

I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision 1/COP.6

Further steps in the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the extensive process of assessment by the Parties of the implementation of the Convention initiated with the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted to the fifth session of the Conference of Parties,

Mindful of the deliberations and outcome of the various regional meetings and the ministerial conferences organized in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention,

Having reviewed the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on its first session, held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

Acknowledging the high degree of consistency between the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the measures advocated in the above report,

Resource mobilization including coordination and partnership agreements

1. *Recalls* the commitments of the Bonn Declaration and *Urges* that resources mobilization must be based on national and local needs and priorities and aim at national action programme (NAP) implementation in the context of a broader development framework such as poverty reduction strategies, national strategies for sustainable development, country assistance strategies and country strategy papers;
2. *Urges* the Global Mechanism (GM), together with the members of its Facilitation Committee, to promote resource mobilization for NAP implementation as a matter of the highest priority, as highlighted by the Declaration on the commitments to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention (decision 8/COP.4), without neglecting support to the subregional and regional action programmes;
3. *Invites* Parties, with the collaboration of relevant multilateral organizations including the GEF implementing agencies and the GM, to use the country-driven consultative mechanisms to identify the best options for mainstreaming the NAPs into national development frameworks and to mobilize the needed financial resources in a more predictable and coordinated manner;
4. *Urges* Parties to use the review process of the Convention to further strengthen the coherence of their ongoing bilateral and multilateral assistance within the framework of the implementation of the Convention and to actively incorporate findings into their procedures and programming of future assistance measures;

5. *Invites* affected developing countries, other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to identify, as appropriate, *chefs de file* to expedite the necessary consultative process, including the country-driven consultative mechanisms for partnership arrangements under the UNCCD to enhance the efforts for partnership building;
6. *Recognizes* that South-South and North-South cooperation needs more consistent support in the form of capacity building and financial allocation;
7. *Invites* the appropriate institutions to undertake a comprehensive study on the cost of inaction and to share this at the COP;

Rehabilitation of degraded land

8. *Urges* Parties, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to promote and facilitate the implementation of the programmes of the UNCCD relevant to the rehabilitation of degraded lands, in particular in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, as well as integrated water resources management and mountain ecosystem preservation;
9. *Encourages* Parties to take action at a specific spatial scale so as to address the local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic manner, notably through the promotion of small and medium-sized projects and activities at the local level, taking into account existing rehabilitation projects and promoting new rehabilitation projects;
10. *Urges* Parties, particularly developed country Parties, to support the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and habitats including those caused by refugee influxes;
11. *Invites* bilateral and multilateral agencies to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Convention in the light of the above provisions to vulnerable developing country Parties, particularly to those in Africa and Small Island Developing States, taking into account their vulnerability to the combined effects of land degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity;
12. *Invites* the GEF in its UNCCD-related activities to give support, within its mandate, to activities that lead directly to the enhancement of livelihood systems and prevention of land degradation;

Promotion of private sector and economic opportunities in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions/countries

13. *Encourages* Parties, concerned institutions and stakeholders to promote and expand economic and commercial opportunities in the drylands by linking private-sector initiatives to the identification of equal and fair economic opportunities for dryland goods and services;
14. *Recommends* to Parties and the private sector the taking of measures to increase the competitiveness of products and services in the drylands through the development of appropriate technologies for sustainable development in areas such as cash crop and livestock production,

aquaculture, recreation, ecotourism and adherence by the mining/extraction industry to codes of sustainable land use practice;

15. *Invites* Parties to adopt and enhance policy measures and incentive schemes to encourage private-sector support for technological and scientific cooperation benefiting the drylands, in order to encourage the dissemination of incentive systems and best practices which help mobilize private sector investments and promote public/private joint ventures, including within the NAPs;

16. *Requests* the secretariat to liaise with those concerned institutions which are exploring measures to facilitate opportunities for dryland products to access international markets;

Capacity building, including in the area of participatory processes, legislative and institutional frameworks and promotion of synergies

17. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with the support of developed country Parties, and concerned institutions, to promote gender-sensitive capacity-building measures for stakeholders to carry out specific participatory and synergistic programmes as part of their NAPs to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, protect biodiversity, facilitate the regeneration of degraded forests, while promoting sustainable livelihoods at local level;

18. *Encourages* Parties to mainstream NAPs into national development plans and institutional frameworks through national consultative processes, as appropriate;

19. *Urges* Parties to promote appropriate and transparent resource tenure systems and the protection of natural resources while establishing or reviewing effective means to combat land degradation, desertification and drought;

20. *Invites* affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, with the support of developed country Parties and concerned institutions, to promote capacity-building measures and participatory processes in the field of natural resources management;

21. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to reflect in the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, the capacity-building needs identified by affected developing countries and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention in the implementation of the UNCCD;

22. *Urges* relevant institutions to make available to the national focal points further support in the form of information and training programmes, including training for negotiation, multi-sectoral programme planning and awareness of financial and technical resource mobilization opportunities within the programming cycle of bilateral and multilateral development partners;

23. *Encourages* the triangular arrangements with partners from the North, United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the initiatives for promoting training programmes and capacity building;

Monitoring and assessment, including the improvement of the reporting process

24. *Requests* the secretariat in collaboration with partner agencies, to support in a timely manner the process of national reporting;
25. *Also requests* the secretariat, together with partner agencies and in close collaboration with the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), to review the help guide for the preparation of national reports and update it where appropriate, to include indicators on, *inter alia*, women and youth participation, as well as social indicators;
26. *Further requests* the secretariat, with the support of the partner agencies, to ensure that future sessions of the CRIC be organized in such a manner as to facilitate inputs from scientists such as those involved in the work of CST, as well as to provide the Parties with outputs of previous related meetings at the regional and international levels;
27. *Invites* affected Parties to fully involve members of the scientific community in the UNCCD process and in particular in the NAP process;
28. *Recommends* to country Parties the adoption and prioritization of forest resources assessment techniques as a rational approach for effective analysis of the status of land cover in the decision-making and reporting process;
29. *Invites* the secretariat with the support of relevant institutions, to continue to promote the development of thematic programme networks (TPNs), best practices to combat desertification and, in particular, to bring more support to activities such as the networking of scientific institutions, technology transfer to developing countries, training at universities, internships and scholarships into the process of the development of subregional and regional programmes;

Awareness raising, information and communication

30. *Invites* Parties to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought for renewed national commitment, while launching awareness campaigns linking education and research programmes, and targeting a wide range of stakeholders;
31. *Recommends* that participatory awareness campaigns on desertification and drought, particularly the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, include tree planting events and focus on the following elements: (i) recognition of the growing threat to ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods under a scenario of increasingly extreme climatic events; (ii) advocacy for participatory rural development as a key element in poverty eradication strategies; (iii) recognition of the widespread downstream geopolitical consequences of phenomena such as forced migrations and conflicts; (iv) in the light of the above, recognition that prevention of further land degradation is more cost-effective than facing later the devastating consequences of inaction in the face of a worsening threat; (v) dissemination of lessons learned and best practices from successful dryland developments;
32. *Calls for* sensitization campaigns in developed country Parties to reflect better the global nature of the threats of land degradation, desertification and drought and of their multiple consequences;

33. *Requests* the CST to review the provisions of the report of the CRIC on participatory processes, benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems, research, technologies and knowledge and know-how, with a view to proposing appropriate scientific measures while taking into account progress made in this respect in the respective regions;

34. *Also requests* the secretariat and concerned institutions to collect and disseminate success stories and best practices in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought which keep in mind the due focus on poverty eradication in affected areas;

35. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to collect and disseminate information on financing opportunities and modalities of access to these funds and success stories and information on best practices on resource mobilization to enhance cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and to promote the exchange of experience among affected country Parties.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*

Decision 3/COP.6

Overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of the progress made
by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 23, paragraph 2(f) of the Convention,

