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**COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**  
Seventh session  
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**Item 3 (b) (iv)**

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention**

**Consideration of the work plans of the Convention bodies**

**The multi-year work plan for the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation  
of the Convention**

**Note by the secretariat**

**Addendum**

**Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme of the  
Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention  
(2008–2009)**

*Summary*

Decision 3/COP.8, by which the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy), requests the secretariat to present a multi-year (four-year) work plan and a two-year costed work programme for the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

The present document contains the costed draft two-year work programme (2008–2009) of the CRIC as formulated by the secretariat and reviewed by the Bureau of the CRIC at its meeting held in Bonn, Germany, on 26 May 2008.

The following factors are highlighted in the document:

(a) The outcome area (page 5) identified in accordance with the results-based management methodology and the relevant decisions of the COP still needs validation by the Parties.

(b) Without pre-empting deliberations on new terms of reference for the CRIC, tools for future review of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy have been identified which will orientate discussions and final decisions to be taken by the Parties at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) on the new mandate and the operational modalities of the CRIC.

(c) While the secretariat is entrusted with implementing the activities planned in the intersessional period, the CRIC Bureau is identified as a major agent of change with regard to consultation processes on CRIC-related issues aiming at increasing ownership of the implementation process.

(d) The multi-year (four-year) work plan could not be prepared due to the fact that, in accordance with decision 7/COP.8, the CRIC will operate under new terms of reference after COP 9 (2009).

Parties may wish to express their views on the present draft work programme both with regard to the methodological approach adopted in drafting it, as well as with regard to some of the substantive issues contained in the document in order to elicit ways and means to achieve expected accomplishments in the given timeframe.

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## I. Introduction

1. The present draft two-year work programme contains information on the main outputs created by the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and activities to be undertaken in the biennium 2008–2009 with regard to each expected accomplishment.
2. The present draft two-year work programme has been prepared in accordance with the provisions contained in the following decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP):
  - (a) Decision 1/COP.5, containing in its annex the terms of reference of the CRIC;
  - (b) Decision 3/COP.8, by which the COP decided that the seventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 7) would be a special session to consider methods of advancing the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy);
  - (c) Decision 7/COP.8, by which the COP decided that the CRIC will function under its present terms of reference as specified in decision 1/COP.5, where applicable, that is, for its eighth session and until the COP revises the terms of reference of the CRIC;
  - (d) Decision 9/COP.8, by which the COP decided on the programme of work for CRIC 7.
3. In the present draft two-year work programme, due attention has been paid to linking the mandate and role of the CRIC directly to operational objectives and/or strategic objectives contained in The Strategy. In order to comply with results-based management (RBM) methodology, it has therefore been necessary to define an outcome area for the CRIC that is in line with provisions made in decision 3/COP.8 and in The Strategy, taking into consideration the special mandate of CRIC 7 as well as the future mandate of the CRIC as outlined in The Strategy.
4. Following RBM methodology, the primary outcome area of the CRIC during this biennium as well as in the future was therefore defined as “Parties monitor and evaluate the impacts of the Convention and the effectiveness of The Strategy”. This outcome area still needs validation by Parties as part of the debate on the new terms of reference for the CRIC. While in this document, expected accomplishments have been identified following provisions of decision 3/COP.8 strictly, it becomes apparent that CRIC 7 and 8, through activities steered by the CRIC Bureau and Parties as a whole, will need to create additional outputs in order to set up a methodological approach for reviewing implementation of the Convention and The Strategy which will enable the CRIC to fulfil its objectives in the future.
5. In order for the CRIC to discharge its mandate effectively, using RBM as a tool, additional monitoring plans for the CRIC and other Convention bodies will have to be presented to CRIC 8 and COP 9 together with a proposal for revised terms of reference of the CRIC. These monitoring plans will include information on organizational, personnel and budget requirements.

6. The implementation of monitoring plans will require an indicator system, which has become more apparent through the adoption of The Strategy. It is necessary to launch consultations between country Parties and other stakeholders, in particular the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), in order to enable the CRIC to function effectively, using measurable parameters identified by Parties.

7. The work on indicators will have commenced by CRIC 7, but fine-tuning a core set of indicators and a coherent indicator system for the implementation of the Convention and inherently for The Strategy may require adjustment over time. This naturally results in the necessity to review reporting guidelines as part of an iterative process, following cross-feeding from relevant CST processes and processes initiated at regional level according to decision 3/COP.8. Since national reporting forms the basis for an effective review of implementation by the CRIC, the need for updating reporting guidelines will have to be assessed by Parties, taking into consideration decisions on indicators taken by the COP.

