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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
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**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 OF AFFECTED COUNTRY
PARTIES OF REGIONS OTHER THAN AFRICA, INCLUDING ON THE
PARTICIPATORY PROCESS, AND ON EXPERIENCE GAINED
AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES**

**Review of reports on implementation by affected Latin American and Caribbean
country Parties, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained
and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document sets the background to the review of reports on implementation by affected Latin American and Caribbean country Parties, and gives an overview of the reporting process. The synthesis and preliminary analysis of the reports is given in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.1; progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex III) is described in document (ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.2; and a compilation of summaries of the reports is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC.2 and Add.1. A report on the regional meeting of affected Latin American and Caribbean country Parties preparatory to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.3.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. According 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 the 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.

2. Following decision 11/COP.1 on communication of information, and in accordance with decision 9/COP.7 on the programme of work of CRIC 5, the Committee at its fifth session will review the reports on implementation by affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

3. In accordance with provisions of decision 11/COP.1 and decision 1/COP.5, the secretariat prepared the following documentation for review at CRIC 5:

(a) A synthesis and preliminary analysis of reports submitted by affected LAC country Parties, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.1);

(b) A document on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.2);

(c) A compilation of summaries of national reports from affected LAC country Parties (ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC. 2 and Add.1).

4. In the terms of reference of the CRIC annexed to decision 1/COP.5 the secretariat is requested to take advantage of its ongoing activities at the regional and/or subregional levels to disseminate information stemming from its preliminary analysis and to obtain regional feedback with a view to enriching the Committee's work base. The outcome of the regional meeting of LAC country Parties in preparation for CRIC 5, convened from 17 to 21 July 2006 in Panama City, Panama, is presented in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.3.

5. Aware of the observation expressed in the past by affected developing country Parties that the quality of national reports could be improved if funding for reporting activities were more consistent, and in order to respond to the requests by those Parties, the secretariat has sought and obtained funds to assist eligible Parties of regions other than Africa in the preparation of national and regional reports to be submitted to CRIC 5 through two medium-sized projects (MSPs) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

6. The objective of these MSPs, named "Global (Asia/Pacific and Caribbean) Supporting Capacity Building for the Third National Reporting to CRIC 5/COP 8" of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and "Global (Asia/Pacific Latin America and Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia) Supporting Capacity Building for the Third National Reporting to CRIC 5/COP 8" of the World Bank, which were approved in March 2006, is to support the eligible affected non-African country Parties in their efforts to enhance their capacity to prepare

and/or formulate their national reports so as to fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD, and at the same time to build country capacity and strengthen a multi-stakeholder consultation process for UNCCD implementation.

7. The implementing agencies of the MSPs are UNDP, which directly allocated funds to eligible countries, and the World Bank, which transferred the funds through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) acting as executing agency. In this respect, a letter of agreement between the World Bank and IFAD and a memorandum of understanding between IFAD and the UNCCD secretariat were signed in May 2006. Cofunding from IFAD and the GEF contribution were transferred to the secretariat in March 2006 and May 2006, respectively. Grants were transferred to the affected eligible country Parties immediately upon receipt from IFAD.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE REPORTING PROCESS

8. The LAC countries submitted their first national reports to the COP in 2000. The second national reports were submitted in 2002 for review by the CRIC at its first session.

9. At the seventh session of the COP, it was decided that the reports submitted by country Parties of regions other than Africa would be reviewed during CRIC 5 (decision 10/COP.7). In accordance with decision 1/COP.5, the LAC country Parties agreed on a process for reviewing implementation of the Convention based on seven key thematic topics. The country Parties should also take account of the UNCCD national reports Help Guide (ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3) drawn up by the secretariat and other United Nations bodies to assist country Parties in preparing their first national reports on the implementation of the Convention. In addition, decision 8/COP.4 (the Bonn Declaration) established seven strategic areas for action to be taken into account by countries when compiling their reports.

10. In this context, and at the request of LAC country Parties, a two-pronged approach to provide technical and financial support for the preparation of the third national reports that involves the World Bank and IFAD on the one hand, and UNDP on the other, was launched with assistance from the GEF. The Convention secretariat acted as facilitator in the management of World Bank/IFAD resources, the transmission of information, coordination activities, the provision of advice to country Parties, and the organization of the process of receiving, synthesizing and discussing at regional level the national reports prior to their submission to the CRIC.

11. Document ICCD/CRIC(5)/3/Add.1 provides a synthesis and analysis of the third national reports of LAC country Parties discussed at the XI regional meeting in Panama in July 2006. Its objective is to list the progress made and the obstacles encountered in implementing the Convention between 2002 and 2006. LAC country Parties that have reported are listed in the annex.

Annex

**LIST OF AFFECTED LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRY PARTIES
THAT HAVE REPORTED TO CRIC 5**

(as at 17 November 2006)

Antigua and Barbuda**
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados**
Brazil
Chile
Colombia**
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic*
Ecuador
El Salvador
Granada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti**
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay**
Peru**
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname*
Venezuela**

* = Summary only; ** = Background information only.