Recalling further its decisions 11/COP.1, 2/COP.3 and 5/COP.3, relating to the reporting requirements of the secretariat,

Having considered document ICCD/CRIC(2)/2 on the overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of the progress made by affected developing country Parties in implementation of the Convention,

Commending the secretariat for its efforts in promoting the Convention and, in particular, noting the acknowledgement by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of the UNCCD as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to pursue its activities in the areas of services to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in relation to policy advocacy, monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and to prioritize its activities for the implementation of the Convention according to the pertinent provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue its assistance to affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention with regard to the timely delivery of national reports requested under the mandate of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC);
3. *Further requests* the secretariat to cooperate with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies in realizing the synergistic potential of the UNCCD action programmes for integrated natural resources management and sustainable development;
4. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) under the latter's Business Plan, to develop and implement a biennial joint work programme and to submit a report to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties which should include the required support to affected developing country Parties and other country Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the UNCCD, as well as a common awareness-raising and information strategy, with the GM mandated to carry out resource mobilization tasks efficiently;
5. *Invites* the secretariat, in prioritizing its activities, to intensify its effort to promote synergies;

6. *Also invites* the secretariat to support the integration of the activities of the Committee on Science and Technology into the programming instruments of the Convention, such as national, subregional and regional action programmes, and to liaise actively with the international scientific community.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*

Decision 5/COP.6

Review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 21, paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, of the Convention,

Recalling further its decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1, 18/COP.2 and 9/COP.3 on the Global Mechanism (GM),

Having considered the report by the Managing Director of the GM on behalf of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(2)/4, and the independent evaluation of the GM conducted at the request of the President of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(2)/5,

Welcoming the collective efforts of the members of the Facilitation Committee of the GM in supporting the preparation of the Business Plan 2003-2006,

1. *Requests* the GM to focus mainly on its primary role of mobilizing financial resources to support UNCCD implementation by broadening the funding base for implementation while giving greater emphasis to identifying sources of co-financing for GEF projects and facilitating funding rather than providing technical advice on project design in the light of the three main objectives of the Business Plan;
2. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to expand its reach through networking approaches and, in particular, to foster the supply side of bilateral and multilateral finance and partnership building for UNCCD implementation;
3. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to continue to provide support to affected countries in mainstreaming national action programmes (NAPs) into national development frameworks, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP);
4. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to assist in mobilizing new sources of financing such as private capital, foreign direct investment, funding from multilateral institutions and grants from private foundations;
5. *Recommends* that the Managing Director of the GM strengthen the GM's relationship with IFAD with a view to improving programmatic coherence and to channelling more of IFAD's resources into UNCCD implementation;
6. *Requests* the Global Mechanism and the secretariat to adopt a joint work programme within the framework of the GM's Business Plan aimed at maximizing the impact of resources and actions, avoiding duplication and overlap, and tapping into the expertise, added value and network of each organization in a collaborative manner as action programmes are implemented;

7. *Urges* the members of the Facilitation Committee of the GM to enhance substantially collaboration with and support to the Global Mechanism in order to improve programmatic convergence in the implementation of their activities within the UNCCD framework, notably with regard to the role of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility in developing actions and projects relating to the new operational programme of the Global Environment Facility on sustainable land management;
8. *Invites* country Parties which are members of the governing bodies of institutions represented on the Facilitation Committee of the GM to encourage consistency between their respective policy and strategy frameworks and the objectives of the UNCCD;
9. *Further invites* developed country Parties to liaise more proactively with the GM so as to advise on the channelling of bilateral financial and technical assistance to UNCCD implementation;
10. *Further invites* the members of the Facilitation Committee including the Managing Director of the GM, to take all necessary measures for effectively implementing its Business Plan and improving coordination among the members of the Facilitation Committee;
11. *Notes* that the third comprehensive review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM will take place at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2007, in the light of the review of the secretariat's activities provided for under decision 2/COP.6, with a view to assessing the continued relevance, impact, effectiveness and efficiency of the GM in delivering its mandate under the Convention;
12. *Requests* the GM to report to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties on progress made in carrying out the activities set forth in this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*

