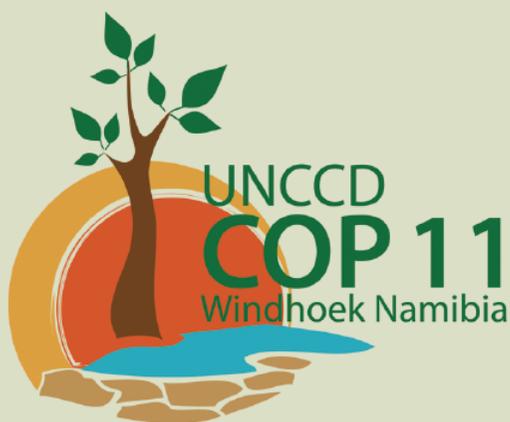


United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP11



16 to 27 September 2013
Windhoek, Namibia

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FOREWORD

The publication of this third edition of the Guide to negotiations of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Especially in Africa (UNCCD) is part of the initiative by the *Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable* (IFDD - Institute of the French-speaking world for sustainable development) on the sustainable management of lands and forests and on desertification.

This IFDD initiative aims to boost the participation of member countries in the international negotiations under the UNCCD and other conventions that affect the sustainable management of lands and forests. With this in mind, IFDD prepares and circulates in particular information that can help to understand better the issues, scope and sequence of negotiations on the UNCCD and the other relevant international conventions and play an active part in them.

The Guide to negotiations of the UNCCD contains the information required to navigate in the Convention, including its institutions and mechanisms and the history of its work. It is intended first and foremost for delegates from countries who are attending international meetings on desertification. It will also be useful to representatives of non-governmental organisations, international organisations and the general public interested in international current affairs relating to desertification, the degradation of lands and drought.

The first section of the Guide presents the Convention: its inception, bodies, main provisions, its recent implementation strategy and its stakeholders (Part 1); it continues by recounting the history of deliberations since its entry into force (Part 2). The role and operation of the Convention bodies are explained in particular.

The third section of the Guide focuses on the issues of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) and related meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 12) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 11).

The final section of the Guide provides information on the negotiating framework and practical advice for the delegates to the CCD meetings.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE IFDD

The Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (COP/UNCCD) accordingly forms part of the follow-up to the Declaration of Rio+20 which, in the section devoted to desertification, land degradation and drought (paras. 205-209), highlights the economic and social importance, for sustainable development, of good land and soil management in fighting poverty.

The agenda items for this COP cover the search for appropriate ways and means not only to ensure constant control of the impacts and negative effects of desertification and land and soil degradation faced by the planet, but also to consider how to prevent these phenomena caused by poor farming practices used by people.

A few years ago, the Parties to the Convention adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework 2008-2018. This set out broad guidelines for better management of the combat against desertification and land and soil degradation. To this end, suitable tools and mechanisms must be identified and made available to different categories of development players to stamp out this global challenge that hampers the efforts to improve the living conditions of affected populations.

Proven scientific, technical, technological, institutional and financial capacities and skills in managing desertification are required at all intervention and policymaking levels to contain the phenomenon. Hence the interest of a participatory, integrated and multi-discipline approach to discussions within the Convention's subsidiary bodies to agree on a sustainable development initiative that should be adopted by the public and private administrations, international institutions, regional, national and local commissions, civil society organisations, NGOs and other associations involved in the management of desertification and land and soil degradation. Thus, the availability of relevant scientific knowledge and data, indicators and targets for use in assessing results achieved together with harmonised reporting on the implementation of the Convention are major issues to be agreed by the negotiators in Windhoek. The 10-year strategic plan and framework of the Convention, the applicable provisions for the Global Mechanism and collaboration with the GEF will also be at the heart of discussions.

OIF, through its subsidiary IFDD, is contributing with this guide now in your possession and hopes you will find it useful in your discussions and debates. The English version has been made possible through the support of UNEP, for which the Francophonie is most grateful.

I wish you pleasant reading and enjoy the conference!

Fatimata DIA

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGTE	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
AHWGR	Ad hoc Working Group to improve the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties to the CCD
COW	Committee of the Whole
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CRP	Conference Room Paper
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil society organisations
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DAC	Development Aid Committee
DLDD	Desertification, land degradation and drought
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEC	Central and Eastern Europe (countries)
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FC	Facilitation Committee
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism
GRULAC	Spanish acronym for Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEPF	<i>Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie</i> (Energy and Environment Institute of the French-speaking World) (since 1 February 2013, <i>Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable</i>)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDD	French acronym for Institute of the French-speaking world for sustainable development
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IFS	Integrated Financial Strategies
IGS	Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists
IIF	Integrated Investment Framework
IIWG	Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group

INC-D	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change
IYDD	International Year of Deserts and Desertification
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
JUSSCANNZ	Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand
LAC	Region of Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NAP	National Action Programme
NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF	French acronym for International Organisation of the Francophonie
PDA	Public Development Aid
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
RAC	Relevant Activity Codes
RAP	Regional Action Programme
RCM	Regional coordination mechanism
RCU	Regional coordination unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFA	Standard Financial Annexes
SLM	Sustainable land management
SPI	Science-Policy Interface
SRAP	Subregional Action Programme
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
STAR	GEF transparent allocation system
STI	Scientific and Technological Institutions
TN	Thematic network
TPN	Thematic programme networks
UN	United Nations Organisation
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Especially in Africa
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDDD	United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
WB	World Bank
WEOG	Western European and Others Group
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

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PART 1

THE CONVENTION, ITS BODIES AND THE STAKEHOLDERS

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONVENTION

1.1 GENESIS OF THE CONVENTION

INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON DESERTIFICATION

Recognition by the international community of challenges raised by desertification swelled at the end of the 1970s. The first United Nations Conference addressing the numerous social, economic and environmental problems caused by desertification and drought was held in Nairobi in 1977, ending with the adoption of an Action Plan to combat desertification. Sadly this instrument did not produce the expected results. A UNEP report on implementing the Action Plan found in 1991 that the situation had even worsened overall despite a few local success stories¹. A crying need thus emerged clearly for a legally-binding framework to combat desertification and drought supported by sufficient funds to ensure its implementation.

The question of desertification and drought was therefore included in the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992². The Conference addressed this problem from a global perspective and advocated a new integrated approach to promote development that was sustainable. Agreement was reached on the need for an international convention on the subject to achieve this. A worldwide sustainable development implementation programme also resulted from the UNCED. This was called Agenda 21. Its Chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: Combating desertification and drought" contained specific recommendations on combating desertification. The Rio Conference and its Agenda 21 programme thus heralded a new era of integrating environmental and development issues, encouraging international cooperation as support for national actions and favouring participatory approaches.

Following the UNCED, in December 1992 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INC-D). Its mandate was to prepare the text of the Convention before June 1994 (A/RES/47/188). The INC-D held five sessions

-
1. Status of Desertification and Implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: Report of the Executive Director: Governing Council, Third Special Session, Nairobi, 3-5 February 1992.
 2. A/RES/44/288.

during this period, after which the text entitled "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Especially in Africa" was adopted on 17 June 1994. The text of the Convention complied with the spirit of the Agenda 21 recommendations and was open for signature on 14 and 15 October 1994. It entered into force on 26 December 1996, ninety days after ratification by the 50th Party. It was agreed that the INC-D would continue with its meetings in the meantime. There were five other INC-D sessions in total, with the last one split into two sections. The INC-D met for the last time in August 1997, shortly before the First Conference of the Parties (COP), held in October of the same year.

ISSUES OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE UNCCD

Although unquestionably the UNCCD was negotiated in record time, these negotiations were nevertheless the stage for numerous grand gestures and reversals that are worth mentioning. Thus, the history of negotiations and their deep-rooted tensions can help to put the adoption of the UNCCD into context and to understand its evolution better.

Firstly, the UNCCD stands out from other environmental conventions given that it results from an express demand from developing countries and especially African countries. Unlike the other conventions resulting from the Rio Summit, which were initiated by the developed countries, the UNCCD met stiff opposition from these countries who felt quite removed from the problem of desertification. Secondly, major disagreements were also apparent within the group of developing countries itself.

Despite the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/228 of December 1989, which required special consideration to be given to the subject of desertification and drought under the UNECD, the preparation meetings for this conference only paid it scant attention. One meeting of African Ministers for the Environment was therefore held on the subject, in November 1991, during which the Joint African Position on the environment and development and the Declaration of Abidjan were adopted. Both these texts called for the adoption of an international convention to combat desertification. Whereas the majority of elements used to form Chapter 12 of the Agenda 21 programme - on combating desertification and drought - were easily agreed by consensus, the request from African countries on preparing an international convention on the subject gave rise to stiff opposition from developed countries. Some were rather reticent to address the question of desertification as a global issue and were against creating new funds allocated to this problem³. After some negotiating, all countries finally agreed to prepare a convention to combat desertification.

3. Johnson, Pierre Marc, Karel Mayrand and Marc Paquin, *Governing Global Desertification: Linking Environmental Degradation, Poverty and Participation*, Ashgate, 2006, p. 62.

The INC was then set up with a short-term mandate to reflect on the urgency of the request from African countries. The developed countries advanced several justifications for this reversal of position, including, among other things, the desire to keep the African countries playing an active part in the Rio process and to make sure their approval was obtained on the other UNCED environmental documents, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴.

Tensions were felt between the developing countries during the first INC session, when the question was raised of paying special attention to the situation in Africa via an annex to the Convention. Despite the suggestion that this could be followed in the future by an equivalent annex for the other affected regions, delegates from some regions were against this, arguing that all the annexes should be negotiated at the same time. The disagreement reached such heights that it became the main issue at the first INC session. The deadlock was finally unravelled at the next session, when the G77 countries agreed to delay negotiating other regional instruments until the interim period between the adoption of the Convention and its entry into force. Note however that regional instrument projects were developed all the same and the Convention, when adopted, included four annexes covering the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Northern Mediterranean⁵. A fifth annex was also adopted in 2001 covering Central and Eastern Europe.

North-South tensions over financing issues took over during the second INC session and continued during the next three sessions. On the one hand, the developing countries stressed that this new Convention would not allow concrete improvement unless it was supported by new funds and financing mechanisms, whereas the developed countries rejected any idea of additional financing. Agreement was finally reached at the last moment thanks to the compromise based on the idea of instituting a "Global Mechanism" to promote actions encouraging the mobilisation of funds. This idea was accepted based on the anticipation of subsequent negotiations⁶. Nevertheless, the five INC sessions that took place during the interim period, between the adoption of the Convention and its entry into force, could not unravel the deadlock over the financing mechanisms. In addition, another dividing subject persisted in terms of the composition and operation of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). These questions were therefore relegated to the Conference of the Parties and indeed have continued to taint subsequent negotiations until now⁷.

4. Ibid p. 63.

5. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Summary of the Fifth Session of the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification: 6-17 June 1994, IISD.

6. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Summary of the Fifth Session of the INC for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification: 6-17 June 1994, IISD.

7. See note 3 for more detailed analysis of negotiations surrounding the CCD.

1.2 THE OBJECTIVES AND MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION

The aim of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Especially in Africa (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in seriously affected countries.

The UNCCD defines desertification as "land degradation⁸ in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities". Desertification therefore refers here to the gradual deterioration of arable land by a complex combination of inter-related natural and anthropogenic factors, not to the aridity.

Similarly, according to the Convention, the expression "combating desertification" means activities which are part of the integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land and reclamation of desertified land.

The UNCCD takes a holistic view of development and environmental sustainability. It encourages the integration of poverty eradication strategies in actions to combat desertification and recourse to existing multilateral and bilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements.

It also puts the emphasis on a bottom-up approach and promotes the participation of vulnerable populations. Several observers believe that this novel approach gives it special status among the other environmental conventions.

Moreover, the UNCCD answers directly to the United Nations General Assembly, unlike many other multilateral environmental agreements which are politically and administratively attached to the UNEP.

Following the UNCED developments, the view was that the environmental connotation given to the UNCCD would procure it increased visibility and more support from the international community. In hindsight, some observers stress, however, that by virtue of its goal of combating desertification through rural development and reducing poverty, it would perhaps have been more appropriate to link it to the context of development. This question is still being debated.

8. The term "land degradation" means reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as: (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water; (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation;" (CCD Art. 1).

The UNCCD banks on effective, concrete measures based on local, subregional and regional programmes and supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. All these measures have been established in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas (UNCCD Art. 2, para. 1). Achieving this goal assumes long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously on improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water. These will then help to improve living conditions, in particular at the community level (UNCCD Art. 2, para. 2).

The five UNCCD annexes facilitate the implementation of the Convention by supplying details on the national, subregional and regional action plans for each of the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe.

The Parties must also meet three types of obligation by virtue of the Convention (see also point 3.1.1 *The country Parties*):

- The general obligations imposed on all parties (UNCCD Art. 4) emphasise the need to coordinate efforts and develop coherent long-term strategies based on an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought, thereby ensuring reduced poverty and environmental sustainability.
- The countries affected must give the desired priority to this problem based on their situation and resources. They must also create a favourable environment for implementing strategies and plans to combat desertification by strengthening their legislative framework and putting together new policies integrated in a sustainable development plan. The preferred approaches must attack the deep-seated causes of desertification, promote awareness and the participation of local populations, particularly women, and of NGOs (UNCCD Art. 5).
- The developed countries undertake to support the developing countries affected in their actions. To achieve this, they must provide financial resources and other forms of support to develop and implement their plans and strategies effectively. They also undertake to seek new and additional funds and to encourage the mobilisation of funds from the private sector and other non-governmental sources. They also undertake to encourage access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how (UNCCD Art. 6).

UNCCD Article 20 provides for the financing methods for implementation. Thus, according to the UNCCD, developing country Parties affected by desertification are initially responsible for the financing required for implementation of their national action plans (Art. 20.3). This responsibility implies that the affected developing country Parties incorporate the UNCCD objectives in the national development and environmental protection strategies and that they seek additional sources of financing

from governments of other countries, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The developed country Parties undertake to promote mobilisation of financial resources based on three criteria, that they are adequate, timely and predictable (Art. 20.2).

