

**Decision 1/COP.4**Procedures to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 6/COP.3 which, *inter alia*, established an ad hoc working group to review and analyse in-depth the reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Secretary related to the organization of work for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group,

*Recognizing* the quality and the large number of reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions;

1. *Decides* that:

(a) All national reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions shall be reviewed individually by the Ad Hoc Working Group before the beginning of its fifth session;

(b) The Ad Hoc Working Group shall conclude the process of reviewing all remaining reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, during the period between the fourth and fifth sessions, by convening an inter-sessional meeting of up to 15 working days;

(c) The Ad Hoc Working Group will organize its work according to its experience and in accordance with the provisions of this decision;

2. *Also decides* that:

(a) The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group shall be composed of two co-chairpersons and three vice-chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur;

(b) The Ad Hoc Working Group, without neglecting other issues contained in reports, shall review and analyse reports by adopting thematic approaches, as appropriate, based on, *inter alia*, the following topics:

- (i) Identification of best practices and successes in implementing the Convention;
- (ii) Identification of main difficulties, obstacles and challenges in implementing the Convention;
- (iii) Level of participation of all actors, including financial and technical support from developed countries, in the implementation process;
- (iv) Linkages and synergies with other conventions on the environment and development;

- (v) Strategies established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies;

3. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism to provide advice and information to be used for the review of the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Further decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall submit an interim report on its work to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties and a comprehensive report on its conclusions and concrete recommendations on further steps on the implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to make all necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Working Group to fulfil its mandate.

*4th Plenary  
14 December 2000*

**Decision 2/COP.4**

Interim report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the  
in depth review and analysis of reports submitted to the  
third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the interim report of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the outcome of the nine sessions held from 15 to 21 December 2000, attached to the present decision,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the interim report of the Ad Hoc Working Group;
2. *Decides* to include the interim report as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*

Annex

Interim report of the Co-Chairmen on the first session of the  
Ad Hoc Working Group on the review of implementation of the UNCCD

Held during the Fourth session of the Conference of the Parties  
to the UNCCD, Bonn

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**A. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE AND BACKGROUND**

1. Legislative mandate

By its decision 6/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse in depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports that will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. By the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD was requested to make all necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned ad hoc working group (AHWG) to fulfil its mandate and to meet at the fourth session.

Further to consultations with interest and regional groups and in order to facilitate the decision on the ad hoc working group, the Secretariat prepared document ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.7 (A), outlining a proposal for the work plan of the ad hoc working group and its objectives. This document, was well received by the Parties.

Pursuant to decision 1/COP.4, the AHWG received its procedural guidelines. It is worth recalling here that one of the criteria for selecting national reports to be reviewed at COP4 was the date of ratification and the adoption and/or elaboration of a national action programme of the countries. Some subregional and regional reports were also considered. In this context, inputs from reports of developed country parties, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, that supported project activities in the concerned affected country Parties, were expected to also enrich this review.

Due to the size of the report review exercise, the Parties agreed on an inter-sessional meeting of up to 15 working days of the AHWG before COP 5. This was seen to be a necessary arrangement for processing the backlog of reports through an equitable review of all country reports submitted to the secretariat at COP 3 and COP 4. The decision on procedures stipulated that the AHWG would review all national reports individually prior to COP 5 and analyze reports by adopting thematic approaches without neglecting other issues contained in the reports. The

ad hoc working group invited the CST and the Global Mechanism to provide advice and information to be used for the review of the implementation of the Convention.

2. Election of the Bureau

The following Bureau was elected:

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) and Mr. Willem R. J. Van Cotthem (Belgium)

Vice Chairmen: Mr. Octavio Perez Pardo (Argentina), Mr. Mohammad Reza Jabbari (Iran), (Rapporteur) Mr. Ogtay Jafarov (Azerbaijan)

3. Preparation for the review of national reports

The Group had to review the reports of 10 African, 6 Asian and 4 Latin American countries, plus those of 2 countries from the regional Annex IV and one report from Eastern Europe. Regional and subregional activities for all annexes were to be discussed at the end of the review process for each regional annex, within the time frame available. In order to maintain the desired coherence of presentations for reasons of comparability, the secretariat had invited the listed countries and regional groups presenting their national reports to include the following points in their presentation:

- (a) assessment of measures taken;
- (b) analysis of the obstacles in implementing the Convention;
- (c) update on progress made since the submission of the report and assessment of the current status;
- (d) suggestion as how to solve identified problems and next course of action.