Decision 6/COP.6

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(2)/6,

Taking into consideration the report of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in referring to issues Parties would wish to see addressed in the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management,

Designation of a financial mechanism

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August-September 2002, which, *inter alia*, recognized the complementary roles of the GEF and the Global Mechanism of the Convention in providing and mobilizing resources, and called on the Second GEF Assembly to consider making the GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention;
2. *Welcomes also* the decision of the Second GEF Assembly in October 2002, in Beijing, China, declaring that the GEF should be available as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, if the Conference of the Parties should so decide;
3. *Further welcomes* the decision of the GEF Council in May 2003 in Washington D.C., United States of America, establishing a new operational programme on sustainable land management;
4. *Decides* to accept the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention and in accordance with the GEF Instrument as amended;

Arrangements for establishing a working relationship with the Global Environment Facility

5. *Welcomes* the decision by the GEF Council at its meeting in May 2003, requesting the GEF secretariat to discuss with the UNCCD secretariat the arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, to consult with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the GEF with a view to preparing and agreeing upon a Memorandum of Understanding on the arrangements called for in paragraph 5 above for consideration and adoption by the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties and *Requests* that such arrangements should be concluded between the secretariat and the GEF and elaborate on how the GEF should take into consideration policies, strategies and priorities agreed upon by the COP;

7. *Invites* Parties to submit, before 1 January 2004, their views on the policies, strategies and priorities mentioned in paragraph 6 above to the secretariat; and requests the secretariat to compile these submissions to assist the COP in its considerations and decision-making in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on measures taken to implement this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*

Decision 8/COP.6Follow-up to the regional meetings held in preparation for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the Cotonou Declaration adopted by the African Ministerial Conference preparatory to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Cotonou, Benin, from 3 to 4 July 2003,

Recalling the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration adopted by the second Asian Ministerial Conference on UNCCD Implementation in preparation for COP 6, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 11 June 2003, and the recommendations of the sixth Regional Meeting of Asian Focal Points held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 June 2003,

Recalling also the outcome of the ninth Regional Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean country Parties to the UNCCD held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 17 to 20 June 2003,

Recalling further the outcome of the second Regional Meeting of Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 July 2003,

Recalling also the joint ACP/EC statement signed by the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the member States of the European Union and the European Community at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD in Havana, Cuba, on 2 September 2003,

1. *Welcomes* the Abu Dhabi Initiative for Implementation of the Priority Activities for the Regional Action Programme in 2003-2008 as a practical means for accelerating the implementation of the regional action programme in the region and the recommendations of the sixth Regional Meeting of Asian Focal Points;
2. *Welcomes* efforts undertaken in Africa to mainstream the UNCCD processes on subregional action programmes and the regional action programme within the recently adopted Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
3. *Acknowledges* the efforts undertaken in all the affected regions towards developing working cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners in the context of the implementation of the Convention;
4. *Encourages* affected country Parties that have not yet finalized their national action programmes to take all the necessary measures to expedite the elaboration process with the support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, so as to finalize them by the end of 2005 as recommended in decision 8/COP.4;

5. *Invites* Parties, and other interested entities, both public and private, and multilateral agencies to continue contributing on a voluntary basis, or as appropriate according to their mandates, to the activities relating to the development and implementation of action programmes to combat desertification in all affected regions;

6. *Encourages* Parties to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the regional meetings and *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the follow-up of their implementation as instructed by the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to develop simplified and specific guidelines that address the special needs of different regional and other groups, in particular Africa and Small Island Developing States, to facilitate their easy and timely access to financial resources.

