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Review of the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

Consideration of the workplans of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention

Workplans of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention

Note by the secretariat*

Addendum

**Consideration of the draft joint work programme of the secretariat and the
Global Mechanism (2010–2011)**

Summary

The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) calls on the Global Mechanism (GM) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat to strengthen their coordination and cooperation from the headquarters to the country level, in order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the GM and those of the secretariat, and to ensure consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines of The Strategy. As a specific tool for achieving this task, Parties requested the GM and the secretariat to submit a draft two-year joint work programme (JWP), based on a results-based management approach, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The draft 2010–2011 JWP is presented in this document.

* This document was delayed due to the need for extensive consultations within, as well as among, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to provide Parties with the latest available information.

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I. Introduction

1. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) was adopted by Parties on the occasion of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) in September 2007.

2. The Strategy calls on the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat to strengthen their coordination and cooperation from the headquarters to the country level in order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM, and to ensure consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines of The Strategy. As a specific tool for achieving this task, Parties requested the GM and the secretariat to submit a draft two-year joint work programme (JWP), based on a results-based management (RBM) approach, for consideration at the Conference of the Parties (COP).

3. The first JWP, covering the two-year period 2008–2009, was presented to Parties at the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7). On the basis of feedback received, both the methodological and the substantive approaches to the JWP were reviewed. The draft 2010–2011 JWP, which is presented in this document, responds to the concerns expressed and the requests made by Parties at CRIC 7.¹

¹ Some changes were introduced to the 2008–2009 joint work programme as a result of the feedback from Parties at the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7). The revised version of this document is attached as an annex to document ICCD/COP(9)/6/Add.1

II. Principles and modalities of cooperation

4. The JWP for 2008–2009, which was submitted to CRIC 7,² presented some key principles and modalities for collaboration between the GM and the secretariat that had been agreed by the two entities. These modalities and principles remain valid for cooperation during the biennium 2010–2011. A summary of the agreed modalities and principles is presented below, and the full text is attached as an annex to document ICCD/COP(9)/6/Add.1.

5. The modalities for cooperation on the formulation and implementation of the JWP revolve around regularized consultation and coordination at management level, as well as effective exchanges of information at the operational level. Activities are built on the synergies, complementarity and expertise of the two entities. The implementation of the JWP will be monitored and evaluated, and reported on to Parties through a reporting process.

6. With regard to the principles guiding the cooperation, the GM and the secretariat recognize the Convention as the single instrument through which they both function to achieve common goals; and note that, although their primary services to the Parties differ based on their core mandates, the complementary nature of some areas of work requires a coordinated and collaborative approach. The GM and the secretariat emphasize the importance of a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Convention; and of coherence in the messages that each delivers in this context. Furthermore, the GM and the secretariat commit to a culture of mutual support and recognition of each other's strengths, in order to pursue common objectives.

III. Approach and methodology for costing the joint work programme

7. In line with the overall approach to RBM taken by the Convention institutions and bodies,³ the JWP is structured around the operational objectives of The Strategy. The JWP contains expected accomplishments, performance indicators, outputs and joint activities for the biennium 2010–2011.

8. The implementation of the JWP rests on the resources of the GM and the secretariat. Although some joint activities require funding that is additional to the resources budgeted for the work of each of the two entities, the JWP is not expected to have its own budget. Instead, the costs related to the JWP are integrated into the costed work programmes of the GM and the secretariat for the biennium 2010–2011, and related information is contained in separate lines of these work programmes.⁴

² Document ICCD/CRIC(7)/2/Add.5

³ The results-based management methodology used by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) bodies and institutions is presented in document ICCD/COP(9)/5.

⁴ Documents ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.1 and ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.2.

IV. Review and assessment of the joint work programme and its implementation

9. Periodic assessment and review are essential aspects of RBM, and for the GM, the secretariat as well as for their JWP, they contain two elements: the formal and the internal. Formal performance assessment is carried out by the Parties at the COP in connection with the budget deliberations. The purpose of internal assessment is to enable programme managers to make mid-course corrections to their programmes as needed, and to help refine the strategic planning for future biennia.⁵

10. Continuous follow-up of the implementation of the JWP will take place through the RBM monitoring systems established by the GM and the secretariat for their individual work programmes. Once a year, a comprehensive assessment of the status of implementation of the JWP will be carried out jointly, with the aims of ensuring that the planned outputs are being produced and services delivered, and that possible problems of delivery are detected and corrected. According to The Strategy, the Bureau of the COP is mandated to oversee the implementation of the JWP. The two entities will therefore inform each COP Bureau meeting of the status of implementation and seek further guidance.

