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Desertification**

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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
Sixth session
Madrid, 4–7 September 2007

Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on its fifth session
 - (b) Comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat
 - (c) Report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention
3. Global Mechanism:
 - (a) Report on the activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
 - (b) Review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
 - (c) Progress made by, inter alia, the Global Mechanism in mobilizing financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention, in particular national action programmes to combat desertification

4. Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility
5. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information
6. Programme of work for the seventh session of the Committee
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee
8. Election of officers other than the Chair

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Article 22, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention provides that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP established 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 implementation of the Convention in the light of experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and to facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, pursuant to article 26 of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the COP concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

Venue

2. Pursuant to provisions contained in paragraph 5 of the annex to decision 1/COP.5, the sixth session of the CRIC will be held during the eighth session of the COP in Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 7 September 2007.

Participants

3. According to decision 1/COP.5, the CRIC shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which wishes to be represented at a session of the CRIC as an observer may be admitted unless one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Bureau

4. In accordance with decision 1/COP.5 and rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the COP (decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2), the COP at its seventh session elected the Chair of the CRIC. Four Vice-Chairs of the CRIC were elected by the CRIC at its fourth session, and the CRIC at its fifth session designated one of the Vice-Chairs to act as Rapporteur. The Chair and the Vice-Chairs constitute the Bureau of the CRIC.

Agenda

5. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided that, at sessions held during the COP, the CRIC shall:

- (a) Consider the comprehensive report of its intersessional session;
- (b) Review regularly the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism;
- (c) Review regularly reports prepared by the secretariat on the execution of its functions;
- (d) Consider reports on the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.

6. These, in addition to other matters arising from decision 1/COP.5 and other relevant decisions, such as 30/COP.7, have been taken into account in the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Chair of the CRIC, as contained in this document.

Documentation

7. A list of documents for the session and other relevant documents is provided in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session will be made available on the Convention website <www.unccd.int>.

Opening of the session

8. The sixth session of the CRIC will be opened on 4 September 2007 by the Chair.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The CRIC will have before it the provisional agenda contained in this document to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the sections below elaborate, is contained in annex II.

Purpose of the session

10. In accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of the terms of reference of the CRIC, the CRIC at its sixth session will take up its agenda with a view to formulating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

Organization of work

11. The CRIC may wish to consider the scenario by which the Chair of the CRIC would open the session on 4 September 2007 and then call for adoption of the agenda and organization of work. This would be followed by consideration of the items on the agenda.

12. Following the completion of all agenda items, the proposed tentative schedule of work allows for the formulation of the report on the session, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP. During the concluding meeting, the CRIC would consider the programme of work for its seventh session and adopt its report. Finally, the Chair would call for the election of officers other than the Chair of the CRIC.

Times of meetings

13. The tentative schedule of work aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provisions have been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with the working hours of the COP, and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than one meeting with interpretation services to be held at any one time.

2. Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements

14. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention, the COP is to review the implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements.

(a) Report of the Committee on its fifth session

15. According to decision 1/COP.5, at sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP, the CRIC is, inter alia, to draw conclusions and propose to the COP concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention, through a comprehensive report to the COP in the light of its programme of work. At the end of its fifth session, on 21 March 2007, the CRIC adopted the draft of the report on that session and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it, with the assistance of the secretariat, as appropriate. The final report is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/11.

(b) Comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat

16. According to article 23, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, the secretariat shall prepare reports on the execution of its functions under the Convention and to present them to the COP.

17. By its decision 11/COP.1, the COP decided that, after the third ordinary session and following every subsequent ordinary session of the COP, the secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing the conclusions of the review process.

18. Furthermore, by its decision 5/COP.3 the COP requested the secretariat to provide at forthcoming sessions of the COP a synthesis by each subregion, with the aim of preparing a comparative document on the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention.

19. The report responding to the above-mentioned requests is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/2.

(c) Report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention

20. In the “Declaration on the commitments under the Convention to enhance implementation of the obligations of the UNCCD”, annexed to decision 8/COP.4, the Executive Secretary was requested to compile, synthesize and submit appropriate information relating to the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention, as submitted by Parties as a follow-up to that Declaration, through a report to each COP during the first decade of the 21st century, starting in 2003. Furthermore, by its decision 4/COP.7, the COP invited all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to transmit to the secretariat, no later than the end of 2006, their written suggestions on policy options and practical measures to monitor, on a regular basis, progress in the strategic areas of implementation with a view to outlining intermediary targets in a long-term perspective. In the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation document for COP 8. The report relating to this matter is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/3.

21. By its decision 4/COP.7, the COP also requested the Global Mechanism to prepare a document on options for financing instruments, institutions and processes for international and domestic finance for financing the targets referred to in paragraph 3 of that decision, starting with national action programmes (NAPs) and possible future consideration of subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs), in collaboration with the members of its Facilitation Committee, and to report to the COP at its eighth session. The requested information is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/3/Add.1.

3. Global Mechanism

- (a) Report on the activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
- (b) Review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
- (c) Progress made by, inter alia, the Global Mechanism in mobilizing financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention, in particular national action programmes to combat desertification

22. Pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5 (d), of the Convention and decisions 24/COP.1 and 10/COP.3, the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM), on behalf of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), shall submit to each ordinary session of the COP a report on the activities of the GM, which will encompass the following:

(a) Operations and activities of the GM, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties;

(b) Assessment of the future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment of proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds;

(c) The activities of IFAD, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank as well as other relevant organizations in support of the GM.

23. By its decision 9/COP.3, the COP recommended that the Managing Director of the GM report to the COP on the activities undertaken by the Facilitation Committee, the decisions taken and the results obtained in implementing them.