11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003

Decision 9/COP.6

Programme of work of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h) of the Convention,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Further recalling its decision 11/COP.1 on Procedures for the Communication of Information and Review of the Implementation,

Recalling further paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 10 of its decision 1/COP.5 on Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention, as well as paragraphs 1 and 9 of the annex to the same decision,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC):

(a) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention, as well as decision 1/COP.5, paragraph 10;

(i) Review of the reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes;

(ii) Review of the reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected African country Parties, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(iii) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the implementation of the Convention in affected African country Parties;

(b) Consideration of necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention;

(c) Review of available information regarding the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support by multilateral agencies and institutions, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mechanism and its Facilitation Committee;

(d) Consideration of ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, as well as of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and interested institutions and organizations;

(e) Consideration of ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Decides* that the review of the reports of other affected developing country Parties and other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention on implementation of the UNCCD at future intersessional sessions of the CRIC will be conducted in alphabetical order.

*9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003*

Decision 11/COP.6

Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the Regional Coordination Units

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 6/COP.5 on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility of the regional coordination units,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6 and additional information provided by the secretariat, and noting that more information is needed in order fully to consider the feasibility of regional coordination units,

Recognizing the need of the affected developing country Parties and other country Parties for consistent and cost-effective support in promoting regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the potential of the regional coordination in linking the activities under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with those of other regional frameworks relating to sustainable development issues, and the role that could be played by the regional coordination units in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the efforts which the existing regional coordination units are making to assist, *inter alia*, in elaborating programmes and networks in their respective regions with regard to the implementation of the regional action programmes,

Noting also the cost-effectiveness and efficiency that could be brought about by the location of the existing regional coordination units in the regions in providing assistance to the affected developing countries,

1. *Invites* the Parties, the existing regional coordination units, the Global Mechanism and any other relevant regional and subregional entities to submit their views in writing, no later than 1 January 2004, on the best arrangements for strengthening regional coordination. In particular, the submissions should include views on the *rationale* for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on the possible functions, institutional arrangements, modalities and collaborative arrangements of options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing regional coordination units and other relevant regional and subregional entities. The study should take into consideration the submissions mentioned in paragraph 1 above. The study should be implemented in close consultation with other relevant regional coordination mechanisms. The secretariat is requested to circulate the study to the Parties by 1 August 2004;

3. *Requests* the Bureau of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6), with the assistance of the secretariat, to initiate, on the basis of the feasibility study, consultations among and between the regional groups, so as to facilitate the decision-making process; requests the secretariat to report on these consultations at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7); requests the President of the COP 6 to place this issue on the regular agenda of the Bureau;
4. *Encourages* Parties to exchange views and consult with other Parties on the outcome of the feasibility study with a view to strengthening regional coordination, using *inter alia* the informal opportunities arising at any meeting, but in particular at the meetings relating to the preparations for COP 7;
5. *Invites* hosting organizations to continue supporting the running costs of the existing regional coordination units;
6. *Invites also* the developed countries and multilateral agencies to continue contributing on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the activities of the regional coordination units;
7. *Decides also* that, until this agenda item is considered by COP 7, funding for this regional coordination units initiative, *inter alia* for the salaries of existing posts and the funds for necessary activities, shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund;
8. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session, taking into account the outcome of the feasibility study and associated consultations, to take a decision on the role of and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to the regional coordination units.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*

Decision 12/COP.6

Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 7/COP.5 on Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies,

Recalling further paragraph 41(c) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which encourages the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to continue exploring and enhancing synergies, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the elaboration and implementation of plans and strategies under the respective conventions,

Recognizing that strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions is essential for the effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements,

Bearing in mind that the UNCCD is a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

Bearing in mind also that integrated and sustainable ecosystem approaches promote and build synergies among the conventions,

Noting with appreciation document ICCD/COP(6)/4, which highlights four areas of the secretariat's activities to foster collaboration with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);
2. *Also welcomes* the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCCD on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and invites Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation, particularly at the local level;
3. *Encourages* the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) to identify possible areas for developing joint activities, including facilitation of local-level initiatives;
4. *Further encourages* the other relevant conventions, international organizations, agencies and institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to explore appropriate opportunities to promote synergistic approaches and initiatives, with a view to fostering their collaboration with the UNCCD;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the CBD to promote activities with Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs), for a joint approach on forests and, *inter alia*, to cooperate with the Teheran process and its secretariat in order to strengthen the capacity of LFCCs to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation; and, to this end, invites the GEF, and calls upon the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Global Mechanism (GM) to give, in accordance with their respective mandates, due consideration to the special needs and requirements of LFCCs;
6. *Encourages* Parties to focus their implementation of the UNCCD on integrated, sustainable ecosystem-based activities in order to benefit fully from synergies;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue its efforts to promote and strengthen relationships with other relevant conventions and to report on its activities at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, including on ways to prioritize follow-up actions;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the follow-up to this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*