It was understood that this broad framework that was tentatively proposed would easily be enriched by the topics of priority interest contained in operative paragraph 2(b) of decision 1/COP.4. Comments by concerned international organizations, and, above all, comments from developed country partners were expected to bring added value to this exchange.

The Co-chairmen also were aware that, in the light of the late approval of this very process, it had not been possible, for those who presented their reports, to prepare for it as extensively as Parties might have wished. They consider the process to be in its initial learning phase, they intend to draw the lessons of experience gained and therefore they suggested that any constructive observation and criticism from all concerned Parties in the COP 4 segment of the AHWG review would help to fully meet Parties' expectations in the resumed phase of the exercise.

Hence, this interim report aims at extracting preliminary elements and observations from the COP 4 segment of the country report review in the understanding that full lessons and related recommendations will be presented in a final comprehensive report after the inter-sessional meeting.

**B. ASPECTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

## 1. Broad features of the proceedings

The national reports review provided a more specific complement to the brief review that took place in the COW on the overview and the synthetic aspects of the implementation of the Convention. The initial work of the AHWG was considered an iterative process aiming at maximizing the lessons from experience as distilled through the national reports.

The first session of the AHWG heard the following reports:

1. Cape Verde	12. Namibia	23. Bolivia
2. Senegal	13. United Republic of Tanzania	24. Argentina
3. Mali	14. Subregional - SADC	25. Chile
4. Burkina Faso	15. Subregional - IGAD	26. Cuba
5. Benin	16. Tajikistan	27. Regional Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Subregional - UMA	17. Uzbekistan	28. Portugal
7. Subregional - CILSS/CEDEAO	18. Turkmenistan	29. Italy
8. Tunisia	19. Mongolia	30. Regional Northern Mediterranean
9. Lesotho	20. Lao People's Democratic Republic	31. Republic of Moldova
10. Swaziland	21. China	
11. Regional Africa	22. Regional Asia	

The Co-chairmen are pleased with the high quality of presentations and the rich content of the exchanges. They commend affected country Parties for their thorough preparation and excellent delivery. Likewise, participants expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive extent of the reports' coverage, the substantive information content, the candid assessment of obstacles and constraints and the useful summary of lessons learnt.

Comments and exchanges following the presentations of the national reports aimed at seeking or providing complementary clarifications, offering advice or highlighting areas of common interest. Affected countries from the same region often focused on shared areas of concern. Developed country Parties emphasized relevant methodologies and approaches. On the whole, these exchanges did not draw well defined conclusions from the analysis of the reports and thus did not provide sufficient elements to chart the path forward for the implementation process. Hence, many participants called for more concrete and constructive feedback.

The Chairman of the CST noted the consistently weak reference made to the scientific and technical work of the CST in the national reports in fields such as benchmark and indicators, traditional knowledge or early warning systems. The CST

proposed to the COP a number of pertinent decisions to address these shortcomings and suggested, *inter alia*, the revision of the secretariat Help Guide. The CST and the Global Mechanism are invited to bring their contribution to the review of implementation at the resumed session of the AHWG in conformity with the COP's decision on its procedures. It is expected that the Global Mechanism would provide information, in particular on support it can provide to countries in the light of its mandate.

The Co-chairmen suggest that no focus should be put on physical data and welcome more emphasis on success stories. A synthesis of issues drawn from the substantive exchanges, including the identification of best practices and of common difficulties and challenges and regional aspects as appropriate, be contained in the final comprehensive report to allow readers to benefit from the accumulated experience of all Parties having submitted a report at COP 3 and COP 4.

## 2. Presentation of affected country Parties

Given the number of presentations, participants greatly appreciated the use of visual support instruments. National reports usually covered such matters as institutional development, legislative, policy and enabling frameworks, national coordination, participatory mechanisms and partnership networking, awareness raising and capacity building, funding issues and, many times, benchmarks and indicators. In doing so they also covered questions pertaining to inter ministerial cooperation, the field level consultative process and the mobilization of the civil society. They called for a better integration of longer term environmental measures into economic policies, instruments and practices.

