EXPERIENCE GAINED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES**

1. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall review the implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided to establish a committee for the review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, and to adopt the terms of reference of the CRIC as contained in the annex to that decision.

2. Following decision 11/COP.1 on communication of information, and according to decision 9/COP.6 on the programme of work of the third session of the CRIC, the CRIC at its third session will review the reports on implementation by affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes. In accordance with these decisions, the secretariat has prepared a synthesis and preliminary analysis of these reports, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention. A synthesis and preliminary analysis of reports submitted by affected African country Parties, prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision 1/COP.5, is contained in ICCD/CRIC(3)/2/Add.1.

3. Following the guidelines given in decision 11/COP.1, paragraph 10 (b), and decision 1/COP.5, the secretariat has prepared a document on progress in the formulation and implementation of subregional action programmes and the regional action programme in Africa; the document is contained in ICCD/CRIC(3)/2/Add.2.

4. In accordance with decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat has compiled summaries of the reports submitted. The summaries of reports from affected African country Parties are contained in ICCD/CRIC(3)/2/Add.3.

5. Decision 1/COP.5 also requests the secretariat to take advantage of its ongoing activities at the regional and/or subregional levels to disseminate information stemming from its preliminary analysis and to seek to obtain feedback with a view to enriching the Committee's work base. The subregional feedback obtained at workshops organized from 9 to 11 February 2005 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 15 to 17 February 2005 in Douala, Cameroon, and from 21 to 23 February 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is presented in ICCD/CRIC(3)/2/Add.4.

6. Aware of the observation expressed in the past by the affected developing country Parties that the quality of national reports could be improved if the funding for reporting activities were more consistent, and in order to respond to the numerous related requests by the affected developing country Parties, the secretariat has sought funds to support the preparation of African national and subregional reports to be submitted to the third session of the CRIC. This has been achieved through the Medium-Size Project (MSP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), "Supporting Capacity Building for the Elaboration of National Reports and Country Profiles by African Parties to the UNCCD" which was approved in June 2004. The objective of this project is to support the affected African country Parties to enhance their capacity to prepare and/or formulate their national reports so as to fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD, whilst building country capacity and strengthening a multi-stakeholder consultation process for implementing the UNCCD. The implementing agency for this MSP is the World Bank, with which the agreement on co-funding (to the amount of US\$ 700,000) was, after a number of revisions of the project brief, signed in May 2004; the funds were received through the Global Mechanism in June 2004. The executing agency of this MSP is the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), through which the amount granted by the GEF (US\$ 900,000) was channeled. The first grants to the affected African country Parties were transferred in July 2004 and the second in September and October 2004. To this purpose, the agreement letter between the World Bank and IFAD, as well as a memorandum of understanding between IFAD and the secretariat, were signed in September 2004.

7. As a result, the deadline for country Parties and United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to submit their reports was postponed from 31 May to 31 October 2004. In the light of these new developments, the Bureau of the COP, at its meeting on 2 April 2004, decided to postpone the third session of the CRIC to early 2005 and, at its meeting on 9 June 2004, granted the authority to the Executive Secretary to make a decision on the date of the third session as appropriate. In line with this, the Executive Secretary decided that the third session of the CRIC would take place in Bonn, Germany, from 2 to 11 May 2005.