Decision 14/COP.6

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 25 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Recalling also its decisions 23/COP.1, 17/COP.2, 13/COP.3, 17/COP.4 and 13/COP.5,

Bearing in mind the usefulness of the survey and evaluation for the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and members of its consortium in this respect,

Having reviewed the positive results of the desk evaluation report of Phase 1 of the survey and evaluation of existing networks to support the implementation of the UNCCD,

Taking note of the lack of financial support for the proposal for Phase 2 as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3/Add.1,

Taking into consideration the request made by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to UNEP on behalf of its consortium members, to submit a revised proposal on Phase 2 for consideration by the CST at its fifth session,

1. *Accepts* the revised proposal put forward by UNEP on behalf of its consortium members, as contained in ICCD/COP(5)/CST/3;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements with UNEP for the implementation of Phase 2 of the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies, as soon as the necessary funding arrangements have been made;
3. *Requests* UNEP on behalf of its consortium members to submit to the secretariat an interim progress report for presentation to the CST Bureau at its inter-sessional meeting, and to submit a final report to the CST at its seventh session;
4. *Requests* the Global Mechanism and other funding agencies, in close collaboration with the secretariat, to mobilize additional resources for this initiative;
5. *Encourages* Parties to the UNCCD and, in particular, donors and institutions, to volunteer contributions towards this initiative.

9th plenary meeting
3 September 2003

Decision 23/COP.6

Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraphs 3, 9 and 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,^{1/}

Having considered the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 submitted by the Executive Secretary,^{2/} the report on the performance of the Convention's Trust Funds in the biennium 2002-2003,^{3/} the audit report of the Convention's Trust Funds for the biennium 2000-2001,^{4/} the report on the need for, feasibility of, modalities for and costs involved in the regional coordination units,^{5/} and the report on the status of the contributions to the Convention's Trust Funds in the biennium 2002-2003,^{6/}

Noting with appreciation the annual host Government's contribution of Euro 511,291.88, which offsets contributions from other Parties to the Convention,

Commending the secretariat on the results of the financial and management audit by the external auditors of the United Nations on the financial statements of the Convention,

Taking note of the progress made by the secretariat in negotiating for the additional funds from the programme support to finance administrative operations,

Taking note with appreciation of current and ongoing collaboration with other convention secretariats and with United Nations organizations located in Bonn on the provision of common services, on the strengthening of liaison arrangements and on enhancing synergies, aimed at, among other things, improving efficiency,

A. The core budget

1. *Approves* the core budget for the biennium 2004-2005, amounting to US\$ 17,049,000 for the purposes specified in table 1 below;
2. *Notes with appreciation* the annual contribution of the host Government of Euro 511,292, which offsets planned expenditures;
3. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2004 and 2005 contained in the annex to this decision, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

^{1/} Decision 2/COP.1.

^{2/} ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.1 and Add.2.

^{3/} ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.3 and Add.4.

^{4/} ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.5.

^{5/} ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6.

^{6/} ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.7.