The need for predictable financial support was consistently identified as a pressing constraint at a time when national coordination bodies in charge of the UNCCD plan to move from NAP-preparation to the operational phase of field activities. The role of the Global Mechanism in facilitating and securing funding was acknowledged.

## 3. Presentation of subregional and regional programmes

Subregional and regional institutions presented their respective programmes. They reported on institutional developments such as the establishment of ministerial consultations, integrated planning frameworks, Coordination Committees and Thematic Groups and the use of Internet exchange forums. It was highlighted that SRAPs have the potential to turn into a cost effective channel for providing support to the NAPs in the concerned subregions. Regional and subregional institutions assisted member states in the preparation of the COPs and some delegations stated that their useful role deserved enhanced support.

Emphasis was put on South-South cooperation, finding responses to challenges in areas of common interest, notably in relationship with the work of the Committee on Science and Technology. Transboundary pilot projects have been launched between neighboring countries in some subregions. Support was provided to member states for the preparation of NAPs. Technical difficulties relate notably to the harmonization of evaluation parameters, benchmarks and indicators. The transaction cost of coordination and networking was recalled.

**C. TENTATIVE HIGHLIGHTS ON KEY THEMATIC TOPICS**

*(to be completed after the resumed session of the AHWG)*

1. Identification of best practices and successes

At the institutional level some progress was registered in putting into place or reactivating the necessary normative framework to encourage decentralization for natural resources management under the UNCCD.

Progress was also achieved in improving the conditions for partnership, through the identification and coordination of complementary initiatives through sectoral or thematic planning instruments.

The decentralization process in many instances was supported by consultative mechanisms at regional and local levels that can serve the development process far and beyond the Convention. Communication strategies to this effect integrated traditional and recent technologies in support of participatory development.

Countries and NGOs reported positive results in the strengthening of capacities for key actors of the civil society to identify and address challenges linked to sustainable development. In this respect measures in support of participatory development could be better reflected in the Help Guide.

Affected developed country Parties reported success in their awareness-raising efforts and were impressed with a strong response from the population, municipalities and academic institutions which demonstrated a growing interest in UNCCD related issues.

It was noted that considerable progress was being made on critical issues such as improved natural resources governance, land tenure or the promotion of women's role in rural development.

The point was made, notably in the African context, that there was a wealth of successful experiences at micro-level in relevant areas such as efficient use of water, land reclamation, range management or protection of the vegetal cover. Initiatives under the UNCCD framework to gather resources to multiply and replicate these successful experiences at field level are strongly recommended.

2. Identification of main difficulties, obstacles and challenges

At the institutional level, the national coordination bodies are not always anchored at the required level of decision making to bring coherence to the interventions of the concerned ministries. Nor are they always well equipped to mainstream experience gained under the NAP exercise into other strategic frameworks such as poverty reduction strategies. The Co-chairs recognize the considerable challenge the countries face in coordinating a multiplicity of agreements and strategies for environment and development, which often complicates the task of national implementation authorities.

It was recognized that developed country Parties, as cooperation partners, are facing initial difficulties to internalize the Convention in their own aid delivery process and must adjust their own procedures for the delivery of programme resources in a manner deemed adequate to deliver their commitment as Party to this instrument.

Inappropriate policy frameworks at the macro level in areas such as, for instance, trade practices or agricultural subsidies can hamper progress into the fight against desertification. This points out in many cases to an insufficient integration of environmental and economic policies.

The mobilization of financial resources from member countries and international partners remain a core challenge, notably as the process moves from the phase of NAP preparation to the phase of NAP implementation. In that context, a lack of response to push forward the forthcoming phase could demobilize key stakeholders. It must be noted that the challenge for establishing mechanisms for partnership arrangements is also acute at the subregional and regional level. Several interventions thus called for GEF support for UNCCD enabling activities. Coordination of external financial flows was also perceived as a difficult challenge. Affected developing countries were invited to bring forward priority projects or programmes from the NAPs in their regular discussions with developed country Parties.

Beyond anthropogenic factors, climate change with its context of worsening drought and unreliable rainfall patterns is perceived as a growing threat.

