



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Report of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 21 to 25 February 2011

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I. Opening of the session

A. Opening statements

1. On 21 February 2011, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), Mr. Chencho Norbu (Bhutan), opened the ninth session of the Committee and made a statement.
2. The Director-General for Africa and Global and Sectoral Affairs of Germany, Dr. Friedrich Kitschelt, made welcoming remarks on behalf of the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, H.E. Mr. Dirk Niebel.
3. The President of the Conference of the Parties, H.E. Mr. Francisco Armando Gandia, Under-Secretary for Environmental Policy Coordination of Argentina, addressed the meeting.
4. A statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
5. The Deputy Minister of the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Young-hyo Ha, also addressed the meeting.
6. A statement was also made by the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM).

B. General statements

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Hungary (on behalf of the European Union and its member states), Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), India (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia), Belarus (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe) and Argentina (on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States).
8. A statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.
9. A statement was made by the representative of Gramin Vicas Trust (on behalf of civil society organizations).

C. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes

10. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes on matters that were before the Committee were held from 16 to 18 February 2011.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

11. At its first meeting, on 21 February 2011, following a statement by the representative of Argentina, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/1 and Corr.1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Appointment of a Rapporteur for the Committee
3. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators:
 - (a) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 1 of The Strategy
 - (b) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 2 of The Strategy
 - (c) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 3 of The Strategy
 - (d) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy
4. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 5 of The Strategy
 - (b) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention
5. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention - Review and compilation of best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation
6. Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention: open dialogue session
7. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures
 - (b) Draft template and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations (2012–2013)
 - (c) Status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes to combat desertification
8. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention - Update on progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9
 9. Review of input from the Committee on Science and Technology - Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy
 10. Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations

12. Also at the first meeting, following a statement by the representative of Brazil, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in chapter II of document ICCD/CRIC(9)/1.

B. Appointment of a Rapporteur of the Committee

13. Also at its first meeting, on 21 February, the Committee appointed the Vice-Chair, Mr. Bashir Nwer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), as Rapporteur of its ninth and tenth sessions.

C. Establishment of contact groups

14. At its second meeting, on 21 February, the Committee agreed to establish Contact Group 1 on the assessment of implementation and review of financial flows, under the chairmanship of Mr. Naser Moghaddasi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Contact Group 2 on improving the quality and format of the reports and other matters, under the chairmanship of Mr. Armando Alanis (Mexico).

D. Attendance

15. The representatives of the following 144 Parties to the UNCCD attended the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (see ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.2-ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.16):

Albania	Antigua and Barbuda	Australia
Algeria	Argentina	Austria
Angola	Armenia	Azerbaijan

Bangladesh	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia
Belarus	Eritrea	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Belgium	Ethiopia	Lithuania
Belize	European Union	Madagascar
Benin	Fiji	Malawi
Buthan	Finland	Mali
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	France	Marshall Islands
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gabon	Mauritania
Botswana	Georgia	Mexico
Brazil	Germany	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Bulgaria	Grenada	Mongolia
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Montenegro
Burundi	Guinea	Morocco
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique
Canada	Guyana	Myanmar
Cape Verde	Haiti	Nepal
Central African Republic	Honduras	Niger
Chad	Hungary	Nigeria
Chile	India	Niue
China	Indonesia	Norway
Colombia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Pakistan
Comoros	Israel	Palau
Congo	Italy	Panama
Cook Islands	Jamaica	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Japan	Peru
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan	Philippines
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Poland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	Portugal
Denmark	Kiribati	Republic of Korea
Djibouti	Kuwait	Republic of Moldova
Dominica	Kyrgystan	Rwanda
Dominican Republic	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Ecuador	Lebanon	Saint Lucia
Egypt	Lesotho	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Samoa	Thailand	Uruguay
Sao Tome and Principe	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Uzbekistan
Saudi Arabia	Togo	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Senegal	Trinidad and Tobago	Viet Nam
Serbia	Tunisia	Yemen
Seychelles	Turkey	Zambia
Sierra Leone	Turkmenistan	
South Africa	Tuvalu	
Spain	Uganda	
Sri Lanka	Ukraine	
Suriname	United Arab Emirates	
Swaziland	United Republic of Tanzania	
Switzerland	United States of America	
Syrian Arab Republic		

16. The session was also attended by observers from two other countries.
17. The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were also represented:
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
 - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Carribean (ECLAC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 - Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - United Nations Common Information Space (CIS)
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
 - United Nations University (UNU)
 - World Bank
 - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
 - World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

18. The session was also attended by 14 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and 32 civil society organizations (CSOs), including non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

