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UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Fifth session

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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**

Compilation of summaries of reports submitted by developed country Parties

Addendum

In addition to the submissions contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC.4, the present document contains the summary of the report received from Poland. This summary is reproduced without formal editing. The full report will be made available on the secretariat website <www.unccd.int>.

ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC.4/Add.1

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SUBMISSION FROM POLAND

This Report presents actions undertaken by Poland in scope of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) between 2004 and 2005, with special regard to the actions supporting desertification combat in those countries that are especially affected with the phenomenon. For Poland the resolutions of the UNCCD in countries seriously affected by drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, came into force on 12 February 2002. The Report hereby submitted is a second formal report developed by Poland under Article 26 of the Convention (the first report, issued in November 2004, presented actions undertaken by Poland for the Convention between 2002 and 2003).

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for implementation of the Convention in Poland. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as a coordinator of the support provided by Poland to other countries. The support is provided in three forms – as development assistance (including technical one), and financial and educational support. Additionally, Poland provides humanitarian aid to selected countries in case of crisis situations (natural disasters, military conflicts).

According to the “ Strategy for Poland’s Development Cooperation” adopted in 2003 Poland has concentrated its aid on selected countries, the so-called: priority ones (Afghanistan, Angola, Iraq, Palestinian Authority, Republic of Moldova, Viet Nam). For the most desertification affected countries of the African region that were not included in the a/m group the support was provided within the framework of the so-called small African grants (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zambia). Moreover, in 2004 significant financial aid was provided to Ethiopia. Development assistance for other countries is provided by Poland using three main methods – within the framework of the budget and support actions of the European Union; through payments for specialized international organizations realizing development assistance; and within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the States-Beneficiaries.

The volume of development assistance provided by Poland is adapted to the country’s current potential in this scope. The potential is seriously influenced by a relatively short experience of Poland as a donor-state, and mostly by the situation of Polish budget and internal needs connected with continuing process of restructuring and modernisation of home economy and making up for developmental distance to more wealthy countries. In 2004 Poland set aside over USD 137 million (majority for the developing countries), which constituted approximately 0.05 GDP. Between 2004 and 2005 Poland participated in implementation of over 100 aid projects.

This Report presents selected projects, divided into regions of Africa, Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe.