The question of financing the implementation of the UNCCD is controversial and recurs in the COP and CRIC meetings. The developing countries generally perceive the requirements of donor countries in terms of policies and transparency of procedures as a way of diverting the debate on the real problem of implementation - the lack of financing. For their part, the developed countries stress regularly the need for developing countries to incorporate the national action plans and UNCCD priorities properly in their national development and poverty eradication plans to see an increase in bilateral financing (see heading 3.1.1 *The country Parties*, under *National action programmes*). In addition, they are traditionally reticent to grant new and additional sums to financing the UNCCD and prefer measures to improve the effectiveness of the bilateral and multilateral aid rather than increased flows to affected developing countries.

Article 8 of the UNCCD encourages the coordination between the activities carried out under the Convention and those linked with the other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. This article is mainly targeting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Both these Conventions acknowledge the importance of addressing land degradation and deforestation in combating climate change and relatively to the preservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity. To encourage the synergies between these Conventions, Article 8 suggests, for example, the establishment of joint programmes in the fields of research, training, systematic observation and information collection and exchange.

The COP of the UNCCD has also adopted several decisions recognising the importance of strengthening links and the synergies between what has become known as the Rio Conventions (UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC). A Joint Liaison Group (JLG) was set up in 2001 between the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC secretariats for this purpose. Collaboration initiatives have also been carried out with other environmental conventions, including, for example, the signing of memoranda of understanding with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and with the Convention on migratory species, in order to define their cooperation modalities⁹.

Apart from its coordination efforts with the other environmental conventions, the UNCCD has also collaborated on several initiatives by international organisations and institutions, including UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, World Meteorological Organisation, the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics, etc.¹⁰.

9. ICCD/COP(7)/5., para. 27-28; Resolution VII.4, (Ramsar, COP(7)).

10. ICCD/COP(7)/5, section IV. See also note 3.

Let us lastly underline that although the work and efforts by the UNCCD have been included in several international instruments of environmental governance, integration in rural development and poverty eradication instruments has not yet been achieved. The UNCCD is thus perceived first and foremost as an environmental instrument despite its potential, as a sustainable development tool, to contribute also to the governance of the development¹¹.

1.3 THE 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND FRAMEWORK¹²

Designed as the spearhead for renewing international commitment to combating desertification, land degradation and drought, the 10-year strategic plan and framework 2008-2018 is the most significant effort by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since its creation. Adopted during the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8), it aims to ensure a joint and consistent vision in implementing the UNCCD and improving its effectiveness. It advocates a results-based approach for the future conduct of the work of the Convention and intends to make the UNCCD the lynchpin for synergistic initiatives in the sustainable management of lands, climate change, biodiversity and the fight against poverty.

The 10-year strategic plan and framework seeks to take up a certain number of challenges raised in implementing the Convention: the lack of scientific support for the work of the Conference of the Parties, the institutional weaknesses, the lack of financing, the lack of consensus between the Parties and lastly the insufficient mobilisation of policymakers. To achieve this, it provides for strategic objectives that must guide the action of UNCCD institutions and Parties and operational objectives defining the action plan for the next ten years.

Furthermore, to achieve the fixed objectives, the 10-year plan provides a framework for considering the role of the Convention's institutions and operations. The Conventions thus henceforth apply a results-based approach linked to these objectives in scheduling their activities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Strategy includes four strategic objectives that, as described in this document, "will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008–2018, including raising political will. Meeting these long-term¹³ objectives will contribute to achieving the overall vision [of The Strategy]"¹⁴. The Strategy also outlines the "expected impacts", i.e. the long-term effects expected from achieving the strategic objectives¹⁵.

11. See note 3, pp. 3 and 138.

12. The full text of The Strategy is available in Annex II to this guide.

13. For the purposes of The Strategy, "long term" means ten years or more.

14. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 17.

15. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 17.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

As described in The Strategy, the purpose of the “operational objectives” is to guide “the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term¹⁶ with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives”¹⁷.

The Strategy also outlines the “outcomes”, i.e. the short- and medium-term effects expected from the operational objectives¹⁸.

1.4 ASSESSMENT OF CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION SYSTEM (PRAIS)

The Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) is a new information monitoring and reporting system set up to assess progress made in the 10-year strategy objectives adopted during COP9¹⁹. The cornerstone of this project is an online portal giving public access to information on progress in implementing the Convention²⁰.

PRAIS consists of the following elements:

- assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy through the review of information provided by Parties and other reporting entities as well as information on the civil society, including the private sector;
- performance review of the Convention’s institutions and subsidiary bodies taking a results-based management approach based on reports on the two-year costed work programmes;
- review and compilation of best practices on the implementation of the Convention; and
- assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC.

Since 2012, the reporting entities are obliged to submit two-dimensional data on the status of land and changes in the proportion of population living above the poverty line. These two aspects, combined with nine other optional impact indicators, aim to provide a solid base for increasing awareness and mobilising resources in combating the devastating effects of land degradation²¹.

16. For the purposes of The Strategy, “short and medium-term” means for a period of three to five years.

17. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 19.

18. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 19.

19. Decision 12/COP.9, ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1.

20. <http://www.unccd-prais.com/>.

21. Decision 13/COP.9, ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1, page 88 onwards.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has financed the PRAIS initiative. UNDP is responsible for setting up the project. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre is now managing the initiative under the auspices of UNDP and in close collaboration with the secretariat and Global Mechanism of the United Nations on combating desertification.

2. THE CONVENTION BODIES

2.1 THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)

Instituted by UNCCD Article 221, the Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the Convention, i.e. it acts as decision-making body. It comprises all governments and regional economic integration organisations that have ratified the UNCCD and is responsible for promoting its effective implementation. The COP met every year until 2001 and has met every two years since then.

One of its main functions is, therefore, to analyse the reports submitted by the Parties under UNCCD Article 27, to examine the measures taken to implement the UNCCD. The COP issues recommendations to the Parties based on these reports. It is also in charge of setting the reporting timetable for the Parties and can adopt procedures to guide Parties in this task.

In addition, the COP is authorised to create any subsidiary bodies, like the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), deemed necessary for the implementation of the UNCCD. The COP reviews reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provides them with guidance. It also carries out the other functions listed in UNCCD Article 22, mainly approving its own rules of procedure, its financial management rules and the programme and budget for its activities.

The COP discharges its functions by adopting any decision deemed necessary for the effective implementation of the UNCCD during its sessions. At its first session, it adopted its own rules of procedure. These set out the various modalities applicable to observers, the election of the Bureau, the subsidiary UNCCD bodies, the conduct of debates, etc.²²

The COP sessions can welcome other participants as observers in addition to the Parties to the CCD. These include United Nations specialised institutions and accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (UNCCD Art. 22(7)). Although observers have no voting rights, their positions frequently influence the decisions taken by the COP. Bodies or organisations seeking admittance as observers must submit an accreditation request to the Secretariat, indicating that they wish to be represented at a COP session. The Secretariat submits a list

22. Decision 1/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1). See also Part 4 - Practical guide for the negotiator, point 6 - Rules of procedure.

of bodies or organisations seeking accreditation at each session. The COP then grants the status of observer to these bodies or organisations, who can attend the current and subsequent COP sessions.

The provisional agenda for each COP session is sent to the Parties at least six weeks before the session opens. It normally includes (i) items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its Article 22, (ii) items the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session, (iii) the agenda items from an ordinary session that had not been fully reviewed during that sessions, (iv) the draft budget and all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements and (v) any item proposed by a Party and received by the Permanent Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated (Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

The COP elects a Bureau at the start of the first meeting of every ordinary session. This comprises a Chairman, nine Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The Chairman of the CRIC has also been a member of the Bureau since its creation (COP5, Geneva). The regional groups propose the members to represent their region, taking into account that each geographical region must be represented by at least two members within the Bureau. The Chairman of the Bureau manages the session and exercises the powers granted to him in the COP rules of procedure. Note that the members of the Bureau exercise their mandate until their successors are elected at the next COP session.

The COP sessions are normally public. At least one third of Parties must be present for the Chairman of the Bureau to declare a session open. Nevertheless, the presence of two-thirds of Parties is required for any decision to be taken. The Chairman establishes a list of speakers for each session and the Party representatives can take the floor by showing their intention. The observers may also speak if so authorised by the Chairman. During the discussion on a question, the Party representatives can raise a point of order that requires an immediate ruling by the Chairman. The Parties must submit proposals and amendments to proposals in writing to the permanent Secretariat. In terms of voting rights, the Parties have a single vote, except for regional economic integration organisations which have a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the UNCCD. Nevertheless, the regional economic integration organisations cannot exercise their voting right if one of the member States is using its own. This applies to the European Union as all the member States vote individually (see Articles 36 to 46 of the Rules of Procedure, ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1). Although the COP rules of operating procedure set out the voting procedures, note that most decisions are taken by consensus and that recourse to a vote is normally seen as a failure of negotiations.

The COP sets its budget during each session, which normally results in numerous controversial debates, and sets the date and duration for the next ordinary session. Each COP session regularly includes a high-level segment, used by Heads of State, Ministers and Heads of Delegation to present their countries' contribution to the

effective implementation of the UNCCD and to make declarations on this subject. The final report of each COP lists speakers and summarises declarations made during this segment.

Two "open dialogue" meetings, where NGOs and the civil society can take part, are also held during each COP session. These meetings are organised by the NGOs in conjunction with the Secretariat and encourage their involvement in implementing the UNCCD. They are normally chaired by the Chairman of the COP, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole (COW) or his representative.

Parliamentarians are also invited to meet for an "Interparliamentary Round Table", during which they discuss commitments and the implementation of the UNCCD. A "Declaration of parliamentarians" is adopted at the end of each Round Table. This is then annexed to the final COP report.

2.2 THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CST)

UNCCD Article 24 creates the Committee of Science and Technology (CST). This is a subsidiary body devoted to providing the Conference of the Parties (COP) with information and advice on technological questions on combating desertification and mitigating drought.

The CST is a multi-disciplinary body open to the participation of all Parties. It is composed of government representatives competent in the relevant fields of expertise. It meets during ordinary sessions of the COP and the CST Bureau follows up the work of the committee between COP sessions. The COP elects the Chairman of the next CST Bureau at each of its sessions, whereas the CST members elect four Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, who take office immediately, are chosen to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected Countries, especially African countries, and cannot occupy this post for more than two consecutive terms²³.

The COP set out the CST mandate initially during its first session in 1997²⁴. As part of its activities, the CST provides a link between the COP and the scientific community in that it seeks to encourage cooperation with the competent national, international and non-governmental agencies and bodies to take advantage of services and information they may provide. It also works with the consultative committees of other conventions and international organisations so as to coordinate their activities and avoid duplications to achieve the best possible results.

23. Articles 22 and 31 of the rules of procedure, as amended by Decision 25/COP.10 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

24. Decision 15/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

COP9 saw a reshaping of the CST operation to bring it in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework (Decision 16/COP.9). The main purpose of this reshaping was to organise CST sessions in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format focusing on defined themes. The competent regional and subregional scientific networks, institutions, bodies and organisations, together with the interested non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders from the civil society, are involved in the discussions at scientific conferences. The developed country Parties, international organisations and stakeholders involved are engaged to support the organising of future scientific conferences under the Convention financially.

The Strategic plan and framework thus provides for the CST to become an international knowledge crossroads on desertification by compiling all the scientific, technical and socio-economic information available on the causes and effects of land degradation. In addition, the CST should design guidelines for monitoring and assessing the spread of drought. It will also support the implementation of advocacy, awareness-raising and education, thereby influencing the local competent national and international mechanisms and players.

The CST was already in charge of a survey and evaluation of the existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies working on topics relevant to combating desertification, with a view to constituting a network to support the implementation of the UNCCD (CCD Art. 25). Following COP decisions²⁵, the (international, regional, subregional, national and non-governmental) organisations carrying out comparable work to the CST were also listed (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5).

To create a network of expertise, the Permanent Secretariat maintains a file of independent experts, taking account of the need for a multi-disciplinary approach, gender equality and a broad and equitable geographical representation. With this in mind, the COP encourages the Parties to keep the list of experts in their countries up to date²⁶. Several people underline that the list is now obsolete given that it is not regularly updated. An effort has been made to render it more useful, for example by including more diverse knowledge fields and the human sciences, or members of various origins, including NGOs. Decision 23/COP.10 also asks the Parties to update the list of proposed national experts and the Secretariat to facilitate the web arrangements to do this.

The COP can name Ad Hoc Groups to provide information and advice through the CST on particular questions on the state of knowledge in science and technology. The COP draws from the file of independent experts when constituting ad hoc groups, to name experts recommended by the CST. It also sets out the mandate and

25. See Decisions 21/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) and 15/COP.2 (ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1).

26. See the UNCCD Internet site: <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/Roster-of-Experts/Pages/default.aspx>.

operating modalities for each ad hoc group and the duration of its functions (Art. 24, paras. 2 and 3 and Decision 17/COP.1, ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1). Ad hoc groups have been named for a variety of themes, including benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems and traditional knowledge.

2.3 THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (CRIC)

At its fifth session in 2001, the Conference of the Parties (COP) created a Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to assist it in reviewing the application of the Convention on a regular basis. It is a subsidiary body of the COP²⁷, just like the CST. The committee was created following numerous debates on how best to revise the implementation of the Convention. Thus, although the COP3 was required to review the implementation during its regular sessions, there was insufficient time for an in-depth analysis and the COP therefore created an ad hoc committee to review the implementation. This committee met during COP4 and once during the inter-sessional period. The CRIC modalities were based on lessons drawn from the ad hoc committee.

The CRIC is made up of all the Parties to the Convention. Observers (NGOs, national and international governmental organisations, etc.) may also be authorised to attend its sessions, provided that one of the Parties present do not oppose this. The Chairman is elected by the COP, whereas the Vice-Chairmen are elected by the CRIC members. They form the CRIC Bureau and are chosen to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected countries. They also cannot serve for more than two consecutive mandates. The CRIC meets every year, during and between the ordinary COP sessions²⁸.