E. Documentation

19. The documentation submitted for the consideration of the Committee is listed in the annex.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

20. The conclusions and recommendations listed in this report are a summary compilation of the ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by various delegations during CRIC 9 to further the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy). This report identifies potential action that could be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders, including the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention, after consideration and appropriate decisions by the Conference of the Parties (COP), in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators

1. Operational objective 1: advocacy, awareness-raising and education

21. Some Parties discussed difficulties regarding the target provisionally adopted for performance indicator CONS-O-1 (the global population is informed about desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity loss). Issues were noted that targets during the iterative process and mid-term evaluation of The Strategy may need to be identified at national level in order to meaningfully represent the specificity of country Parties relating to awareness-raising.

22. Performance indicator CONS-O-1 measuring effective communication among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels on DLDD issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation (outcome 1.1. of operational objective 1) be of limited use considering that measuring awareness is too complex, subjective and time-consuming. In particular, some Parties pointed out that it is not possible to produce meaningful estimate of the share of national population informed about DLDD within the framework of existing reporting tools.

23. Some Parties highlighted that contribution made by local level stakeholders towards awareness raising and education has not been reflected adequately in the national reports, which should be taken into account during the next reporting cycle by developing appropriate data collection methodologies.

24. Parties are invited to review the means by which awareness is being raised and place the emphasis on the most effective ways of communication in order to reach larger audiences.

25. Developed country Parties in particular are invited by some Parties to step up their efforts to raise awareness on DLDD and its synergies with climate change and biodiversity and on communication and educational issues, in order to increase the level of understanding, and consequently of support, needed to implement the UNCCD effectively and to meet the global target set by decision 13/COP.9.

26. Some Parties noted that all Parties are invited to step up their efforts to raise awareness on DLDD and its synergies with climate change and biodiversity and on communication and educational issues, in order to increase the level of understanding needed, and consequently of support, needed to implement the UNCCD effectively and to meet the global target set by decision 13/COP.9.

27. The affected country Parties which reported a low percentage of national awareness on DLDD and its synergies are urged to undertake steps to increase efforts to address the communication and education issues in order to meet the global target set by decision 13/COP.9. In this regard the methodology for computing the percentage of national awareness also needs to be clarified.

28. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is requested to provide advice on how to intensify and streamline actions towards increasing the involvement of science and technology institutions in the Convention process.

2. Operational objective 2: policy framework

29. Alignment of national action programmes (NAPs) has been highlighted by many countries as a priority, while for others the information provided in the analysis seems to suggest that the alignment process has not received sufficient priority from affected country Parties. In that regard, some countries underlined the need for further analysis of the reasons for this and the consequences thereof.

30. A large number of affected country Parties stated that the alignment of the NAPs with The Strategy has not yet started due to limitations in terms of non availability of adequate financial and technical support.

31. Questions were also raised as to how to mainstream NAPs into national socio-economic planning and budgetary processes.

32. With regard to the quantity of synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio Conventions, or mechanisms for joint implementation at all levels, it was stated that a clear definition of initiatives and programmes to be included in the computation of the indicator needs to be provided in order to produce more coherent information.

33. Affected country Parties and Annexes are urged to intensify their efforts to align their NAPs, sub-regional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs) with The Strategy and, in particular, to formulate a NAP in those countries that are still without one, in order to achieve the target of all affected countries having such a programme by 2014.

34. Eligible affected country Parties are also urged to set aside financial resources made available by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for NAP alignment as part of the enabling activities required to make progress in achieving the target and to inform Convention institutions on possible support needed in this regard.

35. Eligible affected country Parties acknowledge the allocation of funds by the GEF for enabling activities for the implementation of the Convention including NAP alignment and reporting, and urge the GEF in collaboration with the UNCCD institutions to simplify procedures to access this facility through most direct and simplified channel, with minimum transitional costs.

36. Some Parties suggested that the COP may wish to request the UNCCD secretariat, in close cooperation with the interested GEF implementing agencies, to continue liaising with the GEF on possible global support programme that complements the work undertaken and financed under the enabling activities.

37. Some developed country Parties emphasized that the low level of partnerships on UNCCD issues reported during this reporting process is not due to lack of interest but rather indicates the fact that support to affected developing country Parties is rendered regardless of existing partnership agreements that are concluded within the context of the UNCCD. In that regard, some Parties recommended that the reporting template should not be limited to partnership agreements specifically established within UNCCD institutional framework but also take into account other partnerships in line with the UNCCD and NAPs.

38. Developed country Parties are invited to increase their support to the establishment of partnership agreements with, and synergistic initiatives in three Rio Conventions.