24. Article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention states that the COP shall, at its third ordinary session, review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM accountable to it in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4 of the Convention. The first and second reviews took place at COP 3 and COP 6, respectively. In its decision 5/COP.6 the COP also noted that the third review will take place at COP 8.

25. In accordance with the terms of reference of the CRIC, which state that at sessions of the CRIC held during sessions of the COP the CRIC shall, inter alia, regularly review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM, it is proposed that these matters be considered by the CRIC through its review of the report by the Managing Director of the GM, which is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/4.

26. By its decision 5/COP.3, the COP requested the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the GM, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, to assist affected African country Parties, upon request, in facilitating the convocation of consultative processes in order to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the GM were also requested to report at each session of the COP on their role in facilitating these processes and on the results obtained. Information on these matters is contained in documents ICCD/CRIC(6)/2 and ICCD/CRIC(6)/4.

4. Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility

27. Article 20, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention addresses the need to promote the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the GEF concerning desertification, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

28. The Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF to enhance collaboration between them, adopted by decision 6/COP.7, provides that the GEF will submit a report to each regular session of the COP through the UNCCD secretariat on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification. By the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman of the GEF to report to the COP at its eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

29. The report on this agenda item is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/5, and the report of the GEF on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/5/Add.1.

5. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information

30. By its decision 8/COP.7, the COP established an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) to improve the procedures for communication of information, particularly at the national level, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention. By the same decision, the COP also decided that the review of ways and means for improving the procedures for communication of information and the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP will take place at COP 8. In addition, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP on the measures taken to implement this decision.

31. The report of the AHWG, including information on the measures taken to implement decision 8/COP.7, is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(6)/6. Document ICCD/CRIC(6)/6/Add.1 contains the input of the GM to the work of the AHWG.

6. Programme of work for the seventh session of the Committee

32. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided that after the sixth session of the COP, the review of the implementation of the Convention should be conducted in accordance with the timetable outlined in paragraphs 13–15 of decision 11/COP.1, according to which, review of reports submitted by Parties shall alternate between affected African country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions. Consequently, at its seventh session the Committee will examine the reports of affected country Parties of Africa, as well as reports of developed country Parties and relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on measures taken to assist action programmes of these affected country Parties.

33. Also by its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided that the review shall focus on seven key thematic topics set out in that decision.

34. According to the terms of reference of the CRIC, adopted by decision 1/COP.5, the CRIC shall, at sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP, inter alia, submit a comprehensive report to the COP in the light of its programme of work, including conclusions and recommendations.

35. By its decision 7/COP.7, the COP decided that the review of the terms of reference of the Committee, its operations and its schedule of meetings will take place at the COP 8, with a view to making any necessary modifications, including reconsidering the modalities of the Committee as a subsidiary body. This review may thus alter, inter alia, the work programme and ways in which this subsidiary body assists the COP in reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

36. Based on the provisions described above, the CRIC is to submit a tentative programme of work for its seventh session, including estimates regarding financial implications, to the COP for adoption.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee

37. According to decision 1/COP.5, the CRIC shall report on its work at each ordinary session of the COP. The report of the CRIC on its sixth session, including, where necessary, draft decisions, shall be submitted to the COP for its consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

8. Election of officers other than the Chair

38. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference of the CRIC, as contained in decision 1/COP.5, four Vice-Chairs, who, together with the Chair elected by the COP in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the COP, constitute the Bureau of the CRIC, shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. The Chair would call for the election of these officers at the concluding meeting. The Committee may wish to elect, in accordance with established practice, these Vice-Chairs to serve for two consecutive terms, thus enabling their terms to coincide with that of the Chair.

Annex I

**Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation
of the Convention at its sixth session**

**Documents prepared for the sixth session of the Committee for the Review of the
Implementation of the Convention**

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
ICCD/CRIC(6)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(6)/2	Comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(6)/3	Report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(6)/3/Add.1	Report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Options for financing targets relating to combating land degradation and desertification.
ICCD/CRIC(6)/4	Report on activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it, and review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(6)/5	Review of available information on the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(6)/5/Add.1	Review of available information on the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification
ICCD/CRIC(6)/6	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information. Note by the secretariat

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
ICCD/CRIC(6)/6/Add.1	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Towards harmonization and standardization: a proposed methodological guide to improve financial reporting under the UNCCD.

Other documents available at the session

ICCD/CRIC(5)/11	Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its fifth session, held in Buenos Aires from 12 to 21 March 2007
ICCD/CRIC(5)/9	Consideration of ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(3)/9	Report of the Committee on its third session, held in Bonn from 2 to 11 May 2005
ICCD/CRIC(3)/8	Consideration of ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/CRIC(1)/10	Report of the Committee on its first session, held in Rome from 11 to 22 November 2002

Annex II

Tentative schedule of work

Tuesday, 4 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- - -	<p>Opening of the session by the Chair of the CRIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/CRIC(6)/1</i>) • Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Committee on its fifth session (<i>ICCD/CRIC(5)11</i>) - Comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat (<i>ICCD/CRIC(6)/2</i>) - Report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention (<i>ICCD/CRIC(6)/3 and Add.1</i>)
Wednesday, 5 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on the activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it - Review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism - Progress made by, inter alia, the Global Mechanism, in mobilizing financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention, in particular national action programmes to combat desertification (<i>ICCD/CRIC(6)/4</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (<i>ICCD/CRIC(6)/5 and Add.1</i>)

Thursday, 6 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on improving the procedures for communication of information (ICCD/CRIC(6)/6 and Add.1)	<i>Formulation of the report of the CRIC, including, where necessary, draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i>

Friday, 7 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of work for the seventh session of the Committee • Adoption of the report of the Committee • Election of officers other than the Chair 	- - -

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