The CRIC mandate is to review the implementation of the UNCCD using experience acquired at national, subregional, regional and international levels and to facilitate the exchange of information on implementation procedures drawn up by the Parties. During meetings held at the same time as the official COP sessions, the CRIC must focus on reviewing the UNCCD operational method (reports by the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the execution of their functions, etc.) whereas during the "inter-sessional" sessions, it focuses on the questions linked directly to the implementation of the UNCCD (listing and reviewing implementation measures and analysing their effectiveness, summarising best practices and experiences acquired, preparing recommendations, etc.). The CRIC reports its conclusions and its recommendations for the next stages in UNCCD implementation at each COP session²⁹.

27. Decision 1/COP.5 (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

28. Decision 1/COP.5 Annex (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

29. Decision 1/COP.5 Annex (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

COP9 confirmed and strengthened the CRIC mandate in accordance with The Strategy. In its final decision (ICCD/COP(9)L.22), it established the CRIC as a permanent subsidiary body of the COP. The CRIC mandate in the annex to the decision covers the subject, functions, composition, scope of the review process, session intervals, organisation of work, type of review and methodology and the transparency of work³⁰. Its main functions are henceforth as follows:

- "Undertake an assessment of implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) (hereinafter referred to as "assessment of implementation") through the review of information provided by Parties and other reporting entities, and of information on civil society, including the private sector, as set out in section III of these terms of reference;
- Undertake a performance review of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies (hereinafter referred to as "performance review"), following a results-based management approach (RBM) and on the basis of the reports on the two-year costed work programme;
- Review and compile best practices on implementation of the Convention and forward this information for consideration by the COP with a view to disseminating it;
- Assist the Conference of the Parties to assess and monitor the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC;
- Assist the COP to evaluate the implementation of The Strategy, including its mid-term evaluation by 2013."

The COP decision also states that the COP should review the CRIC mandate, operation and meeting timetable by its 14th session at the latest and modify it as necessary, mainly in terms of reviewing the need and modalities of the CRIC as a subsidiary body.

2.4 PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

UNCCD Article 23 provides for the creation of a Permanent Secretariat (Secretariat), which was instituted at the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) held in Rome in 1997. Bonn in Germany was chosen as the city to house the Secretariat during this session³¹. A headquarters agreement with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed in 1998 and came into force in 1999, making Bonn the official headquarters of the Secretariat³². The headquarters of the Secretariat has been located in the United Nations complex in Bonn since July 2006.

30. Decision 11/COP.9, Annex (ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1).

31. Decision 5/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

32. Decision 1/COP.3 (ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1).

The Secretariat represents the administrative body of the UNCCD, i.e. it assists the COP in exercising its functions. To achieve this, it organises the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies whilst providing them with services as required. The Secretariat compiles and transmits the reports that it receives, mainly the reports received in application of UNCCD Article 26. It thus makes sure that assistance is given to affected developing country Parties that so request it, especially African countries, in compiling and communicating information required under the UNCCD.

In addition, the Secretariat coordinates its activities with those of secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions, such as the secretariats of the Rio Conventions (*Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*), with which it has set up a joint liaison group. Note also that it has agreed a cooperation protocol with the Bureau of the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*, a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the *Convention on Migratory Species* and a joint work programme between the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the UNCCD on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

The Secretariat is authorised to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions; It is nevertheless required to account for the way in which it discharges its functions and must present reports for this purpose to the COP. UNCCD Article 23 lastly stipulates that the Secretariat is required to perform such other secretariat functions as may be assigned to it by the COP; these are specified in the decisions taken during the various COP sessions³³.

The COP Rules of Procedure also allocate a variety of functions to the Secretariat. They state in particular that the Secretariat is required to (i) arrange for interpretation at the session, (ii) collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the session, (iii) Publish and distribute the official documents of the session, (iv) make, and arrange for keeping of, sound recordings of the session, (v) arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the session and (vi) perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require³⁴.

The Secretariat also deals with the accounts and financial affairs of the UNCCD, including the trusts funds used to facilitate the participation of developing countries and NGOs in the COP sessions and the funds used to finance special activities (additional funds). These funds are made up of voluntary contributions. The Secretariat's activities are financed by the contributions from country Parties through the Convention budget.

33. We are thinking mainly of Decision 3/COP.6 that sets out the functions of the Secretariat (ICCD/COP(6)/11/Add.1).

34. Rules of Procedure Article 35 (Decision 1/COP.1, ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

In the execution of its functions, the Secretariat is supported by the United Nations Conference Services Division in Geneva, which translates documents into the six official UN languages, provides interpretation and services official meetings. The Secretariat is also assisted by the General Assembly Affairs Division and UN Conference Services in New York and can seek advice from the UN Legal Affairs Bureau in New York on agreements signed with the host countries for sessions taking place away from the Bonn headquarters³⁵.

Note that the activities of the Secretariat underwent a general review by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), which reported to the COP during its seventh session (Nairobi, 2005). Several shortcomings were underlined in the report, mainly the lack of proposals for a new medium-term strategic plan by the Secretariat since 1999 and the overlapping of its functions with those of the Global Mechanism³⁶. The JIU issued several recommendations that were analysed by an Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG) duly mandated specifically for this purpose³⁷.

The 10-year strategic plan and framework 2008-2018 sets out the guidelines for the work of the Secretariat. The Secretariat is called on to play a role in introducing advocacy, awareness-raising and education and in obtaining results in preparing an action framework working towards creating a favourable climate for seeking solutions to combat desertification and land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought. The plan and framework also stipulates that the Secretariat should play a support role in achieving other operational objectives.

The Secretariat's annual workplan is displayed on the UNCCD Internet site: <http://www.unccd.int/>. Note lastly that the Secretariat is supported by two liaison offices (New York and Rome) and includes three regional coordination units (Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean).

2.5 THE GLOBAL MECHANISM (GM)

The Global Mechanism (GM), instituted by UNCCD Article 21(4), is a subsidiary body of the COP and aims to promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channelling of financial resources to affected developing country Parties.

The GM falls under the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the same way as the Convention's Secretariat. In this respect, it is required to report on to the COP on its operation, its activities undertaken to mobilise and channel financial resources to the affected developing country Parties, the assessment of funds available to implement the UNCCD and the search of means for distributing these funds.

35. Review of all activities of the Secretariat and progress made by the affected country Parties in implementing the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(2)/2).

36. See the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) dated 2005 (ICCD/COP(7)/4).

37. Decision 3/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

The GM was set up at the end of 1998, two years after the UNCCD entered into force. In September 1997, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was chosen to house the GM during the first session of the Conference of the Parties³⁸.

A Facilitation Committee (FC) was created to support and advise the GM on the best way of expanding its field of action and the scope of its operations and to give advice on occasions on certain specific questions at the request of the GM. The FC also encourages collaboration between the member institutions and maintains links between the partners. Apart from the GM, the current members of the FC are:

- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- United Nations Development Programme
- World Bank
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The GM's operating budget comes from allocations approved by the Conference of the Parties and voluntary contributions by Parties and other multilateral, non-governmental or private donors. Special allocation funds fed by contributions from bilateral and multilateral sources can also finance the GM interventions in support of UNCCD implementation.

In response to concerns expressed in two reports by independent experts on its performance, the GM has adopted a strategic revision called Consolidated Strategy and Enhanced Approach. COP7 started on this strategy in October 2005.

The 10-year strategic plan and framework sets out the main tasks of the GM, namely to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to mobilise substantial financial resources. The GM must also facilitate access to the technology and play a role in introducing advocacy, awareness-raising and education

38. Decision 24/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

and in preparing an action framework working towards creating a favourable climate for seeking solutions to combat desertification and land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought.

The GM presented a workplan to the eight CRIC session incorporating more detailed expected outcomes in order to illustrate its operations better. The proposed GM strategy on the complementarity and cooperation between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the GM is increased convergence of interventions by both bodies in connection with the Integrated Financing Strategies (IFS). The aim is to co-finance more GEF projects and to maintain the efforts to mobilise resources for sustainable land management (see also heading 3.1.1 The country Parties for more detail on the IFS). To achieve this, the GM focuses its efforts on achieving the following two corporate goals:

- a) support the introduction by the Parties of integrated investment frameworks to attack desertification, land degradation and drought and encourage sustainable land management and
- b) identify and facilitate the access to financing opportunities, especially innovative financing, in cooperation with the national institutions and international organisations.

A report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2009/4) on the GM was presented at COP9. As the GM performance was considered good overall, the inspectors concentrated on the relationship between the GM and the Secretariat. The JIU underlined the weakness of the joint work programme, poor coordination, insufficiently clear mandates and a lack of synergies between the two institutions. Final Decision 6/COP.9 requested the COP9 Bureau, in conjunction with the Managing Director of the GM and the Executive Secretary of the Convention, to undertake and supervise an assessment of existing and potential reports, the responsibility and institutional arrangements for the GM and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution/organisation to house the GM. The report on this assessment was presented to COP10 for a decision.

Miscellaneous options were proposed to settle a certain number of questions on administrative, legal, institutional and GM-hosting arrangements and on the administration, governance, reporting obligations and on the accountability of the Convention bodies. These measures aim to "avoid duplication and overlapping in activities and to promote complementarities between the Global Mechanism and the permanent secretariat with a view to enhancing cooperation and coordination and using the Convention resources efficiently" (Decision 6/COP.10, preamble).

Decision 6/COP.10 requests among other things that the accountability and legal representation of the GM be transferred from IFAD to the Secretariat, that the Executive Secretary assumes overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on the GM's accounting, performance and activities to the COP, that the Executive Secretary delegates operational authority to the Managing Director of the

GM to manage the GM's programme and budget and that Memorandum of Understanding with the IFAD be revised to limit the IFAD to (1) logistical and administrative support and (2) privileges and immunities to GM staff through the Government of Italy.

2.6 WORKING GROUPS AND INTER-SESSION GROUPS

The Conference of the Parties and some of its subsidiary bodies are authorised to create working groups from time to time to delegate some of their work that they cannot discharge within official sessions. The ad hoc working groups are committees of varied composition, often restricted but sometimes open to all the Parties, with a mandate that is normally given a time limit. They are most frequently asked to review a technical question in depth or conduct a policy debate outside the limits of official sessions. NGOs, international organisations and other observers are frequently unable to participate, however. Lastly, the working groups normally have no decision-making authority; they submit recommendations to the COP.

There are several ad hoc working groups under the UNCCD. For example, the Committee on Science and Technology has several times created working groups for an in-depth review of certain questions falling under its mandate during the inter-session periods, be they questions relating to traditional knowledge or early warning systems.

An ad hoc working group was also created to revise the implementation of the Convention, under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties (Decisions 6/COP3 and 1/COP4). The composition of this working groups was open to all the Parties and to non-governmental and intergovernmental observers. Its mandate was to review in-depth national reports submitted to the COP3 and COP4. The ad hoc working group (AHWG) met in March 2001 in Bonn and submitted its report to the 4th Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6).

Forerunner of the CRIC, this ad hoc working group was the first attempt to revise the implementation away from the usual constraints of official COP sessions. The lessons learned from its work, especially on the effective organisation of its discussions, formed the basis for the creation of the CRIC. For example, whereas the working group focused on each report individually and regionally, which demanded a huge amount of time, the COP preferred to opt for a review of the implementation on a thematic basis.

During its seventh session, the COP also created an ad hoc working group to review the process for presenting national reports in order to improve the effectiveness of the review of implementation (AHWGR). This working group comprised Parties only, with a maximum of five per region. Its mandate was to make recommendations on the type, format and frequency of national report submissions to the COP. The working group presented its final recommendations to the COP8 in 2007. This work supported the discussions on the revision of implementation and on the mandate and organisation of the CRIC.

An ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group (IIWG) was created at COP7, tasked to review the recommendations of the JIU and prepare a draft 10-year strategic plan and framework for the Convention³⁹.

When The Strategy was adopted (Decision 3/COP.8) at the eight session of the COP, it also decided to hold an independent mid-term evaluation at the COP11 in 2013. The assessment mandate was decided at COP10 (Decision 12/COP.10), where the decision was also taken to set up an Intersessional Working Group (IIWG), subject to available funding, to prepare recommendations on the mid-term evaluation, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference. The working group commenced its work following the approval of its mandate by the Bureau in February 2012, with a view to writing its report, including several meetings in 2012 and 2013.

3. THE CONVENTION STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 THE COUNTRY PARTIES

As stated in point 1.2 The objectives and main provisions of the Convention, the Parties must meet three types of obligation: general obligations applicable to all country Parties, specific obligations for the affected countries and others for the developed countries.

The general obligations under Article 4 of the Convention emphasise the "need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long-term strategy at all levels".

The strategy adopted must be based on an integrated approach (Art. 4):

- that addresses the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification and drought;
- that takes into consideration the situation and particular needs of all affected developing country Parties. To create an economic environment conducive to sustainable development, they must be given particular attention in terms of international trade, marketing arrangements and debt;
- that integrates strategies for poverty eradication;
- that encourages cooperation:
 - among affected country Parties in the fields of the environment and the conservation of land and water resources;
 - that is subregional, regional and international;
 - within relevant intergovernmental organisations

39. See point 1.3 *The strategic plan and framework*.

- and which avoids duplications when establishing institutional mechanisms and encourages the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms.

Efforts may be coordinated "individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate" (Art. 4).

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

Under Article 6 of the Convention, the developed country Parties undertake to support the efforts by the affected developing country Parties. To achieve this, they undertake to:

- provide financial resources and other forms of support to develop and implement their plans and strategies effectively.
- seek new and additional funds and to encourage the mobilisation of funds from the private sector and other non-governmental sources.
- encourage access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

The UNCCD also requests donor countries that already have financial aid agreements with affected country Parties to review their public development aid (PDA) so that special, lasting attention can be given to implementing the UNCCD (UNCCD Art. 20).

UNCCD Article 26 and Decision 11/COP.1, especially, require developed country Parties to report on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention. Thus, the developed country Parties must report regularly on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes by developed countries affected by desertification and the financial resources provided. The national reports are submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat which summarises and analyses them in a report submitted to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) for review⁴⁰.