39. Some Parties stated that the UNCCD secretariat and the GM may incorporate in the joint work programme (JWP) of the next biennium, efforts towards providing additional technical and financial support to the process of NAP, SRAP and RAP formulation and/or alignment among affected country Parties.

40. Some Parties have emphasized the need to encourage the Parties to the three Rio Conventions (UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC) to consider the need to implement at the national level synergistic planning/programming of the Conventions within their respective mandates or mechanisms for joint implementation in accordance with decision 13/COP.9.

3. Operational objective 3: science, technology and knowledge

41. While recognizing the number of DLDD-specific information systems reported by affected country Parties, a call for providing adequate technical and financial support to the eligible affected country Parties to establish integrated DLDD specific national monitoring systems harmonizing the diverse environmental monitoring systems, was made by some Parties.

42. Some Parties underlined the need to clarify the definition and the methodological approach of the performance indicator related to “monitoring systems” and the need to provide space for qualitative information on those national/regional DLDD monitoring systems reported by Parties.

43. Some Parties invited affected country Parties to increase their efforts in establishing DLDD-specific national monitoring systems or further improving existing monitoring systems. It was recommended by some Parties that special attention should also be given to the Mesoamerican and the Central Asian subregions since affected country Parties belonging to those regions reported that no such system is currently in place.

44. Some Parties invited developed country Parties and relevant organizations to provide additional support to African country Parties and the Small Island Developing States for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems, through both financial and technical means.

45. Parties look forward for the UNCCD secretariat to use the information submitted by the Parties in this reporting process to develop a knowledge-sharing database as part of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) on the Convention website, with a view to making this database available in 2011.

46. The CST is invited to provide advice to the Parties on how best to carry out knowledge-based review and gap analysis in the process of aligning their NAPs with The Strategy and to deliberate on the inclusion of reported knowledge management systems into the scientific networks and related knowledge-management brokering systems.

47. Some Parties underlined the need for strengthening the CST in order to enable it to emerge as a global authority for scientific advice on DLDD issues and establishment of a

network of science and technology institutions in this direction, while some Parties suggested to work on other different possible options for strengthening the provision of scientific advice to the Convention as discussed during the CST sessions.

4. Operational objective 4: capacity-building

48. Further methodological precision on the term “capacity-building initiative” should be provided in order to have more harmonized information provided by country Parties.

49. Some country Parties expressed concern that methodological problems make it difficult to direct the support on the basis of the data provided so far, while others invited developed country Parties, the GEF and other multilateral institutions to provide support to those affected country Parties which reported that they lacked the capacities required for effective implementation of the Convention, and especially to those which reported that they have no plans to develop such capacities, so that the 90 percent target can be reached by 2014.

50. Some Parties agreed that where there have been imbalances in implementation that the secretariat and the GM should make an effort to correct those imbalances as a priority.

51. Some Parties request the secretariat to continue consultations with the GEF in order to enhance the implementation of the national capacity self-assessments and other relevant capacity assessment initiatives undertaken by the Parties and to mobilize additional funding for national level capacity building initiatives.

52. Parties may wish to consider requesting the GM to provide additional and adequate support to affected countries in assessing their financial needs for capacity-building and incorporating them into integrated investment frameworks (IIFs).

B. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention

53. Parties welcomed the availability of data on financial flows despite some methodological uncertainty that point to double counting.

54. The mere existence of an IIF was not considered sufficient as an indicator to ascertain whether it leverages necessary funding for the implementation of the Convention. More in-depth analysis of the functionality and efficiency of existing IIFs is needed in order to obtain more accurate information during the reporting process. In addition a more accurate definition for the term “integrated investment framework” was requested that would assist Parties at national level to provide more accurate information.

55. Important linkages between the NAPs and the IIFs were highlighted that confirm that the two processes would need to be looked at together during the alignment process. Reporting on progress in the implementation of the investment frameworks should be considered in future.

56. While country Parties in general welcome the positive development within the GEF relating to UNCCD, some Parties pointed out that, despite those positive trends, an imbalance in the distribution of allocations still prevails and should be addressed. Some Parties noted that co-benefits deriving from the implementation of multi-focal area projects should be made use of to the extent possible in order to leverage resources in addition to those that have been allocated to the land degradation focal area.

1. Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer

57. Some countries invited affected country Parties to increase their efforts in establishing IIFs with the aim of at least 10 affected country Parties establishing an IIF

every year until 2014. Some Parties underlined the need for further comprehensive analysis on the difficulties encountered by country Parties regarding the establishment of IIFs, in order to provide sound guidance for the achievement of the related targets.