8. The present draft work programme was reviewed by the Bureau of the CRIC at its meeting in Bonn, Germany, on 26 May 2008.

9. At that meeting, the CRIC Bureau was identified as an important agent for achieving milestones in between sessions. The document suggests, therefore, that the CRIC Bureau is a legal entity within the UNCCD process and that its alternating members would need to work on substantive issues and avail themselves of necessary expertise and secretariat services in order to move the agenda and the review process forward. It is expected that this element of strengthening the CRIC Bureau will enhance ownership of the process and eventually lead to a more effective review of the Convention and The Strategy.

10. For this reason, two annual meetings of the CRIC Bureau have been planned, to provide advice and guidance to the secretariat, which will be implementing the planned activities during the intersessional period, and also to provide the documentary input to be reviewed by the CRIC Bureau and the CRIC at its seventh and eighth sessions.

11. In estimating the costs of the activities included in the present draft work programme, due attention has therefore been paid to making budgetary allocations consistent with the costed draft two-year work programmes of the secretariat, the CST and the Global Mechanism (GM) as they relate to the Joint Work Programme (JWP) of the secretariat and the GM. Most of the resource requirements are drawn from the core budget of the secretariat for the biennium 2008–2009. However, a limited amount of the total budget has to be covered through extrabudgetary funding.

12. Finally, as the future mandate and operational modalities of the CRIC will be decided by Parties at COP 9, it is apparent that a multi-year (four-year) work plan can be drafted only in accordance with the deliberations of COP 9 in this regard, taking full account of changes made in the mandate and operational modalities of this subsidiary body.

## II. Expected accomplishments: outputs, activities and important assumptions

Outcome area		Risks / assumptions		
7. Parties monitor and evaluate the impacts of the Convention and the effectiveness of The Strategy		Parties and Observers have the willingness, the financial means and capacity to adequately use the monitoring system established by the CRIC		
Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Outputs	Activities	Responsible
7.1 Guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the Convention's impact are approved by COP 9	COP 9 decision on a monitoring and evaluation system for the Convention	7.1.1 New standardized reporting guidelines as referred to in decision 8/COP.8 reviewed at CRIC 7 and 8 <sup>a</sup>	7.1.1.1 To carry out an interactive exchange among Parties at CRIC 7 on new standardized reporting guidelines, also using regional consultations and meetings with a view to finalizing and providing guidelines for adoption at COP 9	CRIC Bureau
	CRIC 7 final report, report from regional meetings		7.1.1.2 To provide to Parties a draft decision on reporting guidelines	CRIC Chairperson
	CRIC 8 draft decisions	7.1.2 Draft core indicators and draft methodological approach to monitor desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) processes and the Convention's impact reviewed by CRIC 7 and 8	7.1.2.1 To carry out consultations with Regional Implementation Annexes on nationally and regionally relevant indicators (secretariat synthesizes information and provides a preliminary analysis based on submissions received)	CRIC Bureau
			7.1.2.2 To review the input received from the CST and carry out an exchange of information on how to harmonize indicators identified at CST level (strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3) at CRIC sessions	CRIC Chairperson
			7.1.2.3 To prepare a draft document on methodological approach taken to harmonize national and regional indicators identified by Parties and Regional Implementation Annexes (including external assistance as required)	CRIC Chairperson

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Outputs	Activities	Responsible
			<b>7.1.2.4.</b> The CST Chairman to provide CRIC 7 information and advice on how best to monitor strategic objectives 1,2 and 3	CRIC Chairperson
			<b>7.1.2.5</b> To carry out substantive discussions on draft core indicators at CRIC 7	CRIC Bureau
		<b>7.1.3</b> Draft decision submitted to COP 9 <sup>a</sup>	<b>7.1.3.1</b> To prepare a draft decision and to organize consultations on indicators	CRIC Chairperson
			<b>7.1.3.2</b> To facilitate effective negotiation of draft decisions	CRIC Bureau
<b>7.2</b> A programme and methodology on how to review and evaluate the implementation of The Strategy is adopted	COP 9 decision on monitoring process to be used in order to assess implementation efforts of UNCCD stakeholders	<b>7.2.1</b> Work programmes of the secretariat, the GM, the JWP of the secretariat and the GM, the CST and the CRIC reviewed by CRIC 7	<b>7.2.1.1</b> To carry out an interactive exchange at CRIC 7 on the various work programmes, operational plans etc. with a view to assessing their potential to meet the objectives of The Strategy	CRIC Chairperson
		<b>7.2.2</b> Programme and Methodology on how to review and monitor the implementation of The Strategy discussed at CRIC 8 <sup>a</sup>	<b>7.2.2.1</b> Regional meetings and CRIC 8 to review a conceptual paper containing proposals as to how to monitor implementation of The Strategy through various means available to Parties and Convention bodies (including external assistance)	CRIC (Parties)
		<b>7.2.3</b> Draft decision text submitted to COP 9 <sup>a</sup>	<b>7.2.3.1</b> Consultations on draft decisions to take place in between sessions	CRIC Chairperson
<b>7.2.3.2</b> To facilitate effective negotiation of draft decisions	CRIC Chairperson			
<b>7.3</b> UNCCD has a new terms of reference for the CRIC at its disposal	COP 9 decision on the terms of reference of the CRIC	<b>7.3.1</b> Document on future format for CRIC meetings and activities reviewed by CRIC 7 and 8	<b>7.3.1.1</b> To carry out an interactive exchange at CRIC 7 on proposals for future CRIC sessions with a view to improving exchange of information by the CRIC without jeopardizing its intergovernmental nature	CRIC Chairperson