11. The annual assessments set the basis for formal joint reporting on performance in implementing the JWP. Reporting will take place at the end of each budget biennium alongside the performance reports of the Convention bodies and institutions, unless the COP at its ninth session decides on another approach. The GM and the secretariat will use the RBM approach to report on the status of accomplishments on the basis of the performance indicators contained in each JWP. In line with The Strategy, the GM and the secretariat will also report in a clear and transparent way on the effective share of labour and the use of core and voluntary funds relating to the JWP.

⁵ Further information on the approach taken by the UNCCD to performance assessment is contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/6.

V. The 2010–2011 joint work programme

Operational objective 1. Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Work packages and activities |
|--|---|---|---|
| Importance of financing sustainable land management (SLM) is communicated to relevant forums and processes | Joint contributions to at least four forums and processes | Information materials and position papers on key desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues that have relevance for resource mobilization for four forums and processes | Production of joint information material and position papers that advocate for resource mobilization for SLM |
| Outcomes of international forums and processes, which have potential to enhance resource mobilization for implementation of action programmes, are effectively communicated to Parties. | Two joint information products provided to Parties | Two joint information products | Production of joint information material that has relevance for mobilizing finance for DLDD issues for use by Parties |
| Civil society organizations (CSOs) have available improved tools to advocate for support to SLM | Two joint information material provided to CSOs | Information material and position papers on mobilizing resources for SLM | Production of joint information materials that have relevance for mobilizing finance for DLDD issues for use by CSOs |

Operational objective 2. Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Work packages and activities |
|--|---|--|--|
| A coherent approach to alignment of the implementation of action programmes | At least 12 affected countries receive coordinated support from the two institutions | Shared framework of support in the alignment of action programmes | Hold regular consultations in order to coordinate actions of the two institutions in assisting Parties in the alignment of the implementation of action programmes |
| Knowledge is improved among bilateral development cooperation institutions on mainstreaming SLM into their development programmes | Developed countries agree on potential practices and methods for successful mainstreaming of SLM into development cooperation programmes | Information related to mainstreaming SLM into development programmes for developed countries | Delivery of workshop(s) on mainstreaming SLM into development cooperation programmes - Collate and prepare workshop materials - Cooperation with partners such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Organize workshop(s) |
| Better understanding on how to operationalize the synergistic implementation of the three Rio conventions in the context of action programmes | Information relating to best practices on synergistic use of multilateral environment agreement (MEA) financing mechanisms is distributed to the national focal points of the three Rio conventions | Information relating to best practices on synergistic use of MEA financing mechanisms | Identification, compilation and dissemination of best practices on synergistic use of MEA financing mechanisms |

Operational objective 5. Financing and technology transfer

To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Work packages and activities |
|--|---|--|--|
| CRIC review of the status of financing for UNCCD implementation is based on sound information | 50 per cent of the recommendations of the GM and the secretariat are reflected in the recommendations of the CRIC | CRIC document containing an analysis of financial information in the national reports Information on key issues on financing SLM for CRIC and COP | Compilation, analysis and synthesis of information on financing and technology transfer contained in reports to COP Preparation of information on key issues on financing SLM for CRIC and COP Inputs to regional meetings in preparation for CRIC and COP |
| Governing bodies of international financial institutions, facilities and funds have improved understanding of resource needs relating to DLDD | Information material and position papers on resource needs relating to DLDD made available to at least two governing bodies of international financial institutions, facilities and funds | Information material and position papers on resource needs relating to DLDD | Production and dissemination of joint information material and position papers on resource needs relating to DLDD |
| Availability of financing for SLM increased | Parties address options on funding arrangements for DLDD issues | An option paper on funding arrangements for DLDD issues Consultations on strategic objective 4 | Option paper for the establishment of specific funding arrangements targeting DLDD issues Organization of consultations on strategic objective 4 |

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Work packages and activities |
|--|---|--|--|
| Affected countries have improved options for accessing green technologies | Framework for supporting cooperation on technology transfer is launched | Report on options to access green technologies Concept of a framework for supporting cooperation on technology transfer | Support to initiatives for identifying technology needs and/or facilitating technology transfer through inter alia, decentralized cooperation mechanisms |

An enabling environment for strengthened collaboration

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Work packages and activities |
|--|---|--|--|
| EE.1. Coordination, collaboration and communication between the two institutions are substantially improved | Number of coordination events held between GM and secretariat | Documentation on the JWP for CRIC and COP consideration JWP implementation framework between GM and Secretariat | Preparation, monitoring and reporting on the JWP Coordination of budget preparations for submission to COP Identification of coordination needs between GM and the secretariat Operationalization of a JWP implementation framework, including information exchange between management of GM and the secretariat on the implementation of the respective programmes of work as well as the JWP Periodic exchange of communication material between GM and the secretariat for distribution to stakeholders Establishment of a “UNCCD Intranet” accessible only by staff of the secretariat and the GM, containing a shared document library and calendar of events, missions and initiatives Collaboration in the context of the global monitoring system on performance and impact indicators of The Strategy |