58. Some Parties invited developed country Parties and multilateral institutions to provide additional support to eligible affected country Parties in their efforts to establish IIFs.

59. Some Parties expressed the wish that the GM and the secretariat focus on providing support to affected country Parties in devising their IIFs and in attracting assistance by developed country Parties and multilateral institutions for this purpose, considering all regions.

60. Affected eligible country Parties are invited to step up their efforts to submit project proposals to multilateral financial institutions and to take advantage of support provided for this purpose, and in particular with regard to the resources allocated under the GEF and its System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

61. Some Parties invited the GM and the secretariat to broaden their support to concrete implementable activities and projects for affected country Parties.

62. Some Parties called upon the secretariat, the GM and the GEF to provide guidance for the resource assessment and planning needed at the national level and also to facilitate the formulations of appropriate project proposals at the national level, thus contributing to making GEF allocations fully and timely accessible to eligible affected country Parties.

63. Some Parties consider that the UNCCD secretariat and the GM should take into consideration issues such as data quality and relevant methodologies for collecting information on financial flows, in order to feed the iterative process and eventually enhance reporting outputs provided by Parties and other reporting entities including guidelines for reporting against performance indicators. In particular, some Parties underlined the need to clarify the guidelines for reporting against the performance indicator CONS-O-15.

2. Analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. Financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention

64. Some Parties underlined that there are different interpretations of what should be listed under the Standard Financial Annex (SFA) and the Programme and Project Sheet (PPS), and emphasised the need to clarify those issues in revised reporting guidelines.

65. Some Parties underlined that the analysis should have better distinguished between commitments of affected developing countries, affected countries with economies in transition (national resources), commitments of developed non-affected countries (Official Development Assistance), commitments of developed affected countries (with clear distinction between commitments mobilized for the fight against DLDD at the national level and commitments mobilized for international cooperation on DLDD). In that regard some Parties underlined the need for the GM to further refine its analysis on financial flows.

66. Some Parties questioned the way that the Rio Markers were used quantitatively and recommended to further work on this issue in view of the next reporting cycle.

67. An examination of the distribution of commitments and investments by Rio Markers shows that a relatively small proportion was allocated to activities explicitly aiming at implementing NAPs established under the UNCCD (i.e. marked as Rio Marker 3). Some

Parties recommended for the CRIC to analyze the reasons why the majority of investments related to the Convention do not contribute to the implementation of the main UNCCD instrument.

68. The investments that targeted simultaneously the UNCCD, the CBD and the UNFCCC were not evenly distributed among regions. Some Parties recommended that synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions be addressed more systematically in all regions, and all available financial instruments and opportunities be mobilized accordingly.

69. Some Parties stated that as the root causes of land degradation often reside in many sectors, as do the solutions, there is a need to clarify the definition of DLDD-relevant thematic areas to be covered in the reports.

70. A number of countries reported actions towards the implementation of operational objective 5 of The Strategy, including through the adoption of IIFs. It would be recommended for these countries to monitor the flow of financial resources mobilized for the implementation of the Convention as a result of the adoption of these measures, and to use these monitoring systems to facilitate future reporting under the UNCCD/PRAIS.

71. Some Parties ask the GM to assist the affected country Parties in exploring the non traditional and innovative channels of financial resources. Other Parties considered that emphasis should be placed in the provision of new and additional financial resources by developed country Parties.

72. While confirming the important role played by international financial institutions (IFIs) and bilateral cooperation agencies in UNCCD financing, the present analysis showed that domestic finance is often found to match or even exceed external finance. The South-South cooperation also indicates potential input for the implementation of the UNCCD.

3. Common conclusions and recommendations

73. Following the results-based approach, subsidiary bodies and Convention institutions are urged to include consideration of these conclusions and recommendations in their respective 2012–2013 work programmes, with a view to providing the required assistance to affected country Parties in achieving operational objectives 1 to 4 of The Strategy in accordance with their respective mandates.

74. Some Parties have underlined the importance and the need to improve communication between the secretariat and the Parties through officially designated national focal point(s) (NFPs).

75. Some Parties requested the secretariat and the GM in line with decision 13/COP.9 to consult with country Parties and the relevant entities involved for the development of the proposals for the revised reporting template.

C. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention

Review and compilation of best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation

76. Parties at the ninth session of the CRIC (CRIC 9) recognized that a first step towards a systematic use of best practices in the implementation of the Convention was made through submissions of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation, during the reporting and review process 2010–2011.