THE AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES

The affected countries undertake to (CCD Art. 5):

- give due priority to this problem and allocate sufficient resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities;
- create a favourable environment for implementing strategies and plans to combat desertification by strengthening their legislative framework and putting together new policies integrated in a sustainable development plan.

40. Decision 1/COP.5 (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

The preferred approaches must attack the deep-seated causes of desertification, promote awareness and the participation of local populations, particularly women, and of NGOs (UNCCD Art. 5).

The affected countries discharge these obligations by preparing and implementing National Action Programmes (NAP) and subregional and regional action programmes (UNCCD Art. 9).

They must also report on the implementation of the UNCCD to the COP (UNCCD Art. 26).

Lastly, The Strategy provides for affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions (expected outcome 5.1).

NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

The national action programmes (NAP) are a key element in UNCCD implementation. They identify the factors contributing to desertification and the preferred practical measures to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought (UNCCD Art. 10, para. 1). The programmes specify the roles entrusted to the main actors (like government, local communities and land users) and the resources available and required for its application (UNCCD Art. 10, para 2). The NAP define long-term strategies that must be integrated with national policies for sustainable development. They must also allow for modifications in response to changing circumstances and specific local conditions. The NAP must favour a participatory approach and pay particular attention to the implementation of preventive measures and provisions and to capacity building and the development of institutional cooperation and coordination frameworks. They also serve to promote new means of existence to encourage revenues in the affected areas and sustainable management of natural resources. To this end, the NAP can provide for such practical measures as the creation of early warning systems, the strengthening of prevention and management systems like emergency intervention plans, the introduction of food safety systems linked, for example, to the temporary storage and marketing of foodstuffs, the promotion of ecologically sustainable agricultural practices and the introduction of sustainable irrigation programmes (Art. 10, paras. .3 and 4).

Each affected Party is required to prepare an NAP. In addition, the UNCCD requires the participation of local populations and other relevant players in both developing and applying the NAP. The UNCCD Annexes on regional implementation of the Convention provide relevant information as to the specific regional features to be considered when preparing NAP. They facilitate taking into account essential socio-economic, geographical and climate factors specific to each region (UNCCD Art. 15). Collaboration with the other affected countries and developed country Parties should also take place to encourage the coordination of their actions. The developed

country Parties have in fact committed to supporting the preparation and implementation of these action plans (Art. 6 and 9, para. 2). The affected Parties must also report on the contents and implementation of their NAP to the Conference of the Parties (COP). To this end, they are given guidelines to assist them in preparing their national reports⁴¹. Note that the NAP submitted to the Secretariat can be accessed via the UNCCD Internet site⁴².

There were two distinct facets in the initial advantage of NAPs. Firstly, the NAP had to confer a participatory planning instrument on the affected country for the implementation of the UNCCD. Secondly, it had to serve as a financing coordination and mobilisation tool for international agencies and donor countries. Sadly, experience has shown that although potentially the NAP are important national strategic planning tools, they have not risen to the expected challenge of mobilising funds required for their implementation. There is seemingly a difference of opinion between the affected countries and the donors as to the role of this instrument. Nor do those principally involved in preparing, implementing and financing NAPs share the same vision of how best to combat desertification and encourage the improvement of a more promising and development-friendly environment in the long term. As a result, a significant number of NAP fail to excite much interest from investors, who criticise them for their lack of strategic and long-term vision. They also see a lack of mechanisms to take advantage of past experience and go beyond results obtained from other types of project that are already receiving their financial support, thus endangering the ability to generate the changes targeted by the UNCCD⁴³.

Strengthening the implementation of the Convention through the 10-year plan includes, through Decision 3/COP.8, a request to the affected country Parties "to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with The Strategy by, inter alia, addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives". Under paragraph 45 of the same decision, the COP recognises the need for Parties to realign their national action programmes with The Strategy, and invites Parties with the assistance of the GM to mobilise international and national resources, both technical and financial, to assist countries with this realignment.

Guidelines for the alignment were submitted at COP9 (ICCD/COP(9)/2/Add.1) and the affected country Parties and other stakeholders were invited to take inspiration from them as a reference tool for aligning their action programme with The

41. See, for example, document ICCD/CRIC(5)/INF.3.

42. <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Action-programmes/Pages/default.aspx> (see the Action Programs heading for a list of programmes per region at the bottom of the right-hand column).

43. Johnson, Pierre Marc, Karel Mayrand and Marc Paquin, *Governing Global Desertification: Linking Environmental Degradation, Poverty and Participation*, Ashgate, 2006, p. 139 and 147-150.

Strategy's five operational objectives. The decision requests the Secretariat to facilitate the provision of the necessary technical assistance and invites the Global Mechanism to work closely with the Secretariat to mobilise the resources necessary for the aligned implementation of action programmes. In addition, Decision 13/COP.9 sets the target CONS-O-5 for the implementation of this initiative so that "by 2014, 80% at least of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities have formulated/ revised an NAP [National Action Programme]/SRAP [Subregional Action Programme]/RAP [Regional Action Programme] aligned to The Strategy, taking into account biophysical and socio-economic information, national planning and policies, and integration into investment frameworks" (Decision ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1⁴⁴).

The GEF decision to allocate financial resources to aligning NAP under its enabling activities could come at exactly the right time to support these efforts. In May 2011, the GEF advised the Parties of financial support from GEF-5 to support the national activities linked to: (a) the development of national action programmes to combat desertification and their alignment with The Strategy and (b) the preparation of national reports to be submitted to the assessment of implementation of the Convention system (PRAIS) for the next two assessment cycles (2012-2013 and 2014-2015)⁴⁵.

SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES AND REGIONAL COORDINATION

UNCCD Article 11 provides for the cooperation of affected country Parties in preparing subregional (SRAP) and regional (RAP) action programmes as complementary instruments for the implementation of the Convention. As for the national action programmes (NAP), these programmes must be prepared taking account of annexes on the regional implementation of the UNCCD and be aligned with the objectives of the 10-year strategy.

The SRAP and RAP are intended to strengthen the various national programmes and are major subregional and regional coordination tools. As well as encouraging the harmonisation of NAPs, they promote joint sustainable management programmes of cross-border ecosystems. They also encourage scientific and technical collaboration and increased cooperation in strengthening competent institutions.

Note also that most regional groups have set up thematic networks under the auspices of RAP. Their aim is to pool resources and share knowledge, especially in terms of activities that apply to more than one country. The TN form networks of institutions and agencies linked by an institutional focal point. These networks involve the main national, subregional and regional players of affected countries in a given region⁴⁶. The major TN activities are entrusted to their member institutions and

44. <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop9/18add1fre.pdf>.

45. For more detail and to access the GEF form, please consult the page <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/GEF/Pages/default.aspx>.

46. <http://www.unccd.int/en/regional-access/Pages/default.aspx>.

agencies. The groups of affected countries in the African, Asian and Latin America and Caribbean regions have all set up TN. They deal with monitoring and assessment desertification, agroforestry and soil conservation, pasture management and dune stabilisation and hydric resource management.

Lastly, numerous regional or subregional coordination initiatives demonstrate the potential of sharing resources and knowledge in terms of combating desertification. Not content with developing their SRAPs according to traditional regional lines, some countries have met to develop initiatives in response to particular needs, like the Central Asian countries under the auspices of CACILM, an initiative coordinated by the GM and financed partly by the GEF. Decision 3/COP.10 especially called for:

- on-going support from the Secretariat and the GM in implementing regional priorities;
- support for the effective functioning of thematic programme networks;
- those Regional Implementation Annexes that had not yet identified their subregional and regional reporting entities to do so.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

By virtue of UNCCD Article 26, the Parties must report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on their measures taken to implement the UNCCD. The affected developing country Parties must communicate the information on any strategies and action programmes prepared and their application. They must address the progress made and challenges encountered. The national reports are submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat which summarises and analyses them in a report submitted to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) for review⁴⁷.

The affected developing country Parties can request technical and financial support from the COP in preparing their reports and in determining the needs linked to their action programmes. As mentioned previously, financial support from GEF-5 will also be available for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 assessment cycles⁴⁸.

A manual is also at the disposal of Parties to assist them in preparing their reports. This is kept up to date and includes any additional aspects that may be added to review COP decisions over time⁴⁹. The manual and the national reports are accessible via the PRAIS Internet site: <http://www.unccd-prais.com/>.

47. Decision 1/COP.5 (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

48. For more detail and to access the GEF form, please consult the page <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/GEF/Pages/default.aspx>.

49. The document in question is ICCD/CRIC(5)/INF.3.

For the first report establishment cycle, COP3 created an ad hoc working group for an assessment and in-depth analysis of action programme reports⁵⁰. The group was entrusted with the individual review of first reports presented during COP3 (1999) and COP4 (2000)⁵¹. The ad hoc group submitted its overall report together with its conclusions and recommendations in 2001, to the COP5. During this same session, the COP decided to entrust the review of reports on implementation to the newly-created CRIC.

The third reporting cycle started during the third session of CRIC with the reports submitted by affected African countries in 2004. At its fourth session, held during the COP7, the CRIC suggested several decisions to the COP that were adopted. The COP established, among other things, an ad hoc Ad hoc Working Group to improve the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports on implementation (AHWGR)⁵². A report on the conclusions and recommendations of this ad hoc working group was submitted to COP8. The Secretariat continued this work by submitting documents on the proposed directives and performance indicators to COP9 (ICCD/CRIC (8)/5 et Add.1 to Add.3).

At COP9, the Parties agreed on a new Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). CRIC would thus be able to review the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention efficiently, based on a new methodological approach and results and impact indicators together with information on best practices and financial flows (Decision 11/COP9., 12/COP9 and 13/COP9).

The Parties consequently adopted at COP10 four operational objectives to assess the implementation of the Convention against performance indicators and approved an iterative process on the data communication procedures and refinement of methods of review and compilation of good practices, including by the CSOs (Decisions ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.2, ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.3/Rev.1 and ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.4).

INTEGRATED INVESTMENT FRAMEWORKS

The 10-year strategy provides for affected country Parties to establish integrated investment frameworks (IIF) at country level to finance detailed sustainable land management.

The GM has developed the process of integrated financial strategies (IFS) to set up the IIF. The GM works closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assist countries in applying the IFS concept. A coordinated mixture of financial resources can the-

50. Decision 6/COP.3 (ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1).

51. Decision 1/COP.4 (ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1).

52. Decision 8/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

refore be produced to finance projects and programmes on sustainable land management.

The IFS support the development of internal, external and innovative sources of financing for the country in question, whilst identifying the potential barriers (and their solutions) to mobilising resources or executing programmes, be they political, fiscal, legal, institutional or human resources. The final product is included in the IIF and states all financing partners and sources along with potential investment amounts.

The IFS is thus added to the country's national action programme process (see the previous heading The affected country Parties - National action programmes and is rooted in the national institutional framework and the budgetary and major programme cycles⁵³.

3.2. MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

The GEF has the aim of "providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve global environmental benefits within a framework of sustainable development" (*Beijing Declaration*, October 2002). Until 2002, the Global Environment Facility helped to finance combating desertification through its four main focal areas: biological diversity, climate change, international waters and degradation of the ozone layer.

Shortly before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August 2002, the GEF announced that it would make land degradation through desertification and deforestation a new focal area and that it could henceforth be recognised as a UNCCD financing mechanism. The GEF General Assembly ratified this decision in October 2002 (in the *Beijing Declaration*) and the UNCCD COP6 designated the GEF as a financial mechanism in 2003.

The GEF projects to combat desertification are henceforth aligned to the objectives of the Convention. GEF therefore now contributes directly to the application of the 10-year strategy plan and framework (2008-2018) approved by COP8.

The strategy under the land degradation focal area for GEF-5 (2010-2014), as described in the strategic programming⁵⁴ provides more specifically for the following objectives: (i) maintain or improve flow of agroecosystem services to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities; (ii) generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid zones, including sustaining livelihoods of

53. For further detail on IFS, see <http://www.global-mechanism.org/en/Our-Services/Developing-Financing-Strategies-for-SLM>.

54. *GEF-5 Programming Document*, GEF/R.5/31/CRP.1.

forest-dependent people; (iii) reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and (iv) increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in sustainable land management.

Ten implementing entities play a key role in managing GEF-financed projects:

- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Bank Group
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Since June 2007, the Entities have been asked to limit their participation in the GEF projects according to their respective comparative advantages, described in document GEF/C.31/5. In the precise case of integrated projects that include components for which an entity does not have the necessary know-how or expertise, it must draw on paragraph 28 of the GEF constituent instrument and the previous decisions of the Board to establish a partnership with another implementing entity, by defining clearly their complementary roles so that all the components of the project in question are dealt with properly. For example, projects to provide technical assistance and capacity building are mainly directed towards UNDP, those requiring scientific environmental expertise and which encourage the synergies between environmental agreements are sent to UNEP, whilst the investment management projects are taken by the World Bank.

Co-financing, in cash or kind, is mandatory for the medium-sized and large projects (in a ratio of 1:1 to 1:6 depending on the type of project)⁵⁵. The GEM requirement for co-financing means that the affected Parties submitting requests have to find other sources of financing (governmental, multilateral or bilateral, private sector, NGO, etc.).

55. Consult the documents available at <http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/co-financing> for more detail.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Numerous UNDP initiatives to combat poverty tie in with the UNCCD objectives. In particular, the UNDP has hosted the Drylands Development Centre (DDC) for many years. This centre of excellence based in Nairobi was one of the first, in the 1970s, to support efforts to combat desertification and drought in Africa.

The Centre's mandate was extended when the Convention entered into force, to provide for support for all countries affected by desertification and drought. The DDC thus became a partner in implementing the UNCCD.

It has provided financing at both national and sub-regional level and technical and policy advice on implementing the UNCCD, especially in terms of integrating dryland issues in the national development planning frameworks and in the poverty reducing strategies. Recognising the need to support activities affecting several countries in a given region, the Centre works with sub-regional organisations to develop cross-border programmes, including identifying sub-regional cooperation priorities.