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Outputs	Activities	Responsible
	CRIC 7 final report		7.3.1.2 To prepare a draft decision	CRIC Chairperson
	Deliberations on future format of CRIC meetings held at CRIC 7	7.3.2 Monitoring plan for the CRIC and other bodies involved in monitoring submitted to CRIC 8 and COP 9 for consideration <sup>a</sup>	7.3.2.1 To make an assessment of organizational, personnel and budget requirements for the CRIC and other Convention bodies involved in monitoring (including external assistance)	CRIC Chairperson
7.3.2.2 To carry out an interactive exchange at CRIC 8 on the assessment			CRIC Chairperson	
7.3.2.3 To report to COP 9 on the outcome of CRIC 8 deliberations			CRIC Chairperson	
7.4 CRIC recommendations to the COP are facilitated by an extensive consultation process	Number of CRIC Bureau meetings	7.4.1 CRIC Bureau deliberations address relevant agenda items of the CRIC	7.4.1.1 To convene at least four CRIC Bureau meetings (two in 2008 and two in 2009) in order to allow for an effective exchange of information among Bureau members (travel costs for entitled CRIC Bureau members, and interpretation at the second meeting)	CRIC Chairperson
	Number of regional meetings	7.4.2 Information mechanism is put in place which guarantees that information on CRIC related issues is passed on to the regions	7.4.2.1 To establish an information system to be at the disposal of CRIC Bureau members	CRIC Bureau members
			7.4.2.2 To provide and organize feedback to and from the regions	CRIC Bureau members
		7.4.3 Report of regional meetings <sup>a</sup>	7.4.3.1 To carry out discussions during regional meetings that address relevant CRIC agenda items	CRIC Bureau members

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Outputs	Activities	Responsible
7.5 CRIC 8 discharges its mandate according to decision 1/COP.5 as amended by 7/COP.8	Deliberations on the review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM, deliberations on the execution of the secretariat's functions, deliberations on collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF)	7.5.1 Decision on the review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM, decision on the execution of the secretariat's functions, decision on collaboration with the GEF <sup>a</sup>	7.5.1.1 To carry out consultations among Parties and an interactive exchange at CRIC 8 on the three substantive issues to be covered according to decisions 1/COP.5 and 8/COP.8	CRIC Bureau members

**The estimated resource needs for achieving the outcome area in 2008-2009 amount to approximately EUR 340,000.**

<sup>a</sup> Most of the activities relating to these outputs are costed under the 2008–2009 work programme of the secretariat (as contained in ICCD/CRIC(7)/2/Add.2), with particular regard to the consultations of the Regional Implementation Annexes in preparation for COP 9.



### III. Conclusions and recommendations

13. Parties at the seventh session of the CRIC may wish to consider the present draft work programme both with regard to the methodological approach adopted in drafting it, and also with regard to some of the substantive issues contained in the document.

14. The substantive issues needing feedback at CRIC 7 concern the following:

(a) The relevance and adequateness of the outcome area identified in the document to the core responsibility of the CRIC as outlined in The Strategy and as it would be amended by the decision to be adopted at COP 9 on the terms of reference of the CRIC;

(b) The interaction with the CST and the inputs produced by it as they relate to reporting guidelines, which will be reviewed at CRIC 7;

(c) The approach taken to setting up a monitoring system that will assist and ensure effective review of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy by the CRIC;

(d) The enhanced role of the CRIC Bureau and its members, which are recognized as important agents of change which will enhance ownership of the CRIC process and its outputs;

(e) The proposed submission to COP 10 of a multi-year work plan for the CRIC covering the period 2012–2015.

15. The present draft work programme will be further adjusted taking into consideration of the recommendations of CRIC 7.

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