77. In this regard, and with a view to establishing a comprehensive framework for the use of UNCCD best practices at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10), some Parties at CRIC 9 recommended that:

(a) Reporting entities are encouraged to continue reporting on best practices, irrespective of the expiry of the formal deadline for submission of reports, in order to increase the knowledge base of the Convention;

(b) COP 10 consider the classification of best practices for themes 2 to 7, as well as the schedule of review of best practices as proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/9, on the understanding that the review of theme 1 (sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation) will continue at the eleventh session of the CRIC, while some other Parties proposed not to confine each reporting cycle to one thematic topic given that best practices are not always limited to one specific topic but are linked to several ones;

(c) The secretariat revise the templates for submission of best practices with a view to simplifying and making it more flexible and compatible to the extent possible with existing templates, in particular with regards to the best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation;

(d) The secretariat review the classification of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation, with a view to considering additional and integrating existing information, which would facilitate identification and replication of best practices;

(e) The secretariat continue facilitating consultations between the Bureaus of the CRIC and the CST in order to develop validation and evaluation criteria for best practices and related methodologies;

(f) The COP consider the need to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of CRIC and CST in the review of best practices as well as the synergies between the development of a knowledge management system of CST and the development of an experience sharing platform of the CRIC and the possible integration of the system and platform;

(g) Adequate technical and financial support be provided to the eligible affected country Parties for replication and scaling-up of the documented best practices.

78. Some Parties underlined the need to have a comprehensive analysis of the best practices that were provided during the fourth reporting process.

79. Some Parties advised that templates on best practices in the PRAIS be made compatible with existing ones, as much as possible, such as the ones developed and used by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA), and that its database is linked with similar databases.

80. Some Parties encouraged the secretariat to work closely with other national and international programmes, including relevant initiatives such as WOCAT that are already making best practices information available in a more relevant and useful form.

81. In this regard, Parties at COP 10 may wish to consider that:

(a) Relevant research organizations, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations bodies provide their input to the consultation process in order to build a basis for the development of a knowledge management system that will serve for the replication and scaling-up of best practices;

(b) The subsidiary bodies of the COP and the Convention institutions include consideration of these recommendations in their respective 2012–2013 work programmes, following the results-based approach, with a view to providing the required assistance for the establishment of the UNCCD best practices system, according to their respective mandates.

D. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

1. Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures

82. While recognizing the work undertaken by the secretariat and the GM on synthesizing and analysing the information received from Parties and other reporting entities under the PRAIS, Parties at CRIC 9 identified the need to further improve the framework of the reporting process, including reporting templates and methodologies in order to avoid inconsistency of data and resolve the difficulties found in the implementation of the system.

83. In particular, requests were made to simplify reporting templates, to elaborate and clarify definitions and methodologies relating to the collection and processing of data and to agree on clear guidelines for the preliminary analyses prepared by Convention institutions.

84. Parties recognized that the shift towards quantitative reporting is difficult but worthwhile, particularly at national level, where information collected during the 2010 reporting process has assisted in future planning and stock-taking vis-à-vis the UNCCD process. Some Parties also recommended to accommodate qualitative comments and explanations within the reporting templates to complement the quantitative data. Time constraints have been noted by many and future reporting should provide sufficient time for systematic data collection, quality check and validation of reports which may impact the way CRIC is to review information emerging from the reporting process.

85. Some Parties noted difficulties in trying to formulate trends between 2008–2009, taking into account the methodological limits of this first exercise and the lack of qualitative information.

86. Some Parties considered inappropriate in the analysis the making of comparisons between countries, regions and subregions, as well as formulating statements of a subjective nature, and it is recommended that the COP clearly outlines how the secretariat should use future PRAIS data.

87. Some Parties noted the importance of the development of suitable national data bases for reporting, enabled through adequate financial and technical support, that would ensure continuity in the reporting process and a readily accessible information infrastructure that can be used for reporting purposes was highlighted. The existence of such national databases would need to be incorporated into the PRAIS project in order to ensure that Parties continuously build up a national monitoring network that would allow easy access to information, when needed. A strong call for further capacity-building was made by many country Parties and a call to support those countries that so far have not submitted their reports was also made.

88. Some Parties highlighted that financial support made available for the PRAIS process was insufficient and recommended for the provision of adequate financial assistance for the next reporting cycle.

89. Some countries have expressed their appreciation to the reference centres for providing technical backstopping during the reporting process, which seems to confirm the approach of the PRAIS project in relying on additional expertise at subregional or regional level with regard to reporting. Some however reported that the role and mandate of the reference centres need further clarification in order to become effective.

90. Technical issues relating to the user-friendliness of the PRAIS portal have been reported and efforts should be undertaken within the remaining time of the project to address malfunctioning of the system for future use, also in terms of availability of templates and reference documents in all official languages.