In 2008, the UNDP and the Secretariat formed a partnership for implementing the 10-year strategy. The fields for collaboration include⁵⁶:

- Advocacy and engagement of key actors through international fora and processes;
- Facilitate mainstreaming of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues into development planning and financial processes at national, regional and global scales through the promotion of sustainable land management and drought risk management;
- Support capacity needs assessment and, at various scales, undertake capacity building, leading to both environmental sustainability and enhanced livelihood options and security in the face of climate risk and other challenges; and
- Contribute to strengthening, with partners such as UNEP and FAO, the collation, dissemination and use of authoritative scientific knowledge of practical value with respect to the state and trends of environmental and socio-economic conditions in drylands and highlight policy relevant technical options and promising practices for drylands development.

The UNDP also manages the GEF's Small Grants Programme. Launched in 1992, this programme grants amounts of up to 50,000 dollars through the local UNDP offices (provided there is co-financing) to community groups and non-

56. For more detail, consult http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/our-work/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/sustainable_landmanagement/what_we_do/undp_support_to_unitednationsconventiontocombatdesertification/.

governmental organisations to carry out activities attacking local problems that fall within the GEF's scope. In 2006, the programme allied itself to the Global Mechanism's Community Exchange and Training Programme to increase the synergies and maximise the mobilised resources. Lastly, the UNDP administers the GEF's national dialogue initiative, that aims to boost stakeholder commitment in countries benefiting from GEF financing.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

The UNDEP supports activities to prevent or control desertification and deforestation through its land degradation programme and through the synergies established with the fields of biodiversity, climate change and international waters. The UNEP-GEF-financed projects target agriculture, forests and grazing land as their focal areas⁵⁷.

With the GEF and the FAO, the UNDEP has also launched the LADA project (Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands). This aims to develop tools and standardised methods to assess the nature, extent, severity and impacts of land degradation and stimulate interventions to mitigate and modify land management practices⁵⁸.

The UNDP is also involved in implementing the PRAIS system, the new information monitoring and report system set up to build the capacity of UNCCD members to coordinate data collection to assess progress in achieving the 10-year strategy objectives (see point 3.1.1 The country Parties under National implementation reports above). The PRAIS initiative has been financed by the GEF. UNDP is responsible for setting up the project. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre is now managing the initiative under the auspices of UNDP and in close collaboration with the secretariat and Global Mechanism of the United Nations on combating desertification.

WORLD BANK

The joint World Bank project with the GEF (WB-GEF) aims to protect the quality of global and regional joint assets by supporting the transfer of financial resources, environmental technologies and technical aid and by developing markets for environmental goods and services. The World Bank has set itself four specific tasks in support of implementation of the UNCCD and of the Global Mechanism (see Decision 25/COP.1, document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1):

- disseminating information and knowledge through its Drylands Knowledge Node;

57. The database describing the projects can be consulted at http://addis.unep.org/filtered_search; select 'Land Degradation' under the heading 'Focal Area'.

58. Consult the site <http://www.fao.org/nr/lada/index.php> for more detail on current activities.

- integrating appropriate drylands management policies in its Environmental Sector Work and Country Assistance Strategies and use these in its ongoing dialogue with affected countries to internalise drylands management issues within the countries' economic development programmes and thus bring them forward for financing in the Bank's active portfolio and other donors' support;
- participating in high-level meetings with IFAD and UNDP to facilitate activities of the GM; and
- establishing an institutional focal point to liaise with the GM, and with IFAD and UNDP on GM issues.

REGIONAL BANKS

Regional banks are GEF executing agencies that offer combinations of loans, grants and concessionary financing from GEF resources intended for project implementation. The status of regional banks with the GEF means that they can identify, prepare, assess and execute projects in its name, submit project proposals to it directly, in other words without going through an implementation body like the UNDP or World Bank, and receive GEF grants directly for projects, assuming direct responsibility for their use.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Until very recently, IFAD has played a special role in relation to the UNCCD as it hosted the Global Mechanism. Since COP10, Decision 6/COP.10 encompassed a whole series of elements redefining the GM management and governance, including the role of the IFAD (see point 2.5). The IFAD is now limited to logistical and administrative support and to privileges and immunities to GM staff through the Italian Government.

The IFAD is the only United Nations body devoted specifically to reducing rural poverty. It works above all in land degradation, deforestation and desertification and encourages especially community management of natural resources.

The IFAD projects support community partnerships, especially with farming associations. IFAD also works to raise awareness to the role of women in combating desertification.

IFAD has had access to GEF funds for projects affecting sustainable land management since 2003 and was designated a GEF executing agency in 2004. IFAD has partnerships with several other institutions (mainly the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the European Union and the West African Development Bank (WADB). This gives it access to other sources of financing and co-financing.

3.3 THE CIVIL SOCIETY

THE UNCCD PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The UNCCD place given to the civil society makes it stand out from other multilateral environmental agreements⁵⁹. The UNCCD does not simply plan to raise awareness of members of the civil society, but requires their full participation. The UNCCD text provides expressly for the participation of local communities, affected populations, especially women, farmers and NGOs in the various approaches surrounding the implementation of the Convention. In addition to conferring to the participation of these players the status of underlying principle that should guide the Parties towards achieving the Convention objectives (UNCCD Art. 3 (a)(c)), the UNCCD reiterates several times the importance of this participation in both the designing, updating and implementing action programmes.

The UNCCD recognises the central role normally played by women in the affected regions in managing natural resources by paying them special attention (UNCCD Arts. 5 (d), 10 (f) and 19 para. 1 (a)).

The UNCCD has an innovative bottom-up approach. The involvement of populations and local communities is generally recognised to make it easier to assess areas targeted by the Convention, where the ecosystems are particularly vulnerable and the features vary depending on the local environment. The experience of populations in affected regions facing the challenges of desertification and drought and their adaptation strategies would also encourage formulating solutions in line with the particular environmental and socio-economic conditions of communities. Their participation necessitates, however, introducing adequate cooperation mechanisms, creating a favourable environment for local actions and reproducing activities with conclusive effects.

The UNCCD participatory vision thus places the civil society at the centre of the search for solutions and their implementation. The action programmes must also state the role reserved for each player involved and provide for the effective participation of CSOs, local populations and resource users. The viewpoints of various players must also henceforth be considered when preparing national reports⁶⁰.

The CSOs are especially encouraged to help in preparing, implementing and monitoring action programmes. During CRIC 9, the Parties called on the CSOs to make a wider contribution to the reporting and review processes, in coordination with the national focal points (NFP) and the institutional focal points of subregional and regional organisations.

59. For more detail on this subject, see note 3, chapter 7, p. 89 onwards.

60. ICCD/CRIC(3)/INF.3. para. 25.

The CSOs are, indeed, key UNCCD partners and their involvement goes back to the negotiations that surrounded the development of the Convention⁶¹. The UNCCD therefore provides that "any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object." (UNCCD Art. 22, para. 7). Decision 5/COP.10 provides for an accreditation mechanism for CSOs and representatives from the private sector to the COP; the Secretariat maintains a database of accredited CSOs. Moreover, the accredited CSOs have to submit a report on their activities and their contributions to implementation of the Convention to the Secretariat every five years.

Once accredited to the COP, the CSOs can request support to participate as an observer at the COP, CRIC and CST meetings⁶².

Nearly two hundred CSO have been accredited as observers so far⁶³. The CSOs have developed interesting proficiency in their respective areas of expertise and their contribution is a key component in UNCCD implementation.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

As a corollary to its participatory approach, the UNCCD supports protecting, integrating and promoting local and traditional knowledge and practices. The UNCCD thus recognises traditional knowledge as an integral part of techniques and technologies best place to encourage sustainable management of drylands. The Parties also favour technical and scientific cooperation and information sharing to understand better the desertification processes and to develop and apply effective solutions. The UNCCD therefore encourages both the development and capacity building in research and development of technologies and their integration with traditional knowledge (UNCCD Arts. 16, 17 and 18).

Under the terms of the UNCCD, the Parties undertake expressly to protect, enhance and use traditional knowledge and, to achieve this, to list and broadcast it, to help to adapt it for widespread use and encourage, where necessary, its integration with modern technologies. They also undertake to protect it and make sure that local populations benefit directly on an equitable basis from any commercial utilisation of their knowledge (UNCCD Art. 18, para. 2).

Managing traditional knowledge has been at the heart of the work of the UNCCD since its inception. From its first session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) recognised the importance of this question and gave the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) the mandate to examine this priority question at the next

61. For more detail, see note 3, chapter 7.

62. <http://www.unccd.int/en/Stakeholders/civil-society/Pages/default.aspx>.

63. <http://www.unccd.int/en/Stakeholders/civil-society/Pages/default.aspx>.

session⁶⁴. At its next session in 1998, the COP established an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge⁶⁵. The most significant and most widely-applied traditional knowledge at subregional, regional and national level was summarised⁶⁶ and allowed the group of ten experts to carry out its mandate to list the successes and issue conclusions on: (1) the threats and constraints weighing on traditional knowledge and practices, (2) the strategies to integrate traditional and modern knowledge and (3) the mechanisms for promoting and exchanging successful approaches⁶⁷.

In addition, the Panel generated a common understanding of the term "traditional knowledge" in its report to COP3. The Panel concluded that: "traditional knowledge consists of practical (instrumental) and normative (enabling) knowledge about the ecological, socio-economic and cultural environment. Traditional knowledge is people-centred (generated and transmitted by people as knowledgeable, competent and entitled actors), systemic (inter-sectoral and holistic), experimental (empirical and practical), transmitted from one generation to the next and culturally valorised. This type of knowledge promotes diversity; it valorises and reproduces the local (internal) resources".

During this third session of the COP in 1999, a second ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge was set up, charged with developing further criteria that could be used by the national focal points⁶⁸. In its report, the Panel established criteria to measure and promote the reciprocity between traditional knowledge and modern knowledge, criteria to assess how networks and mechanisms created by the secretariat (regional networks, regional coordinating bodies, national focal points) were incorporating traditional knowledge and local knowledge in their work programmes and, lastly, criteria to assess the socio-economic and ecological benefits of traditional knowledge in the light of environmental changes⁶⁹. The Panel also recommended creating a network of experts, institutions, organisations and bodies having experience in the field of traditional knowledge.

At the same period, the Italian authorities were busy setting up an international research centre on traditional knowledge in conjunction with the UNCCD Secretariat and UNESCO. The COP invited the Italian authorities to continue the work undertaken in collaboration with the other interested institutions and to present a proposal for the realisation of a pilot project of a network of institutions, bodies and experts on traditional knowledge. The COP also requested the Parties and the Global Mechanism to explore partnership options to establish such a network⁷⁰.

64. Decisions 16/COP.1 and 20/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

65. Decision 14/COP.2 (ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1).

66. ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2.

67. ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3.

68. Decision 12/COP.3 (ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1).

69. ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2.

70. Decisions 12/COP.4, (ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1) and 12/COP.5, (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).

The Italian authorities proposed creating an international knowledge network under national or even subregional action programmes in the form of a network of thematic programmes⁷¹. Although the COP took no decision on the actual establishment of such a network, the Parties were invited to give their opinion on how traditional knowledge could help to achieve the Convention objectives. In addition, the Italian research centre on traditional knowledge nevertheless worked on setting up several aspects of the network project with the help of various institutions, including UNESCO. The iconographical system on traditional knowledge and innovative uses was thus set up (<http://www.tkwb.org/>). At the same time, the group of Parties from the Latin American and Caribbean region submitted a proposed network of thematic programmes focusing on best practices and traditional knowledge and suggested that it be extended to other regions⁷².

Despite these developments, the delegates did not reach agreement at COP7 in 2005, despite the proposal to call for the preparation of inventories of traditional knowledge⁷³. Lastly, the COP simply encourages the development of initiatives on traditional knowledge and invites the Parties to protect, promote and use traditional knowledge, involving local communities and experts and to foster the integration of traditional and modern knowledge in combating desertification⁷⁴.

The adoption of the 10-year Strategy and its objective 3, to boost knowledge and scientific and technological expertise, led to the decision by COP8 to reshape the functioning of the CST (Decision 13/COP.8). A subsequent decision at COP9 (Decision 26/COP.9) placed the implementation of the knowledge management system, including traditional knowledge as outlined in Article 16(g) of the Convention text, best practices and success stories in combating desertification, land degradation and drought on the agenda of the CST 2 in February 2011. At this session, the Secretariat was encouraged to continue its work and the Parties, UN bodies, intergovernmental organisations, the CSOs and other stakeholders were encouraged to take an active part in defining the content.

In additional, optional guidelines for conducting studies on the cultural, environmental and social impacts of development projects on sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities were in the meantime been adopted by the COP to the CBD. They are also relevant to the application of the UNCCD, as they help to prepare an action plan to protect traditional knowledge⁷⁵.

71. ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4.

72. ICCD/COP(7)/CST/5 and ICCD/COP(7)/CST/5Add.1.

73. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, report on the seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Combating Desertification: 17-28 October 2005, vol. 4 No. 186, Monday 31 October 2005, IISD, [<http://www.iisd.ca/vol04/enb04186f.html>].

74. Decision 16/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

75. ICCD/COP(7)/5.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Under the text of the UNCCD itself (UNCCD Art. 19), the Parties recognise the significance of capacity building to achieve the Convention objectives. Institution building, training and development of relevant local and national capacities in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought are all targeted. The Parties therefore commit to promote capacity building in a variety of ways, including, for example, promoting the full participation of local populations and by strengthening training and research capacity at national level and by fostering the extension, use and dissemination of information, technologies and knowledge. This can also become reality by encouraging training in environmentally sound technologies, adapting them to traditional farming methods and promoting new livelihoods. Capacity building also relies on the acquisition of new qualifications and by adequate training in management and decision-making. Improved functioning of institutions and national legal frameworks is also a very important element in capacity building.

To this end, the affected country Parties must conduct a multi-disciplinary review of available capacities and facilities at local and national level and the potential for strengthening them. These approaches may involve cooperation with other country Parties and with competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The Parties also cooperate together in terms of public awareness and education programmes (UNCCD Art. 19, paras. 2 and 3).

At its seventh session, the COP called on the Parties to take a variety of capacity-building measures. For example, it encouraged African countries to decentralise certain management responsibilities in respect of natural resources to local levels, to strengthen their national coordinating bodies and to enhance approaches for civil society participation. It also invited them to strengthen the capacities of government and civil society and to support the formulation, execution and evaluation of participatory local area development programmes under the national action programmes⁷⁶.