3. Level of participation of all actors, including financial and technical support from developed countries
  - 3.1 Manifestation of political will through the national decision making and the budget allocation process  
*(to be elaborated after the resumed session of the AHWG)*
  - 3.2 Participatory development process involving the civil society, NGOs and CBOs  
*(to be elaborated after the resumed session of the AHWG)*
  - 3.3 Establishment of consultative mechanisms for the conclusion of partnership agreements  
*(to be elaborated after the resumed session of the AHWG)*
4. Linkages and synergies with other conventions on the environment and development

Linkages and synergies with other Multilateral Environment Agreements and/or strategic frameworks on environment and development were encouraged. Synergistic programmes should benefit, at field level, from efforts under the UNCCD to promote capacity building initiatives such as participatory farming systems and farmer friendly networking structures that take into account biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration and other topics of interest in the combat of desertification.

Some studies are under way, at national level, to assess implications of and potential for synergistic measures between the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD. It was observed that the upcoming initiatives under the International Forest Forum should

also be integrated. Support through the Joint Programme CBD/UNCCD could assist affected countries in their assessment efforts.

5. Strategies established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies

For the UNCCD issues to be fully represented in the process of the coordination of policies and strategic frameworks for sustainable development, it is necessary that the expression of national political will, domestic investments and the commitment of international partners be expressed through concrete mechanisms at national level.

It was agreed that a critical level of NAP development should be achieved for successful linkages with other policies or strategies, notably those aiming at poverty reduction because the consideration of such relationships remains theoretical as long as the NAP implementation has not effectively started.

The constitution of national think tanks, steering groups and /or the production of studies on synergistic programmes development should be encouraged.

**D. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CO-CHAIRMEN ON THE BASIS OF THE COP 4 SESSION OF THE AHWG**

1. Recommendations for the resumed session of the AHWG
  - 1.1 Affected country Parties presenting their reports during the inter-session of the AHWG are invited to take fully into account the procedures to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the COP contained in decision 1/COP.4, notably its operative paragraph 2. In the light of the important number of reports to be submitted during the resumed session of the AHWG, the affected country Parties are, to the extent possible, invited to make use of multi-media equipment.
  - 1.2 Developed country Parties participating in the review of these reports are invited to provide specific feedback on the conclusions they reach and the steps they intend to take in the light of the submission of reports from affected country Parties.
  - 1.3 As demonstrated at the COP 4 session of the AHWG, developed country Parties should continue to use the learning opportunity offered by the review process to further educate their ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid efforts to assist developing country Parties. Developed country Parties are encouraged to actively incorporate their response to the reports into their consideration of future assistance measures.
  - 1.4 Relevant international organizations are requested to contribute more actively to the review process through a presentation of measures they are taking in response to the issues and concerns expressed in the national reports.

- 1.5 Presentations and exchanges during the resumed session should facilitate forward looking conclusions on the substance of the matters under review and the next steps to be taken in order to foster the implementation process.
  - 1.6 If time permits, presentations from countries of a given region could be concluded by an informal wrap up of main lessons learnt and priority themes to be addressed. There would thus be opportunities for such exchanges for each of the regional implementation annexes.
  - 1.7 Likewise it is suggested to accommodate, to the extent possible, a review of the reports of developed country Parties and relevant international organizations.
2. With regard to the NAP preparation process, the Co-chairmen also would like to launch an appeal to the countries in position to do so, to complete and adopt their NAP instruments so as to be in a position to report on new developments at the inter-session of the AHWG. They also invite partner countries and international organizations to provide early support to these effort.
3. The resumed session should take place at a location that facilitates maximum participation.

The Co-Chairmen:

Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud El-Ghaouth :

Mr. Willem R. J. Van Cotthem :

**Bonn, 21 December 2000**

**Decision 3/COP.4**

Procedures for the review of the implementation of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 22, paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c), as well as articles 24 and 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

*Recalling* its decisions 10/COP.1, 10/COP.2 and 6/COP.3 on the review of the implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling* also its decision 1/COP.4, which established a procedure to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, including those submitted through an inter-sessional meeting,

*Having considered* reports of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the Convention,

4. *Reaffirms* the objectives and provisions of the UNCCD, in particular article 22 on the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) should fulfil its mandate in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of decision 6/COP.3, and should draw up conclusions and propose concrete recommendations for further steps in the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Decides* also that the Ad Hoc Working Group to review and analyze in depth the reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions should fulfil its mandate in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of decision 1/COP.4, and should draw up conclusions and propose concrete recommendations for further steps in the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Decides* also that further proposals and suggestions of Parties and other interested institutions, having taken into account the experience and comprehensive report of the AHWG, on concrete recommendations for the review of implementation of the Convention, including proposals on procedures and modalities for the establishment of a committee to review the implementation of the Convention (CRIC), be submitted through the secretariat for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to circulate the comprehensive report of the Ad Hoc Working Group and those proposals at least eight weeks prior to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism to provide information to be used for the review of the implementation of the Convention.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*