91. Some Parties requested the secretariat to develop a coherent framework ensuring data quality and highlighted the need for increased capacity-building on data collection and management for the PRAIS.

92. As part of the documentation provided to COP 10, the secretariat and the GM are requested to include in their report on the iterative process, particularly information on the bottlenecks experienced by Parties particularly those that did not submit their reports by the extended deadline.

93. Parties recommended that a more realistic time frame for future reporting would need to be decided upon, also taking into consideration the scheduling of those CRIC sessions that review information received from Parties and other reporting entities.

94. Some Parties expressed concerns regarding the process at national level that requires increased awareness-raising among key stakeholders so as to improve the coordination of data collection and the required participatory approach.

95. Some country Parties requested that country Parties should be involved in the entire process of development of terms of reference for the selection procedures, for the reference centres and also for the selection of the reference centres. They also requested that a clearer role be articulated for reference centres involved in future reporting and suggested that the secretariat provide detailed terms of reference for their future involvement in the reporting process.

96. A further request was made for the provision of off-line reporting templates/formats for report submission for those countries which have difficulty accessing the Internet, in order for them to submit reports by the required deadline.

97. Some Parties suggested to simplify the technical set-up of the PRAIS portal in order to minimize the number of countries that would face difficulties in reporting.

98. Some Parties requested the secretariat to continue working on improving the PRAIS portal, ensuring its interactivity and facilitating circulation of information through it, taking into account the feedback on its features as provided by the reporting entities.

99. Some Parties noted that the reports as generated from the PRAIS portal do not represent a good tool for awareness-raising at national level and suggested that they should be improved in that regard.

100. The UNCCD secretariat and the GM are requested, when preparing for the next reporting and review process (2012–2013), to take into account the feedback provided by the reporting entities in this reporting process and to adjust the process in consultation with country Parties and other relevant entities as necessary, in particular in relation to indicators on advocacy, awareness-raising and education, as well as on financing and technology transfer.

101. Some Parties requested the secretariat and the GM to take into consideration issues such as data quality and relevant methodologies for collecting information in order to enhance reporting outputs provided by Parties and other reporting entities.

102. Some Parties requested the secretariat to pursue consultations with the GEF in order to enable it to provide information on performance indicators to the extent allowed by data availability within the GEF.

103. Some Parties requested the secretariat to continue working on improving the PRAIS portal, ensuring its interactivity and facilitating circulation of information through it, taking into account the feedback on its features as provided by the reporting entities.

104. Some Parties requested the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, in consultation with UNEP, to consider relevant and validated findings from the PRAIS project on the overall process and the review of reporting modalities and to integrate them into activities to support the next reporting and review process (2012–2013).

105. Some Parties invited the GEF, relevant intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies and developed country Parties to provide support, including financial and technical support, to affected country Parties in meeting their reporting obligations.

106. Some Parties requested for an improved mechanism for accessing financial resources from the GEF, relevant intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies and developed country Parties.

107. Some Parties suggested that following the results-based approach, subsidiary bodies and Convention institutions include consideration of these recommendations in their respective 2012–2013 costed work programmes, with a view to providing the required assistance to affected country Parties in accordance with their respective mandates.

108. Some Parties expressed concern about limited coordination between the development and revision of impact indicators, and of development and revision of methodologies and tools for reporting on these indicators. These Parties strongly urged increased coordination among the organisations (secretariat and UNEP) responsible for these tasks.

109. Some Parties strongly urged that reporting from United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations, the GM and the GEF in future reporting cycles be in accordance with reporting timelines to reflect the seriousness of DLDD issues at all international forums.

2. Draft template and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations (2012–2013)

110. The CRIC welcomed the important input provided by CSOs to the 2010–2011 reporting and review process, with particular regard to the contribution provided in collecting and communicating best practices on sustainable land management, and recognized with appreciation the efforts made by CSOs in participating in the first review of implementation under the PRAIS.

