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**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
Fifth session

NATIONAL REPORTING PROCESS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This explanatory note represents the adjusted version of the document ICCD/CRIC(3)/INF.4 and is intended to assist the developed country Parties to formulate their national report in preparation for the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5).

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I. BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the decisions of its Conference of the Parties (COP), and particularly decision 11/COP.1, developed country Parties to the Convention are required to communicate, through the UNCCD secretariat, reports on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.
2. Submissions from developed country Parties dealing with the reporting and review exercise shall, as an overall requirement, comply with the format and content of reports as outlined in decision 11/COP.1, paragraph 10 (c). Developed country Parties which have not yet submitted a report are requested to submit a comprehensive report covering the period starting with their ratification of and/or accession to the Convention up to the submission date. Country Parties which have already submitted a report to the COP and/or CRIC are requested to submit an update to the secretariat. In the specific case where CRIC 5 is focusing on the submissions of national reports from affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, reports from development partners, including developed country Parties, should focus on activities in support of those regions. Developed country Parties are also invited to take into consideration new substantive reporting requirements deriving from the CRIC process, in addition to the overall requirements of decision 11/COP.1. Detailed information regarding these new substantive reporting requirements is given below.
3. The COP, at its fifth session, decided to establish a Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The CRIC convenes both intersessionally (focusing on the substantive matters emerging from the review of reports) and in conjunction with the COP (reviewing policy issues in the context of the formulation of draft decisions). The terms of reference of the CRIC are contained in decision 1/COP.5. By its decision 7/COP.7, the COP decided to renew the mandate of the CRIC as its subsidiary body up to and including the eighth session of the COP.
4. The CRIC review shall examine, inter alia, reports submitted by the Parties, information and advice from the Global Mechanism (GM) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), and reports by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as such other reports as the COP may call for.
5. The COP felt it to be important for the process to accommodate a peer review of the national reports and their updates. This will be achieved through the organization of workshops to which multilateral and bilateral development partners will be invited to provide input.
6. Due to the establishment of the CRIC and the adoption of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4), some substantive amendments to the reporting exercise have been introduced which need to be taken into consideration by both affected and non-affected country Parties under the UNCCD when preparing for national report submissions.

7. The CRIC supplemented the reporting format of decision 11/COP.1 by introducing seven key thematic topics providing the basis for the comprehensive review during CRIC. These seven key thematic topics are as follows:

- (a) Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;
- (b) Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
- (c) Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements;
- (d) Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
- (e) Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
- (f) Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
- (g) Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

8. Furthermore, implementation of activities in specific thematic and sectoral areas, as identified in the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4), should also be reviewed within the framework of the CRIC, as stipulated in decision 4/COP.6. The specific thematic and sectoral areas are as follows:

- (a) Sustainable land use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas;
- (b) Sustainable use and management of rangelands;
- (c) Development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems;
- (d) Development of new and renewable energy sources;
- (e) Launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes;
- (f) Development of early warning systems for food security and drought forecasting;
- (g) Desertification monitoring and assessment.

9. The sixth session of the COP adopted decision 1/COP.6, which gives detailed guidance on further steps to be taken in the overall implementation process of the UNCCD as well as important parameters by which successful implementation could be measured. Affected country Parties, as well as development partners, are invited to reflect the new substantive parameters provided by decisions 1/COP.5, 8/COP.4 and 1/COP.6 in their reports, where appropriate, in order to ensure a comprehensive follow-up on decisions taken by the COP.

10. With regard to decision 1/COP.6, the following operational paragraphs specifically mention desired action by developed country Parties and/or by development partners in general. Developed country Parties are therefore invited to include in their report activities relating to those operational paragraphs where appropriate. It is to be noted that this list is not exhaustive. It is, rather, meant to provide a useful reference to developed country Parties in order to streamline the work of the CRIC and ensure proper follow-up of decisions taken at the level of the COP.