It also urged the Parties and international organisations to support capacity-building in a predictable and sustainable manner in all areas relevant to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, it invited them especially to create or support national capacity-building activities in managing farming, environmental and natural⁷⁷, in order to assist the Parties in monitoring the UNCCD process better, fill the information and research gaps, compiling statistical data and submitting their national report in good time. These capacity-building activities must also promote "partnerships conducive to participatory assessment processes at all levels"⁷⁸.

76. Decision 1/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

77. Decision 1/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

78. Decision 8/COP.7 (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1).

The 10-year strategy confirms capacity building as a key element in implementing the Convention, stating it as follows: "*Operational objective 4: To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought*" (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 of 23 October 2007). Its progress is measured by target CONS-O-13 which provides for (ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.18): "at least 90 per cent of affected country Parties, sub regional and regional reporting entities implement DLDD-specific capacity-building plans, programmes or projects".

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides financial aid for capacity-building interventions through the land degradation focal area for GEF-5 (2010-2014). In May 2011, the GEF also advised the Parties of financial support from GEF-5 to support the national activities linked to: (a) the development of national action programmes to combat desertification and their alignment with The Strategy and (b) the preparation of national reports to be submitted to the assessment of implementation of the Convention system (PRAIS) for the next two assessment cycles (2012-2013 and 2014-2015)⁷⁹.

79. For more detail and to access the GEF form, please consult the page <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/GEF/Pages/default.aspx>.

PART 2

HISTORY OF SESSIONS⁸⁰

COP1/CST 1: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1997: ROME, ITALY

FIRST SESSION OF THE CST

The agenda for CST 1 mainly included organisational items, including procedures for establishing ad hoc panels and for establishing and maintaining the list of independent experts.

The COP established an ad hoc panel to supervise the on-going study of benchmarks and indicators, as recommended by the CST. The COP also adopted a CST recommendation encouraging Parties and observers to collate information on traditional knowledge and especially how it could be attached to modern technology.

FIRST SESSION OF THE COP

The first session of the COP was held in the year following the entry into force of the UNCCD. The issues mainly covered the organisation of the COP and other UNCCD institutions. The COP "rules of procedure" and its "financial management rules and those of its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat" were adopted and Bonn in Germany was named as the city to house the UNCCD's Permanent Secretariat. The COP programme of activities, budget and other financial arrangements were also established during this session. The delegates also chose the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as the host organisation for the Global Mechanism and fixed its functions and the institutional collaboration modalities to support it. The delegates also adopted the mandate and the work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Following the recommendation by the CST, the COP established an ad hoc panel of experts to examine the benchmarks and indicators relevant to the CD and invite the Parties to the UNCCD to produce national inventories on the use of technologies, knowledge, know-how and traditional and local practices. The COP also mandated the CST to assess the links between traditional knowledge and technologies and to submit its observations at COP2. The COP adop-

80. The sources of information contained in this part are official session documents (available at www.unccd.int) and summaries prepared by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), unless stated otherwise.

ted procedures to organise the communication of information required under UNCCD Article 26 so that it could review the implementation of the UNCCD. Building partnerships for the UNCCD was also discussed at this session. In this context, the COP decided to include two open dialogue sessions with the NGOs in its regular session programme. Note lastly that the COP decided to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts in the various areas of specialisation relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The members of ad hoc panels are chosen from the experts on this roster. See document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its first session.

COP2/CST 2: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1998: DAKAR, SENEGAL

SECOND SESSION OF THE CST

COP1 had entrusted the CST for its second session with considering the evaluation of links between traditional knowledge and modern technologies. The discussions at CST 2 thus led to the creation of an ad hoc panel to continue the discussion on the links between traditional and modern knowledge.

SECOND SESSION OF THE COP

The COP adopted the adjustments made to its budget during this session. It also examined several documents submitted to it, including one entitled "Review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional programmes". This gave it an insight into measures taken to encourage the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean along with the Northern Mediterranean and other European regions. It was decided that the reports of affected African country Parties and from other regions would be reviewed during the third and fourth sessions of the COP. Regional implementation of the UNCCD and the development of regional action programmes were discussed during this session and the COP invited the Parties to do everything necessary to implement such regional programmes. It also urged the Central and Eastern European countries to submit a regional implementation annex project to the UNCCD (Annex V). The question of early warning systems was allocated to the CST for the 3rd session and the COP established an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge. It asked the Secretariat to conclude its work of collecting information on traditional knowledge and to present a summary to the CST 3. During this session, the COP adopted the proposed methodological framework for impact indicators and invited the Parties to test them. In addition, the delegates criticised the failure to implement the GM and discussed the draft "Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD on the GM administrative and operational modalities". In addition, the COP analysed

a report by the Secretariat on the "collaboration and synergies among Rio conventions for the implementation of the Convention". Note, lastly, that the negotiations on resolving implementation questions (CCD Art. 27) and the procedures for arbitration and conciliation and the adoption of related annexes (CCD Art. 28) were opened during this session. See document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its second session.

COP3/CST 3: NOVEMBER 1999: RECIFE, BRAZIL

THIRD SESSION OF THE CST

COP2 had entrusted the CST for its third session with the in-depth review of the question of early warning systems and the topic of the establishment of an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge (threats and constraints, strategies to integrate modern technologies, etc.) Following these discussions, the third session of the CST recommended that the COP establish an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge and an ad hoc panel on early warning systems.

THIRD SESSION OF THE COP

The Secretariat submitted its "Medium-term strategy" at this session, which was examined by the COP. The COP made several recommendations to the Secretariat, urging it especially to define priorities in its activity programme and undertake a review of all its activities. The COP also approved the amended version of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD on the GM administrative and operational modalities". During this session, the reports submitted by the affected African country Parties, the subregional organisations, the developed country Parties, the United Nations bodies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations on implementation of the UNCCD were reviewed, along with the Secretariat's compilation and summary of these reports. The COP issued recommendations for each report and encouraged the Parties to use quantifiable and verifiable benchmarks and indicators to determine progress in implementing the UNCCD. It also formed an ad hoc working group to review and analyse reports on the national, subregional and regional action programmes and urged the Parties and observers to present their proposals regarding a committee to evaluate national reports. Preparation of a declaration to enhance implementation of the obligations of the UNCCD, including measures to strengthen its implementation, was initiated for consideration and adoption at the fourth session. The COP issued recommendations on the report covering the policies, operational strategy and the GM functioning modalities and activities. The COP also entrusted the CST with considering, at its fourth session, the application of traditional knowledge, benchmarks and indicators and early

warning systems to monitoring and assessing the sustainable management of land and water in the drylands. Note, lastly, that the COP adopted a decision on reinforcing the role of NGOs in implementing the UNCCD. See document ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its third session.

COP4/CST 4: DECEMBER 2000: BONN, GERMANY

FOURTH SESSION OF THE CST

COP3 had entrusted the CST with considering, at its fourth session, the application of traditional knowledge, benchmarks and indicators and early warning systems to monitoring and assessing the sustainable management of land and water in the drylands, with a view to efficient execution of national action programmes, given similar or complementary work under other conventions. It was also entrusted with considering the establishment of a second ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge responsible for establishing additional criteria to measure and promote the reciprocity between traditional and modern knowledge, analyse the integration of traditional knowledge into the work programmes and assess the socio-economic and ecological benefits of traditional knowledge. It was also question of establishing an ad hoc group on early warning systems.

The fourth session of the CST therefore submitted proposals to the COP to improve the work of the CST (criteria and progress indicators) and to assess networks, traditional knowledge, early warning systems, the roster of experts and the future work of the CST.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE COP

Among the major achievements of this session, note, firstly, the adoption of Annex V of the CCD on the regional implementation of the Convention in Central and Eastern Europe and the adoption of the declaration on commitments to strengthen the execution of obligations listed in the UNCCD (Bonn Declaration). Also of note is that the Ad Hoc Working Group for the review and analysis of national reports submitted to the third and fourth sessions started its work during this session, the aim being to draw conclusions and make recommendations for the adoption of new measures to improve the implementation of the UNCCD. The Ad Hoc Working Group presented its interim report at this session and undertook to present its full report during COP5. The COP also requested the Secretariat to compile the recommendations of Parties on creating a committee to review national reports. In terms of the national reports, the COP requested the Parties to incorporate various elements into them, including information on the scientific and technological activities to combat desertification undertaken at all levels. The COP also re-appointed an ad hoc panel on early warning systems. It mandated the CST to examine, at its fifth session, the issue

of information communication strategies and their use with a view to standardising best practices. Note, lastly, that during this session, the COP requested the Parties to submit solutions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST. See document ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its fourth session.

COP5/CST 5: OCTOBER 2001: GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

FIFTH SESSION OF THE CST

COP4 had entrusted the CST for its fifth session with reviewing the issue of information communication strategies and their use with a view to creating best practices in combating desertification and the topic of re-establishing an ad hoc panel on early warning systems.

In accordance with its programme, the Committee produced recommendations on the review of available networks, the roster of experts, the scientific and technological aspects of national reports, traditional know-how, early warning systems, the Dryland Degradation Assessment and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, improvements to be made to the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, the CST work programme, the work programme of the ad hoc panel and benchmarks and indicators.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE COP

During this session, the Ad Hoc Working Group for the review of national reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions presented its overall report, which included its conclusions and recommendations on the new measures for the implementation of the UNCCD. The COP took note of these recommendations and invited the Parties to take account of them when preparing their national reports. As a follow-up to proposals received on this topic, the COP decided to create a new subsidiary body, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCCD (CRIC), tasked especially with analysing the reports of Parties and observers and information and opinions from the CST and GM. The COP established the mandate and functions of the CRIC and also listed the thematic questions it should consider. It scheduled the first session of the CRIC, in November 2002, as "inter-sessional", i.e. held between two ordinary COP sessions. The COP took note of observations received from Parties and adopted various ways and means on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, including establishing a "Group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought", acting under the immediate authority of the CST. During this session, the COP also decided to submit the summary of the high-level dialogue held on the fringes of the fifth session to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The summary covered the mitigation of poverty through the rapid and effective implementation of

the UNCCD. In addition, reinforcing the financing of the UNCCD was also noted following the particular support from the Global Environment Facility (GEM), whose Council decided to consider land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area.

A certain number of questions relating to the effectiveness and mandate of the Global Mechanism were raised during the regular review of its activities. The COP therefore requested an independent assessment of the Global Mechanism for consideration at its next session. See document ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its fifth session.

CRIC 1: NOVEMBER 2002: ROME, ITALY

FIRST SESSION OF THE CRIC

At its first session, the CRIC reviewed the situation in the five regions targeted by the UNCCD with respect to the seven general themes that its mandate requires it to examine, i.e.:

- The participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations;
- Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
- Resource mobilisation and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements;
- Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
- Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
- Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
- Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

It reviewed the reports from developed country Parties on measures to help to prepare and implement action programmes from all regions and it reviewed the reports from affected country Parties, United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organisations⁸¹. The CRIC also considered information on the financial mechanisms supporting the implementation of the UNCCD, the opinions received from the CST and the GM and certain reports from the Secretariat. The CRIC issued conclusions

81. ICCD/COP(7)/3., p. 6.

and recommendations in its report submitted to COP6 (ICCD/CRIC(1)/10). These related to the seven main themes entrusted to it and the topic of new measures to be taken under the implementation of the Convention.

COP6/CST 6/CRIC 2: AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003: HAVANA, CUBA

SIXTH SESSION OF THE CST

COP5 had entrusted the CST for its sixth session with reviewing the integrated approach to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation and establishing a Group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

CST6 mainly continued the debate on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee, by discussing the framework for the two-year workplan for the Expert Panel, among other things.

SECOND SESSION OF THE CRIC

The second session of the CRC took place at the same time as COP6. The CRIC addressed to major themes, namely (1) the assessment of the implementation of the UNCCD and its institutional arrangements and (2) the review of data on financing the implementation of the UNCCD by agencies and multilateral institutions. This session was held over three days, 26-29 August 2003, and included four meetings during which the CRIC presented its recommendations to the COP. The COP gave its opinion about them on 9 September 2003. The COP thus adopted six decisions based on the Committee's recommendations: the new measures to be taken under implementation of the UNCCD, the review of all the Secretariat's activities and progress made by affected country Parties in implementing the UNCCD, the application of the declaration on the commitments to strengthen the execution of obligations listed in the Convention, the review of policies, operating modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and the work programme for CRIC 3⁸².

SIXTH SESSION OF THE COP

During this session, the COP monitored the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the UNCCD and underlined especially that the implementation of the UNCCD could assist in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The COP also emphasised the strengthened collaboration between the UNCCD and the GEF and named it as the new financial mechanism for

82. ICCD/COP(6)/11., para. 46.

the UNCCD. The CRIC submitted its first report for review by the COP, which decided on new measures to be taken to implement the UNCCD. The COP also requested the Parties, the GM and all other competent regional or subregional entities to communicate their observations in order to identify the best arrangements for boosting regional cooperation. In terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, the COP set out new guidelines for the Group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and set it a workplan for the next two years. The COP also underlined the existence of activities to promote and strengthen the links between the different conventions and international bodies, by emphasising especially the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the implementation of a joint programme between the UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This COP session also reviewed the independent evaluation of the Global Mechanism, which had been requested at the previous session. This evaluation was the high point in a long debate on the role and effectiveness of the Global Mechanism, which had experienced delays and difficulties in actually demonstrating resource mobilisation. The assessment issued recommendations on the strategic direction of GM activities and on its operational arrangements. The evaluation also raised the spiny problem of possible overlapping between the activities of the GM and of the Secretariat, a question which leads to further discussions within the COP.

A similar review of the Secretariat's activities was ordered on the same occasion from the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Its aim was to review the directions, means and activities of the Secretariat from a strategic and operational angle, to determine means of making it more effective. This report was submitted to the next session. See document ICCD/COP(6)/11/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its sixth session.