111. Some Parties recommended that, with regard to the content and format of future reporting process, and starting in 2013–2014:

(a) CSOs communicate to NFPs and institutional focal points of other reporting entities as applicable, information on (i) performance indicators relating to civil society involvement in the implementation of The Strategy (notably indicators CONS-O-1, CONS-O-3, CONS-O-4) and other relevant performance indicators as applicable (CONS-O-7, CONS-O-13 and CONS-O17), and (ii) financial flows towards the implementation of the Convention. Information relating to these matters will be communicated to the focal points of affected and developed country Parties, as appropriate;

(b) CSOs accredited to the COP communicate to the CRIC information on (i) best practices according to the themes decided upon by COP 10, and (ii) additional information on the reporting and review process with particular regard to civil society involvement in the process. Information relating to these matters shall be transmitted using the facilities established for the other reporting entities, including the PRAIS-based portal;

(c) Regarding the direct reporting of CSOs to CRIC, some Parties underlined that the opportunity should be given to CSOs for qualitative analysis and the formulation of operational recommendations. The reporting template for CSOs should allow for a holistic approach, taking into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions. In line with decision 11/COP.9, some Parties recommended that the UNCCD secretariat, in view of the next reporting cycle (2012), engage in close cooperation with CSOs and CSOs networks when developing reporting tools for CSOs.

112. Some Parties also recommended that:

(a) The secretariat devise templates and reporting guidelines for CSOs on the basis of the reporting principles and structural elements already approved for the other reporting entities and the guiding criteria as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/11;

(b) Capacity-building needs for CSOs are taken into consideration in future initiatives in support of the reporting process, in order to allow civil society to comply with the reporting requirements and participate fully in the reporting and review process;

(c) Developed country Parties and international financial organizations, including the GEF, continue supporting the process, acknowledging the specific needs of the civil society;

(d) NFPs and institutional focal points of subregional and regional organizations, and of other reporting entities as appropriate, facilitate exchanges and cooperation with CSOs with particular regard to the reporting and review process under UNCCD.

113. Some Parties noted the important role of CSOs in policy processes. It was therefore suggested that CSOs and country Parties report on their activities and enabling frameworks in this regard.

114. Some Parties at CRIC 9 further recommended that the secretariat should review the procedure for accreditation of CSOs and the private sector, with a view to fully aligning them with those in force in other multilateral environmental agreements and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and revise the list of organizations proposed for accreditation to the Conference of the Parties.

115. While recalling the relevant provisions of decisions 11/COP.9 and 13/COP.9, Parties should encourage the accredited and non-accredited CSOs to network and strengthen cooperation with each other at national level and to submit consolidated reports to the next session of the CRIC.

3. Status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes to combat desertification

116. Some country Parties welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to review and analyse the state of implementation of RAPs and SRAPs, and noted with concern that only a fraction of the programmes are in the implementation phase.

117. Some country Parties recognized and considered the need to revitalize the SRAPs, RAPs and the related thematic programme networks and considered the process of alignment of action programmes to The Strategy as an appropriate way to initiate the process.

118. Parties were encouraged to coordinate more with relevant subregional organizations through the regional coordination mechanisms and their executive committees, where established, in an effort to promote SRAP and RAP alignment and implementation.

119. Some Parties recommended, particularly where SRAPs and RAPs have not been developed or aligned, that regional implementation annexes, with support from secretariat

and other partners to strengthen and develop SRAP and/or a RAP within the framework and time frame of The Strategy.

120. Some Parties underlined the need to identify, within regional consultations the reporting entities, which at COP 10 will be appointed for reporting on implementation of the Convention and The Strategy at the subregional and regional level.

121. Parties requested that the secretariat prepare for COP 10 templates and reporting guidelines for subregional and regional organizations to report on SRAP and RAP implementation.

122. Some country Parties invited development partners, and particularly the GEF, to consider providing sufficient and predictable technical and financial support for the implementation of SRAPs in those regions which comprise eligible country Parties, including support towards developing required capacities.

123. Based on the experience and difficulties during the fourth reporting cycle, some country Parties emphasized that portal development for next reporting cycle be finalized urgently, incorporating the gaps of previously reporting process, developing of guidelines for SRAP/RAP implementation, followed by capacity-building workshop of relevant stakeholders.

124. Some country Parties called on the secretariat and the GM to explore options supported by the GEF in the framework of the STAR for RAP and SRAP alignment and implementation. Some other Parties recommended that GEF considers enhanced allocation of resources for land degradation focal area.

125. Some country Parties requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the GM, to develop specific guidelines to assist country Parties in developing, aligning and implementing SRAPs and RAPs.

126. Following the results-based approach, some Parties urged the GM and the secretariat to include the considerations on RAP and SRAP in their respective 2012–2013 work programmes and also in the related JWP, with a view to provide the required assistance.

4. Options to increase synergies in monitoring the Rio conventions

127. The CRIC took note of document ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.9 and agreed that the item of synergies in reporting under the Rio conventions be considered at the tenth session of the CRIC (CRIC 10), with the view of formulating recommendations for consideration at COP 10.

E. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

1. Update on progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9

128. Parties called for improved predictability, consistency and transparency in the mobilization, allocation and use of voluntary contributions and core resources for the activities of the UNCCD bodies, the GM and the secretariat.