4. *Approves* the staffing table for the core budget, as contained in tables 2 and 3 below;
5. *Approves* a contingency budget for conference servicing, amounting to US\$ 4,143,000 to be added to the programme budget for the coming biennium in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (see table 4 below);
6. *Notes* estimated additional costs of up to US\$ 919,600 (see table 5) which will be incurred in the event that the seventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 7) is held in Bonn, and *decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for this purpose do not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing as set out in table 4 below;
7. *Requests* the General Assembly of the United Nations to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2004-2005, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;
8. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 to 5 set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditures for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the COP on any such transfers;
9. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of the estimated expenditures, including overhead charges, of the core budget;
10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the rules of procedure, to provide Parties with an *indication* of the administrative and budgetary implications of decisions submitted for consideration by the COP, as well as decisions referred by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and/or the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) for adoption by the COP, which may have administrative and budgetary implications that cannot be met from existing resources within the core budget;
11. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and to pay promptly and in full, for each of the years 2004 and 2005, the contributions required to finance the expenditures approved under paragraph 1 above, as offset by the estimated contribution noted under the third paragraph of the preamble to this decision, and the additional costs which may result from the decision referred to in paragraph 4 above;
12. *Calls* upon Parties who have not done so to pay, as soon as possible, and in full, all outstanding contributions required for the core budget of the Convention and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and regularly update information on the UNCCD web site on the status of the contributions to the Convention's Trust Funds;

13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, for the biennia 2002-2003 and 2004-2005, to draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes specified and up to the amounts in the approved core budget (see table 1), for exceptional reasons;
14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to COP 7, through the Bureau of the sixth session of the COP where necessary, on the use of the authorization given in paragraph 13 above;
15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and the performance reports for 2004-2005, to provide detailed tables and narrative of the implemented as well as the proposed expenditures, and resource requirements for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies specified according to the actual Fund utilized, and to present a draft indicative scale of assessment;
16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include data in the budget presentation by programme and by object of expenditure, showing approved and actual expenditure for the prior biennium, the proposed expenditure for the next biennium prior to re-costing and the proposed expenditure following re-costing; and to show cost changes in US dollars and percentage terms between these categories, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to include explanations of the estimates and assumptions that were used to calculate the cost increases applied to all of the objects of expenditure;
17. *Decides* that a comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat, as defined in article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes, and in the relevant decisions of the COP, will take place at COP 7;
18. *Decides* that, in order to assist the process referred to in paragraph 17 above, the Bureau of COP 6 is requested to develop terms of reference, by 1 June 2004, for the comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat to be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations;
19. *Decides* further that the terms of reference referred to in paragraph 18 above, should be based on:
 - (a) the coherence and implementation of COP decisions relevant to the secretariat;
 - (b) the structural implications of the evolving role of the secretariat;
 - (c) the appropriate division of labour and responsibilities between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism; and
 - (d) how further improvements in the budget presentation could increase transparency and assist the COP in its deliberations thereon;
20. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to seek voluntary contributions to meet the costs associated with the implementation of paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 above;
21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations for additional funds from programme support to finance administrative operations, in view of the additional tasks;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to COP 7 on developments on current and ongoing collaboration with other convention secretariats and with United Nations organizations located in Bonn;

B. Supplementary Funds and the Special Fund

23. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contribution of Euro 511,292 to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

24. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in document ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.2 (US\$14,874,300 for the biennium 2004-2005; see table 6 below) and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their participation in UNCCD regional conferences or meetings;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26, paragraph 7 of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

25. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in document ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add. 1 (US\$ 2,201,700 - US\$ 882,700 for CRIC 3 and US\$ 1,319,000 for COP 7) for the biennium 2004-2005 (see table 7 below), and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to support the participation of developing country Parties, and in particular least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules.

Table 1. Resource requirements by programme
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programme description	Total			Total
	2002-2003	2004	2005	2004-2005
Executive direction and management	1,550	763	787	1,550
Substantive support to COP, its subsidiary bodies, and global issues	2,290	1,134	1,155	2,289
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	3,487	2,067	1,942	4,009
External relations and public information	1,030	438	462	900
Administration and finance	2,386	1,282	1,251	2,533
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat^{1/}	10,742	5,684	5,597	11,281
Global Mechanism	3,525	1,824	1,877	3,701
Total programmes	14,267	7,508	7,474	14,982
Overhead	1,855	976	972	1,948
Working capital reserve ^{2/}	113	119	-	119
Total resource requirements	16,234	8,603	8,446	17,049
Less: Contribution from host country Government ^{3/}	909	555	555	1,110
Net required as indicative contributions	15,325	8,048	7,891	15,939

^{1/} In making staff cost estimates, it has been assumed that termination costs associated with frozen posts will be approximately US\$ 400,000.