**CRIC 3:
MAY 2005:
BONN, GERMANY**

THIRD SESSION OF THE CRIC

CRIC 3 was the stage for many exchanges of information, experiences and lessons learned between the affected countries. The CRIC focused on the review of the application of the UNCCD in Africa and globally and on preparing conclusions and recommendations on these topics. The CRIC reviewed the national and subregional reports of African country Parties and certain regional information. It also reviewed the reports of developed country Parties on measures to help prepare and apply action programmes of African country Parties and the information communicated by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental or non-

governmental organisations. Two global interactive dialogues were also organised under this third session to enrich the Committee' discussions. One focused on the integration of national action programmes and their contribution to eradicating poverty in general and the other on land degradation, desertification and their impacts on migrations and conflicts⁸³.

COP7/CST 7/CRIC 4: OCTOBER 2005: NAIROBI, KENYA

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CST

COP6 had entrusted the CST for its seventh session with a further review of the integrated approach to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation and a presentation of case studies illustrating the best practices and new research into the question. The CST therefore reviewed land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation among other agenda items.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

The fourth session of the CRC took place at the same time as COP 7. The CRIC dwelt on the evaluation of the implementation of the UNCCD, the GM and on the review of data on the financing of the UNCCD. It then formulated certain recommendations that UNCCD subsequently used as the basis for adopting six decisions. These dealt with measures to encourage the application of the UNCCD in Africa, the adjustment to be made to the preparation and execution of action programmes and review of measures taken by the Parties to discharge obligations listed in the UNCCD better, mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the UNCCD, collaboration with the GEF, improving information communication procedures and the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP and the work programme for CRIC 5⁸⁴.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COP

Nearly one thousand delegates attended COP7, with its theme of "Combating desertification to ensure sustainable means of subsistence". This session featured many controversial, often inconclusive negotiations and many delegates were dissatisfied at its end, for a variety of reasons. Some even claimed that this COP session was a step backwards compared with COP6. Some progress could nevertheless be noted.

New intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations were accredited during the plenary session, taking the total number of accredited NGOs to 793. Two sessions were held during the "open dialogue session", covering respectively the theme

83. ICCD/CRIC(3)/9.

84. ICCD/COP(7)/16., para. 44.

of "crisis management and long-term adaptation through local action" and "elements of facilitation and obstacles in the application of the UNCCD". These sessions, which allowed a dialogue with the NGOs, outlined the various elements to be given priority in favour of decentralised action in conjunction with the local communities and miscellaneous means for improving the implementation of the UNCCD, including the possibility of giving the NGOs open access in the decision-making process for the implementation of the UNCCD.

The "special high-level meeting" was held over two days and gave the Parties a chance to review the implementation of the UNCCD and issue declarations on this topic. In addition, several representatives spoke and made declarations on their commitment to the UNCCD and on their positions in terms of improving it. During this special meeting, the delegates also commenced a global interactive dialogue on the theme "Economic opportunities offered in the drylands", by studying the report written by Professor Uriel Safriel. Lastly, the initiative entitled "New alliance for combating land erosion in Africa (TerrAfrica)" was launched during this special meeting.

Review of the implementation of the Convention: The CRIC report on improving the implementation of the UNCCD revealed several serious obstacles for the African countries, mainly in terms of financing. The COP therefore adopted a decision to encourage the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa, that called for strengthening capacities of African countries, building partnerships and mainstreaming, mobilising and channelling resources for the implementation of national action programmes (NAP) in Africa.

The COP also carried the CRIC mandate forward to the end of COP8. This extension to its mandate gave CRIC a chance to complete the analysis of national reports of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa during its fifth session in March 2007, before the detailed evaluation of its mandate and its operations planned for COP8.

The COP also established an ad hoc working group to improve the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to it so as to advise it on adopting procedures for establishing simplified and consistent reports and format methods (standardised) (AHWGR).

Following the general review of the activities of the Secretariat by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), requested by COP6, COP7 created an Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG), with the mandate to review the JIU recommendations and prepare a draft 10-year strategic plan and framework for the Convention for consideration at its eight session.

Scientific and technical issues: The COP invited the Parties to protect, promote and use traditional knowledge, with the participation of local experts and communities, urged them to involve the stakeholders in preparing benchmarks and indicators and encouraged them to develop and use impact indicators for measures taken to

implement the UNCCD. It also recommended that the United Nations bodies, competent international institutions and bodies and the developed country Parties assist the developing country Parties in acquiring early warning systems. Lastly, it encouraged on-going monitoring and assessment of drylands degradation.

In addition, the COP requested the Parties to consider the conclusions of the report entitled "Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Desertification Synthesis" prepared under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project. Regarding the improvement in the functioning of the CST, the COP decided to renew the mandate of the Expert Panel until COP8 and requested that it continue with its priority activities. The COP requested the CST to consider the issue of "the effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement" for its eight session.

Institutional issues: The central budget was once again one of the tricky questions during the 7th session. The budget was reformed considerably and saw a considerable decrease for the 2006-2007 financial year. This budgetary downturn was moreover highly criticised by several delegates.

However, progress was definitely made during this session with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF on strengthening collaboration (ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1). The COP also welcomed under this same decision the Country Pilot Partnerships of the GEF, the TerrAfrica initiative, a multi-institutional alliance launched by the World Bank, and the "Least-Developed Countries – Small Island Developing States Targeted Umbrella Project for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management" implemented by the UNDP. The COP was also able to underline the growth of activities to promote and strengthen the links between the Rio Conventions and other international organisations.

Regarding the monitoring of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), the COP recalled that the implementation of the UNCCD is a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and urged the Parties to meet their commitments in this respect. The COP also reviewed the preparations for the International year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), by encouraging the parties, international organisations and NGOs to organise celebratory activities.

Lastly, note the adoption of the *Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the UNCCD*, in which Party representatives mainly state their intention to combat poverty and their desire to support North-South cooperation and for the intersession process that aims to prepare a consistent strategy and long-term framework to strengthening UNCCD implementation. See document ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1 for all decisions adopted by the COP at its seventh session.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (IIWG) SESSIONS

As mentioned above, COP7 established the IIWG, with the mandate to review the recommendations of the JIU and prepare a draft 10-year strategic plan and framework for the Convention for consideration at its eighth session.

Each of the five regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe) delegated three Parties to represent them on the IIWG. Representatives of the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism and the chairmen of the COP, CST and CRIC also attended.

The IIWG met four times in 2006-07 and developed a strategic plan and framework. The first draft was submitted to CRIC 5, then eventually submitted and adopted at COP8. The development of the strategic plan was inspired by the need to give new impetus to the implementation of the Convention at international, regional and national level and also to reform the institutions and governance of the Convention to raise its political profile. This initiative was the most significant effort towards reform of the Convention since it was established.

The draft strategic plan submitted to the COP proposed that the vision for the Convention be to "create a global alliance to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in the affected regions to support the efforts to reduce poverty and manage the environment sustainably". To achieve this goal, The Strategy proposes strategic and operational objectives together with reforms for the Convention's institutions like the Committee on Science and Technology (see section 1.3 *Strategic plan and framework* of this guide for more detail).

CRIC 5: MARCH 2007: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

FIFTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

The fifth session of the CRIC took place in March 2007 in Argentina. The central focus of this session was the review of the implementation of the UNCCD in the affected countries other than in African region. The Committee discussed national experiences and the outcome of regional meetings held in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe. It also took stock of 2006 - the International year of Deserts and Desertification - and reviewed the draft 10-year strategic plan and framework to strengthen the implementation of the Convention prepared by the IIWG.

In addition, two intersessional groups established during COP7 met at the same time as this CRIC session: the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group

(IIWG), with the mandate to review the JIU recommendations and the Ad hoc Working Group to improve the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention.

COP8/CST 8/CRIC 6: SEPTEMBER 2007: MADRID, SPAIN

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CST

The COP had requested the CST to consider the issue of the effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation (assessment, field experience gained and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement). The COP had also entrusted it with the topic of extending the mandate of the Group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought until COP8.

The eighth session of the CST focused on the studies submitted by the Expert Panel, covering, among other things, the methods for assessing land degradation and its links with poverty and land rehabilitation projects in India, Argentina, Spain and Belarus. The COP made eight decisions following the deliberations of the CST, mainly on the functioning of its sessions, a new participatory approach model with the institutions in the area of desertification and on the independent expert roster.

SIXTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

There were many items on the CRIC 6 agenda, including the review of the CRIC 5 report, the review of policies, operating modalities, activities and execution of the function of the Global Mechanism (GM), reports available on the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral organisations and institutions and lastly the establishment of the CRIC 7 work programme.

The function of the Global Mechanism, the body responsible for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, was discussed at length. Many Parties called on the GM and the Secretariat to prepare a joint work programme and on general harmonisation of the UNCCD institutions.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was at the heart of discussions on financing provided by the institutions. Several States regretted that it had been unable to finance some of their projects, whilst others thanked it for its invaluable contributions. The States stressed their wish for a better financing balance of the GEF between the Rio Conventions, more assistance in obtaining co-financing and in mobilising private sector resources and improved GEF communication with the national focal points.

The CRIC report included recommendations to the COP focusing on a potential assessment of the Global Mechanism, measures to encourage the implementation of the UNCCD in all regions, mobilisation of resources to support the execution of NAPs, the GEF budget assigned to combating land degradation and access to its financing and, lastly, confirmation of the CRIC mandate as a subsidiary body of the COP.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COP

Nearly two thousand delegates attended the work of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). Overall, the COP had a mixed record. The success stories included the adoption by participants of the 10-year strategy plan and framework 2008-2018 put together by the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG) established at COP7.

The COP featured a huge agenda and addressed the following themes:

Monitoring the work of the CRIC: Following the recommendation of the CRIC, the Conference of the Parties requested the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit to assess the Global Mechanism and report on this to its ninth session.

The COP also urged the Parties to prepare measures encouraging the implementation of the UNCCD in all regions, mainly by (i) standardising reporting, (ii) ensuring that all stakeholders in affected countries participate in implementing the Convention, (iii) mobilising financial resources from all sources and, lastly, (iv) encouraging capacity building in a sustainable manner in all areas governed by the national action plans (NAP). The COP also decided to continue to support the existing regional coordination units [Decision 1/COP.8].

The Conference of the Parties stressed the need to mobilise resources for the implementation of the UNCCD: the COP invited the industrialised countries to increase their voluntary contributions to the execution of NAPs and encouraged the Parties to make sustainable land management a priority in Africa and to support scientific research programmes in developing countries. [Decision 5/COP.8].

The COP especially requested the GEF to increase its budget allocated to combating land degradation, to implement a strategy on land degradation, to facilitate access by affected countries, particularly those in Africa, to financing for projects to combat desertification and to indicate to the developing countries, in conjunction with the Global Mechanism, the possibilities of co-financing [Decision 6/COP.8].

The COP lastly decided to renew the mandate of the CRIC as a subsidiary body of the COP and agreed that it would continue to function under its present terms of reference, that could, nevertheless, be revised as necessary [Decision 7/COP.8].

Strategic plan and framework 2008-2018: The 10-year strategic plan and framework, designed to act as a framework for the execution of the UNCCD and to

strengthen its implementation in the period 2008-2018, is the most significant effort towards reform of the Convention since it was established. It recommends a results-based approach, targets greater clarity in the mandates and activities of the Convention bodies and more rigorous allocation of roles and responsibilities (for more information, see section 1.3 *The strategic plan and framework* of this guide).

The strategic plan and framework led to a major reform of the UNCCD to improve worldwide implementation of the Convention.

In particular, the CST was invited to reshape its functioning, in accordance with the recommendations of the 10-year strategic plan: CST sessions would henceforth be organised in a scientific conference-style format and the CST was asked to develop a participatory approach with the institutions, networks and agencies involving in desertification. It was intended to test this new model at Istanbul during the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The renewal of institutions provided for by The Strategy did not, however, resolve the questions of financing the Convention and its implementation which have, however, been at the heart of discussions for years.

2008-2009 budget: The delegates failed to reach consensus on the two-year budget 2008-2009. The main points of contention were the Secretariat staff expenses and the budget percentage increase. The Parties did nevertheless agree on changing from the US dollar to the Euro as the UNCCD official currency. The Parties also raised the shortage of financing of the UNCCD on several occasions. The failure of the budget discussions triggered the first extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties. This will be discussed later in this guide.

Monitoring results of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to attend the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to take part in discussions on desertification, land degradation and drought on the agenda for its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions. In addition, the COP wished him to raise the questions of investment in sustainable farming practices, the introduction of national and international work frameworks ensuring access to water and food for populations, capacity building of local populations and, lastly, the eradication of desertification by land rehabilitation and adaptation to climate change.

Strengthening synergies with relevant conventions and international bodies: Delegates discussed the need to develop synergies between the UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) together with the possible rapprochements between the UNCCD and Ramsar, the World Heritage Committee, UN-Water and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The COP also called on the Parties to encourage the synergies of action plans and programmes carried out under the auspices of the UNFCCC and the CBD and the National Action Plans (NAP).

The Madrid Declaration (document ICCD/COP(8)/16 and Add. 1) presented by Mrs Narbona during the closing session, summarises the main conclusions and recommendations of COP8. The signatories to the declaration confirmed their commitments to the UNCCD objectives and also underlined the need to increase the resources specific to sustainable land management.

The Parties agreed that the next sessions of the CRIC and CST would be held simultaneously to improve coordination. The Parties were also asked to harmonise their action programmes with the operational objectives of the Plan and submit their reports on the implementation of the Plan to COP9.