129. They highlighted the importance of the common fund-raising strategy, which will be prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the GM for submission to COP 10, as a

tool for effective resource mobilization and partnership-building towards meeting the resource needs deriving from, *inter alia*, the UNCCD decision-making process.

130. Parties considered data and information on the financial resources mobilized and technology transferred by the GM, containing information on the country-level interventions of the GM, as well as the country- and regional-level estimates on the financial resources mobilized and technology transferred with the assistance of the GM; and requested the GM to provide, in its submission to COP 10, further details on the financial resources allocated per country and on the use of these resources.

131. Parties invited the GM, in collaboration with the secretariat and other relevant partners, to clarify the concept of financing for DLDD and the UNCCD implementation, drawing from similar analysis carried out in other processes, with the view to facilitating a shared understanding among Parties and other stakeholders and to support a systematic follow-up of the global status and trends in resource mobilization and financials flows for DLDD and the UNCCD implementation in the future.

2. Review of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

132. The CRIC took note of document ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.10 and agreed that the item of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy be considered at CRIC 10, with the view of formulating recommendations for consideration at COP 10.

F. Review of input from the Committee on Science and Technology

Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

133. The input from the CST on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy to the CRIC 9 is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/15.

IV. Conclusion of the session

A. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including conclusions and recommendations

134. At its eighth meeting on 25 February 2011, the Committee considered the draft report on its ninth session.

135. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Hungary (on behalf of the European Union and its member states), Mexico, the United States, Niger, Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland, Egypt, Tunisia, Ukraine (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe) and Argentina (on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States).

136. A statement was made by the representative of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), expressing the hope that all African Parties will have aNAP adopted by COP 10, and proposing that one day session during COP 10 be dedicated to themes related to agriculture and land reclamation; rural development and improvement of living conditions in drylands; and dry forest and adaptation to climate change; Also, the

representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on the progress made on "Global drylands: a United Nations system wide response" and the report given by the Environmental Management Group on this matter. The Committee took note of these statements.

137. The Committee adopted the report at its ninth session as orally corrected and revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur to finalize it in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat.

B. Closure of the session

138. Also, at the same meeting, closing statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), India (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia), Argentina (on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States), Ukraine (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe) and Hungary (on behalf of the European Union and its member states).

139. A statement was also made by the representative of the non-governmental organization, CENESTA, on behalf of civil society organizations.

140. Closing remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

141. The Chair made concluding remarks and declared the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention closed.

Annex

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

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(9)/1	Provisional agenda. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/1/Corr.1	Provisional agenda. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/2	Annotations to the provisional agenda. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/2/Corr.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/3	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 1 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/4	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 2 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/5	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/6	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/7	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 5 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/8	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/8/Corr.1	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(9)/9	Review and compilation of best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/10	Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/11	Draft template and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations (2012–2013). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/12	Status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes to combat desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/13	Glossary of performance indicators for the review of implementation of The Strategy and best practices
ICCD/CRIC(9)/14	Update on the progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/15	Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.1	Information for participants
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.2	Template and reporting guidelines for affected country Parties
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.2/Corr.1	Template and reporting guidelines for affected country Parties. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.2/Corr.2	Template and reporting guidelines for affected country Parties. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.3	Template and reporting guidelines for developed country Parties
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.3/Corr.1	Template and reporting guidelines for developed country Parties. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.3/Corr.2	Template and reporting guidelines for developed country Parties. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.4	Template and reporting guidelines for United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.4/Corr.1	Template and reporting guidelines for United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.5	Template and reporting guidelines for the Global Environment Facility
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.5/Corr.1	Template and reporting guidelines for the Global Environment Facility. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.6	Status report on the 2010–2011 reporting and review process as of 12 November 2010. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.7	Template and reporting guidelines for the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.8	Template and reporting guidelines for the civil society organizations on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.8/Corr.1	Template and reporting guidelines for the civil society organizations on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.8/Corr.2	Template and reporting guidelines for the civil society organizations on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.9	Options to increase synergies in monitoring the Rio Conventions. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.10	Information on the review of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term review of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.11	Quick reference guide
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.11/Corr.1	Quick reference guide. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.12	Information Note on financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention, as reported by country Parties and other reporting entities through the Standard Financial Annex (SFA) and Programme and Project Sheet (PPS). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.13	Analytical frameworks for the analysis of information contained in the reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mechanism and accredited civil society organizations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.14	Policy options paper on the support required in meeting the obligations of affected country Parties under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.15	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.2 - ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.16	List of participants