^{2/} The amount required to bring the working capital reserve up to 8.3 % of the total programmes cost plus overhead.

^{3/} Equivalent to Euro 1,022,584, based on the prevailing United Nations rate of exchange in September 2003 (EUR 1 = US\$ 1.085).

Table 2. Staffing requirements for the UNCCD secretariat^{1/}

	2003	2004	2005
A. Professional category and above			
ASG	1	1	1
D-1	2	2	2
P-5	10	10	10
P-4	8	8	8
P-3	5	5	5
P-2	4	4	4
Subtotal A	30	30	30
B. General Service category	13	13	13
Total (A + B)	43	43	43

^{1/} With a 5% increase, the secretariat will have to freeze at least 9 posts in the 2004-2005 biennium. Since the posts to be frozen are currently occupied, the secretariat will have to pay termination expenses, which include repatriation grants, travel expenses, removal of personal effects, payment of untaken annual leave, and at least one month's salary for each occupied post that is frozen.

Table 3. Staffing requirements for the Global Mechanism

	2002-2003 ^{1/}	2004 ^{2/}	2005 ^{2/}
A. Professional category and above			
D-2	1	1	1
D-1	1	1	1
P-5	4	4	4
P-4	1	1	1
P-3	2	2	2
Subtotal A	9	9	9
B. General Service category	5	5	5
Total (A + B)	14	14	14

^{1/} Posts as approved by decision 4/COP.5.

^{2/} Proposal for consideration by COP 6.

Table 4. Estimates for contingency for conference services
(in the event that the United Nations General Assembly decides not to include the sessions
of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in its regular budget)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2004	2005	Total 2004-2005
Conference services	1,600.0	2,332.0	3,932.0
Overhead	82.0	129.0	211.0
Total resource requirements	1,682.0	2,461.0	4,143.0

Table 5. Operating costs of holding the seventh session of the COP in Bonn
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Estimate for COP 7 2005
Logistic costs	740.0
Contingencies	74.0
Subtotal	814.0
Overhead	105.6
Total resource requirements	919.6

Table 6. Supplementary Fund: estimated resource requirements
(Thousands of US dollars)

	2004	2005	Total 2004-2005
Estimated resource requirements	7,186.4	5,976.7	13,163.1
Overhead	934.2	777.0	1,711.2
Total resource requirements	8,120.6	6,753.7	14,874.3

Table 7. Special Fund: estimated resource requirements
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2004	2005 ^{1/}	Total 2004 - 2005
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	790.0	1,167.0	1,957.0
Overhead	92.7	152.0	244.7
Total resource requirements	882.7	1,319.0	2,201.7

^{1/} This estimate is for CRIC 3 and COP 7 only; should any other meeting be planned for 2004 and/or 2005, this estimate has to be revised accordingly.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*

Decision 29/COP.6

Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4 and 5/COP.5 on its programme of work, 11/COP.1 on Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, 1/COP.5 on Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention, and relevant decisions of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of its seventh session and, if necessary, its eighth session:

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

(b) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention:

- (i) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
- (ii) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, including the review referred to in paragraph 4 of decision 1/COP.5;

(c) Committee on Science and Technology:

- (i) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
- (ii) Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work;

(d) Comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat, as defined in article 23, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes, and in the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention;

(f) Consideration of the follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(g) Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units;

(h) Outstanding items:

(i) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;

(ii) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention,

(iii) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention;

(i) Consideration of the progress made, *inter alia*, by the Global Mechanism, in mobilizing financial resources to support the UNCCD implementation, in particular national action programmes to combat desertification;

2. *Decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with the relevant stakeholders, including ministers, non-governmental organizations, and members of parliament on points of the agenda of relevance to them;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*