Decision 1/COP.6	OP 4	Strengthening of ongoing bilateral and multilateral assistance within the framework of the UNCCD
	OP 5	Identification of chefs de file for expediting the necessary consultative process
	OP 6	Support to South-South and North South cooperation
	OP 9	Promotion of small and medium-sized projects and activities at the local level
	OP 10	Support to the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems including those caused by refugee influxes
	OP 17	Promotion of gender-sensitive capacity-building measures that focus on specific participatory and synergistic programmes as part of NAP implementation
	OP 20	Promotion of capacity-building measures and participatory processes in the field of natural resources management
	OP 23	Promotion of triangular arrangements for training programmes and capacity building
	OP 32	Sensitization campaigns in developed country Parties to reflect better the global nature of the threats of land degradation, desertification and drought and their multiple consequences
Decision 4/COP.6	OP 4	Streamlining of UNCCD objectives into support strategies for developed country Parties towards affected country Parties
	OP 6	Integration of thematic areas specified in the Declaration on the commitment to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4) into the reports of developed country Parties
Decision 5/COP.6	OP 9	More proactive liaison between the GM and developed country Parties on the channelling of bilateral financial and technical assistance

11. Taking into consideration the outcome of a meeting on the report preparation of developed country Parties, held during COP 3 in Recife, Brazil, the annex to this explanatory note includes the possible structure which reflects the new substantive requirements deriving from the CRIC process and decision 8/COP.4.

12. In response to decision 10/COP.4, Parties are also invited to include in their reports information on relevant scientific and technical activities to combat desertification as well as on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the CST.

13. To complete the national report review in a timely manner, it is required that reports be submitted to the UNCCD secretariat in Bonn, Germany, at the following address:

UNCCD secretariat
Haus Carstanjen
Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8
D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Fax: (+49) 228 815-2899
E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int

II. REVIEW PROCESS

14. The following steps will be taken in order to prepare for the fifth session of the CRIC, taking into consideration the various legislative provisions guiding the reporting process:

- (i) Developed country Parties' reports are to be submitted to the secretariat;
- (ii) The secretariat will prepare a compilation of summaries, synthesis and preliminary analysis of the reports;
- (iii) Workshops will be convened from which input for the review process will be obtained and at which developed country Parties will be invited to present their reports and to contribute to the discussion;
- (iv) The results from the workshops will be made available by the secretariat and submitted to CRIC 5;
- (v) The official documents for CRIC 5 will be distributed;
- (vi) The CRIC will be convened.

The detailed information on time frame of this process will be communicated to Parties through official channels.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

15. It is anticipated that the CRIC at its fifth session will conduct the review according to the key thematic topics in decision 1/COP.5 and with a view to monitoring progress made with regard to the implementation of the Declaration as contained in decision 8/COP.4. Input from workshops will also be considered.

16. Sufficient time will be made available to discuss and adopt the comprehensive report of CRIC 5, which will include conclusions and recommendations leading to the preparation of draft decisions by CRIC 6 for the consideration by the eighth session of the COP.

17. The programme of work for CRIC 5 is contained in decision 9/COP.7. The COP at its seventh session decided that the duration of CRIC 5 is to be eight working days (decision 10/COP.7). Further information on the CRIC 5 organization of work, as well as appropriate documentation, will be circulated in due course.

Annex**POSSIBLE STRUCTURE FOR THE REPORTS OF
DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES****ASIA**

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Part A Core report: Activities reported should concern strictly the implementation of the Convention

- 1) A summary;
- 2) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which the country is involved;

Decision 1/COP.5	Key thematic topic 3	Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements
Decision 1/COP.6	OP 5	Identification of chefs de file

- 3) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Decision 5/COP.6	OP 9	Liaison with the GM on the channelling of bilateral financial and technical assistance
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Part B Any other activities relating to combating desertification

Decision 8/COP.4	Activities relating to specific thematic and sectoral areas (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g)
Decision 10/COP.4	Information on scientific and technical activities to combat desertification as well as on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the CST.
Decision 1/COP.5	Activities related to key thematic topics (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (g)
Decision 1/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4, OP 6, OP 9, OP 10, OP 17, OP 20, OP 23, OP 32
Decision 4/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4 and OP 6

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Decision 1/COP.5	Activities related to key thematic topics (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (g)
Decision 1/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4, OP 6, OP 9, OP 10, OP 17, OP 20, OP 23, OP 32
Decision 4/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4 and OP 6

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- 1) A summary;
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Decision 5/COP.6	OP 9	Liaison with the GM on the channelling of bilateral financial and technical assistance
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Decision 8/COP.4	Activities relating to specific thematic and sectoral areas (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g)
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Decision 1/COP.5	Activities related to key thematic topics (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (g)
Decision 1/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4, OP 6, OP 9, OP 10, OP 17, OP 20, OP 23, OP 32
Decision 4/COP.6	Activities relating to OP 4 and OP 6