**Decision 5/COP.4**Programme of work for 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 and 4/COP.3 on its programme of work, 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention, 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation and 9/COP.3 on the review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism,

1. *Decides* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its fifth session and, if necessary, its sixth session:

(a) Adoption of the programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

(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) Consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of the reports submitted to the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(ii) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

(c) 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 Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) Review, pursuant to article 22, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(e) Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention;

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

(g) Consideration of outstanding items:

- (i) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;
- (ii) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;
- (iii) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;

(h) Open dialogue with non-governmental organizations;

2. *Decides* also to include the following selected item in the agenda of its sixth session:

(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:

- (i) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties of all regions, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;
- (ii) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in all regions;
- (iii) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of all regions, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;
- (iv) 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 preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraph 1 above.

**Decision 6/COP.4**

Global Mechanism

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 9/COP.3 on the Global Mechanism,

*Recalling also* that the second review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism will take place at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties,

*Takes note* of the reports on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4 and Add.1, as well as of the report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/Add.2.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*

**Decision 8/COP.4**

Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation  
of the obligations of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention related to its implementation and to the obligations of the Parties,

*Recalling also* decision 8/COP.3,

*Having considered* the report from the Executive Secretary as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9,

1. *Decides* to approve the text of the declaration attached to the present decision;

2. *Decides also* to include the declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*

Annex**Declaration on the commitments under the Convention to  
enhance implementation of the obligations of the UNCCD**

WE, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Parties and observer States to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, participating in the fourth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties held at Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, from 11 to 22 December 2000, as a follow up to "The Recife Initiative: Towards Enhancing the Implementation of the Convention"<sup>1</sup>;

## PURPOSE

ACKNOWLEDGE that Agenda 21, in particular Chapter 12 which relates to the "management of fragile systems: the combat against desertification and drought", highlights concepts, actions, goals and activities that remain valid;

REAFFIRM that human beings in affected or threatened areas are at the centre of the concern to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;

ACKNOWLEDGE that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world, and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;

REAFFIRM the provisions of the Convention and resolve to fulfil the commitments and to enhance the implementation of the obligations under the Convention and to actively continue to support its effective and full implementation;

REAFFIRM ALSO our political will and commitments to the implementation of the Convention in line with its provisions, including through the formulation and implementation of action programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;

FURTHER REAFFIRM, in pursuing the objective of the Convention and in accordance with its provisions, that Parties shall adopt, *inter-alia*, an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought;

ENCOURAGE synergies between the Rio Conventions and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well as international organizations to strengthen their cooperation and seek partnerships, with due regard to their respective mandate, with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of these Conventions at all levels;

EXPRESS our satisfaction with the steps being taken by developing country Parties to elaborate and implement action programmes, and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations, in the process of implementation of the Convention;

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 8/COP.3.

EXPRESS ALSO our appreciation for the measures taken by developed country Parties to assist in the elaboration and implementation of action programmes of developing country Parties;

FURTHER EXPRESS our appreciation for the valuable work undertaken by international, regional and subregional organizations, including multilateral financial institutions, and civil society including non-governmental as well as community-based organizations, in their efforts to implement the Convention at all levels;

#### OBJECTIVES

ACKNOWLEDGE the need to strengthen international cooperation, within the framework of the Convention, to enhance combating desertification and drought through the identification of ways and means to promote and facilitate access to appropriate technology by affected country Parties, and to provide substantial financial resources, particularly to affected developing country Parties;

RECOGNIZE the need to ensure that effective action is taken on initiatives derived from the Convention, in combating poverty with a view to achieving sustainable development in affected areas;

RECOGNIZE ALSO the need to implement action programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought as important instruments, *inter alia*, for long-term protection of ecosystems in affected countries;

EMPHASIZE the necessity to develop and/or strengthen genuine partnership and cooperation by enhancing efforts in collaboration with all relevant actors, including those from civil society, at all levels, through appropriate action so as to further enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention with a view to improve the living conditions of women and men and achieve sustainable development in affected countries;

#### TIME FRAME

STRESS the need to enhance special efforts to combat and prevent desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought during the first decade (2001-2010) of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in order to address the severe situation prevailing in various affected developing country Parties, particularly in Africa;

#### SPECIFIC THEMATIC AND SECTORAL AREAS

DECLARE that during this decade the strategic areas for action at all levels, in accordance with national plans and priorities and in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, should include the following:

- sustainable land use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas;
- sustainable use and management of rangelands;
- development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems;
- development of new and renewable energy sources;
- launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes;

- development of early warning systems for food security and drought forecasting;
- desertification monitoring and assessment.

DECLARE ALSO our intention to concentrate our efforts on areas identified at the national level, including: the promotion of traditional knowledge; the promotion of appropriate environmental education; and the enhancement of cooperation with institutions and organizations dealing with development policies and programmes to eradicate illiteracy and the development of capacity-building in affected areas;

CONCRETE MEASURES AND MEANS FOR ENHANCING  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REAFFIRM our obligations, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, to undertake, *inter alia*, the following actions:

- provide substantial financial resources and other forms of support to assist affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, effectively to develop and implement their own long-term plans and strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- promote the mobilization of new and additional funding<sup>2</sup>;
- encourage the mobilization of funding from the private sector and other non-governmental sources; and,
- promote and facilitate access by affected country Parties, particularly in affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how;

EXPRESS concern that, despite important efforts made by all interested partners, adequate financial and other resources have not been mobilized, which has constrained the ability of affected developing country Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention;

URGE all relevant actors to take a set of proactive financial measures;

DEVELOP and carry out activities to promote the mainstreaming of the implementation of national action programmes, within relevant national strategies for sustainable development, including strategies for poverty eradication;

INVITE affected developing countries, that have not yet adopted their national action programmes, and, where appropriate, regional and subregional action programmes, to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them no later than the end of 2005;

INVITE ALSO other affected country Parties that notify, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Permanent Secretariat of their intention to prepare a national action programme, to accelerate the process with a view to finalizing such programme no later than the end of 2005;

CALL UPON the international community, in particular the developed country Parties and the United Nations system, and invite multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to article 20, 2(b) of the Convention.

developing country Parties in the process of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

ENCOURAGE enhanced cooperation between the Rio Conventions and other relevant agreements as well as international, regional or subregional forums, within their respective mandates, with a view to promoting the Convention's objective of combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

INVITE Parties to take action to improve and facilitate further access by affected developing country Parties to Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources for the implementation of the Convention;

WELCOME the decision of the GEF council which "requests the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the United Nations Convention to combat desertification taking into account the third replenishment";

CALL FOR the strengthening of the Global Mechanism in order to enable it to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties;

URGE all relevant actors to facilitate access to small and medium sized credit lines, and to promote and encourage partnership agreements and/or arrangements with the private sector, in order to increase investments and to foster activities related to the implementation of the Convention at the local and national levels;

#### MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP

RECOGNIZE that methodologies on desertification assessment and monitoring need to be better implemented so as to enable the affected countries concerned to meet the objectives of the Convention;

RESOLVE that the provisions of this Declaration should be given due consideration in the framework of the regular review of the implementation of the Convention and, in this regard, invite Parties to include in their reports, submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, appropriate information related to the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention, as a follow-up to this Declaration, and request the Executive Secretary of the Convention to compile, synthesize and submit such information through a report to each COP during this decade, starting in 2003;

URGE all Parties, relevant international organizations, regional and non-governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to continue supporting action to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, and to bring into concrete actions the provisions of this Declaration.

Bonn, 22 December 2000

**Decision 9/COP.4**Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

*The Conference of the Parties,*

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing collaboration between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNCCD and the involvement of the Global Mechanism in this collaboration, which resulted in the identification and funding of activities against land degradation by the GEF;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the GEF Council at its last meeting, from 1 to 3 November 2000, which requested the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, taking into account the third replenishment;

2. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to support the GEF, including as appropriate through its Council and the pursuit of negotiations in the Assembly of the GEF so as to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the Convention taking into account the third replenishment;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to report to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties on the follow-up to the GEF Council decision, referred to in paragraph 2, above, in support of the implementation of the Convention and of developments in this regard.

*12th Plenary  
22 December 2000*