Several encounters were also held during this eighth session, mainly:

- **A high-level segment:** This was opened with a presentation by the representative of the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, of a declaration on the threat from the twin effects of desertification and climate change to the success to the Millennium Development goals and the importance of the new 10-year strategic plan in this context. During this segment, ministers who presented the activities implemented by their governments in the areas governed by the UNCCD welcomed the approval of the 10-year strategic plan with satisfaction. Some emphasised the need to implement synergies between the Rio Conventions and to increase the financing of the UNCCD. Lastly, other participants stated that the coordination modalities between the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat should be clarified.
- **Open dialogue sessions with the CSO:** These targeted the inclusion of NGOs in the official UNCCD work programme and allowed representatives of the civil society to propose to COP8 the establishment of a working group to prepare mechanisms for CSO participation in the UNCCD processes. As such, the CSOs suggested strengthening the participation of young people and including representatives of the civil society in national delegations. The session also featured discussions on participant, equality between men and women and climate change. The conclusions of NGO representatives are included in the declaration of non-governmental organisations, which criticises strongly the failure of governments to mobilise over the problem of desertification.
- **Seventh round table of members of parliament:** A declaration by members of parliament entitled "The role of members of parliament in the efforts to combat desertification: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and challenges ahead" and presented during the high-level segment was a product of the parliamentary round table on desertification and adaptation to climate change.

In this declaration, the members of parliament attending the round table underlined the results of the implementation of the UNCCD ten years after its ratification, the shortage of financial instruments of the Convention and the lack of political will in this area. In addition, they invited their parliaments to ensure that land degradation issues were among their national priorities, to strengthen national legislation in the framework of NAPs, create specific budget lines for combating desertification, raise public awareness, establish partnerships with the private sector and work for the strengthening of regional and continental cooperation in combating desertification.

- **Side event:** The IFDD (then IEPF) and Unisféra organised a side event to launch officially the Guide to negotiations of the UNCCD and the IFDD website devoted to sustainable land and forest management and desertification. This event took place on Friday, 7 September and was a noteworthy French-speaking gathering.

COP-ES 1: NOVEMBER 2007: NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COP - NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Given the failure of the budget discussions during COP8, the Parties met in a First extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties to conclude the negotiations on this question. After intense deliberations, they granted themselves a core Convention budget for the 2008-2009 biennium with an allocation of 14,896,000 euros, representing a 4% increase over the 2006-2007 budget. They also agreed that the budget for the next biennium would be negotiated on the basis of this amount. The Parties allocated 10,375,000 of this amount to the Secretariat and 3,456,000 euros to the Global Mechanism.

The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to introduce results-based management and to realign, as needed, the current programmes, the staffing structure and terms of reference for the miscellaneous posts of the Secretariat, to facilitate the implementation of The Strategy, working within the allocated budget and guided by the following principles:

- a) Optimisation of expenditures and improvements in efficiency, as appropriate;
- b) The reallocation of resources to strengthen key capacities;
- c) The need for transparency and clarity in accounting;
- d) Increased support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

CST S-1 and CRIC 7: 5-14 NOVEMBER 2008: ISTANBUL, TURKEY

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CST

This special session of the CST focused mainly on the review of two-year programmes and four-year workplans prepared by the Convention bodies as well as on the indicators and guidelines for preparing national reports. This two-day meeting was in preparation for the ninth session of the CST.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

The delegates met to discuss progress in implementing the 10-year strategic plan and framework to strengthen the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy). This had been adopted during COP8 in Madrid, Spain in September 2007. At the same time, the CRIC reviewed the four-year workplans and the two-year work programmes that the UNCCD bodies should develop. The CRIC also focused on preparing indicators and guidelines for reporting, to set up a framework for assessing the implementation of The Strategy⁸⁵.

The work programmes of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies:

The Parties called for full integration among the workplans and programmes of the Convention's institutions to enhance synergies and complementarities between them and avoid any overlap. The Parties recommended that the regional and national activities of the CST should benefit from the support of regional cooperation frameworks, including regional coordination mechanisms. The participation of scientific experts, institutes and research centres is recommended in this context. The CRIC work programme for 208-2009 was approved by the Parties to CRIC 7 and a preliminary draft workplan for 2010-2013 for the CRIC was proposed for consideration at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

The Parties invited the Global Mechanism to provide annually more detailed information on its support, especially the amounts mobilised/raised from beneficiary countries and donors and from activities supported, quantifying the different kinds of funding including innovative financing disaggregated by foundations, NGOs and the private sector. The Parties also requested it to develop indicators that reflect the amount of funding that it seeks to mobilise or the co-financing to be attained through support to countries in preparing project applications or implementation and that assess better the effectiveness of its activities. The majority of GM indicators should be quantitative.

85. This summary is based on document ICCD/CRIC(7)/5 and the summary of CRIC 7 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 218, 17 November 2008.

The Parties highlighted the Secretariat's new structure and support work and approved the idea of developing a comprehensive UNCCD communication strategy being presented for consideration at COP9. CRIC 7 recommended that, in the work programme for the next biennium, greater attention was paid to the services rendered to the Parties, especially in relation to the assistance they might need in aligning their action programmes with The Strategy and in monitoring and assessing the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention during the next reporting cycle. More attention should be paid to the needs of Parties by the Secretariat in their regional, subregional and national components.

Reporting process: methodological aspects of the communication of information: The Parties believed that the new reporting modalities should be based on simple, quantitative and measurable indicators. The Secretariat was requested to produce new guidelines for consideration at the preparatory processes leading to COP9. In terms of the affected Parties and to harmonise the subregional and regional action programmes (SRAP and RAP), the Parties concluded on the need to establish clear linkages between the revision of these action programmes and the development of indicators. It was suggested that developed countries should focus on the extent to which the Convention has been mainstreamed into their development cooperation strategies and on finding ways and means to measure the resources allocated to this. The Parties agreed as follows concerning performance indicators for the review of The Strategy: (a) the set of performance indicators should initially be limited, with flexibility to expand them where necessary and as the monitoring process evolves; (b) performance indicators need to be measurable, implementable and clear to the stakeholders using them; (c) special emphasis should be given to indicators dealing with financial issues.

Regarding the place given to science within the UNCCD, the delegates highlighted the existing links between water, land and carbon management. Whilst calling for the creation of a report similar to the "Stern Report" applied to the economic issues of desertification, the representatives wished to establish the Convention as a global benchmark for the scientific knowledge of issues that it addressed. Inter-national and inter-regional coordination is perceived as an area for development at regional and subregional level.

Global review of the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention: The implementation of The Strategy relies both on achieving its strategic objectives and its monitoring through suitable indicators. During this session, Parties sought both clarification of strategic objectives and on strengthening the consensus around indicators used (for example, measuring the involvement of the private sector or members of the civil society). Many Parties underlined the need for support and improvement of National Action Plans (NAP). The need to align the national, regional and subregional plans to The Strategy was also brought up again.

The Parties recognised that the mandate of the CRIC itself should be reviewed so that the COP9 could make the necessary modifications, taking account of The Strategy and the role of the Committee as defined in the relevant decisions of COP8 and the outcome of CRIC 7 and CRIC 8. Having said that, the main functions of the CRIC have already been stated as follows in The Strategy:

- a) determining and disseminating best practices on implementation of the Convention;
- b) reviewing implementation of The Strategy;
- c) reviewing Parties' contributions to the implementation of the Convention;
- d) assessing and monitoring of its own performance and effectiveness.

The Parties noted that The Strategy fixed a crucial milestone in the review system, by deciding that the simplified and effective new reporting process should be based on information that is comparable across regions and over time. They recommended that the current alternation in reporting be ended and that all regions report to the COP at the same time from the next reporting cycle in 2010.

Parties generally welcomed the option by which the review of the implementation of The Strategy through performance indicators would be carried out every two years and the review of the implementation of the Convention through desertification, land degradation and drought profiles (DLDD) and impact indicators would be carried out every four years. The possibility of splitting the review of impact indicators and DLDD profiles into two subsets over one four-year reporting period was also mentioned.

Some Parties felt there was a need for stronger involvement of the civil society in the work of the CRIC and for CSOs to be involved in the review of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, through a special debate at the intersessional CRIC sessions. However, while agreeing on this, some delegations drew attention to the intergovernmental nature of the Convention process.

Global interactive dialogue session on the strategic orientations of the Convention: At the request of the Parties, a round table was organised under the global interactive dialogue on the strategic orientations of the Convention, held during CRIC 7). The interactive dialogue focused on the means of enhancing investment in land management, shared responsibilities and partnership building in the context of The Strategy. Through the interactive dialogue, the Parties provided information on the way forward, the preferred options and the priority areas for the implementation of The Strategy, including mainstreaming the national action plans (NAP) and their contribution to overall poverty eradication.

Presentation of the mandated and terms of reference of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the assessment of the Global Mechanism: A round table on the mandate and work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the assessment of the

Global Mechanism was held under CRIC 7. Whilst restating their support for the proposal to have the JIU assess the Global Mechanism, Parties expressed their concern over the estimated cost of the review and requested that it be reduced.

COP9/CST 9/CRIC 8 AND 1st SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 2009: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

NINTH SESSION OF THE CST AND UNCCD 1ST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Remember that under Decision 13/COP.8, the Parties recognised the need to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST and reshape its operation in accordance with The Strategy. The COP had decided that in future, the CST Bureau would organise each ordinary CST session in a scientific and technical conference-style format, in conjunction with the lead institution or consortium with the qualifications and expertise required in the thematic topic chosen by the COP.

CST 9 was responsible for recommending to the COP concrete measures for improving the effectiveness of the organisation of the Scientific Conference, including its timetable, and a specific theme for the 2nd Scientific Conference.

Recommendations of the ninth session of the CST giving rise to decisions by COP9

In its final decision (Decision 16/COP.9), the COP decided that the 2nd Scientific Conference of the CCD would be held in 2012 at an extraordinary session of the CST (CST S-2) and that, after this conference, the CST Bureau, in consultation with the regional groups, would assess whether to hold the CST Scientific Conference during intersessional or ordinary sessions of the CST and report to the next CST session. The Decision also gave the thematic topic for the 2nd Scientific Conference, namely: "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas".

- **CST workplan**

The CST submitted a four-year workplan (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/3) and a quantified two-year work programme (ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.3) under a results-based approach, in accordance with Decision 3/COP.8.

- **Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project (LADA)**

The report on progress of the LADA project was presented (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/5). The final decision (Decision 19/COP.9) took note of the cross-fertilisation between the CST and the LADA programme, particularly where impact indicators

were concerned, and the fact that the programme was approaching its final phase of activities, culminating in a global action plan incorporating all the findings of the project and proposing a series of recommendations for future actions. On this topic, the COP invited the CST, with the support of the Secretariat, to consult the LADA programme and to consolidate, in accordance with Decision 17/COP.9, the agreed impact indicators on land degradation and associated methods. It also encouraged the CST to develop collaborative regional training activities on land degradation in order to improve capacities for monitoring and assessing the implementation of The Strategy.

- **Outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference**

The approach adopted by the CST Bureau to organise the 1st Scientific Conference is described in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add. 2. The conference welcomed both individual delegates and those accredited by the COP. The priority theme addressed was: "Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management". The Conference was a forum for addresses and main presentations of results and the recommendations of three white papers prepared by the working groups of the Dryland Science for Development Consortium (DS) for the Conference, followed by general discussions, on the following items:

- integrated methods for monitoring and assessment of desertification/land degradation processes and drivers;
- monitoring and assessment of sustainable land management;
- monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation: knowledge management and economic and social drivers.

A summary of recommendations/key messages can be found in the document "Report on the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference: Note by the Secretariat" (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.2). The final decision by the COP (Decision 23/COP.9) took note of contributions of the 1st Scientific Conference. It requested the CST Bureau to consult with Parties and regional groups to review its outcomes and the CST S-2 to consider that review and make recommendations to COP 10. It encouraged the scientific community involved in the Conference to publish its findings.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

Recommendations of the eighth session of the CRIC giving rise to decisions by COP9

Workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies: The final decision of the COP (Decision 1/COP.9) requested the CST, CRIC, GM and Secretariat to prepare, independently, a workplan 2012-2015 using and developing further the results-based management approach and requested the Secretariat to integrate them into a global multi-annual workplan for review at COP10.

Collaboration between the UNCCD bodies and the GEF: In the final Decision 10/COP.9, the COP, among other things:

- invited the developed country Parties and other donors to provide in the fifth replenishment of the GEF adequate, timely and predictable financial resources for land degradation to support the implementation of The Strategy;
- invited the Global Environment Facility to facilitate access by affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to the full range of GEF funds available for projects and programmes relating to land degradation and desertification, including through the expansion of the programmatic approach;
- invited the GEF to include, in its reports to the COP, an analysis of the activities to combat land degradation in drylands that have been funded through the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund;
- requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the two-year joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism gave due attention to coordination with the GEF with the aim of establishing exchanges on preferred methods for resource mobilisation; and
- requested the Global Mechanism to finalise its strategy to operationalise its complementary role to the GEF, as requested in The Strategy.

CRIC mandate: An ad hoc contact group was established during the COP to discuss the CRIC mandate and functions. Final Decision 11/COP.9 reflected the work of the group and established the CRIC as a permanent subsidiary body of the COP. It provided, furthermore, that the COP should review the CRIC mandate, operation and meeting timetable by its 14th session at the latest and modify it as necessary, mainly in terms of reviewing the need and modalities of the CRIC as a subsidiary body. The CRIC mandate as outlined in the annex to the Decision includes the mandate and functions, composition, scope of the review process, session intervals, organisation of work, type of review and methodology and the transparency of work.

Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) By Decision 12/COP.9, the COP adopted a Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) for use by the CRIC and COP in reviewing the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention effectively, based on a new methodological approach and on performance and impact indicators. PRAIS would allow: an assessment of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy through the review of information provided by Parties and other reporting entities as well as information on civil society, including the private sector; a performance review of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies under a results-based management approach. The system would also review and compile best practices and financial flows relating to DLDD.

Reporting guidelines and indicators were submitted by the Secretariat (ICCD/CRIC(8)/5 and Add. 1 to Add. 3). Decision 13/COP.9 adopted the attached indicators, methodologies and procedures provisionally. The COP invited international organisations and financial institutions to provide technical and financial assistance to affected country Parties, especially those in Africa, during the fourth reporting cycle under the UNCCD.

NINTH SESSION OF THE COP

Many Parties viewed the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties as key in strengthening the implementation of the Convention in the field, mainly thanks to the implementation of the 10-year strategy for 2008–2018.

Alignment of action plans with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

Decision 2/COP.9 encouraged the countries and stakeholders to use the guidelines developed by the Secretariat in documents ICC/COP(9)/2 and Add. 1 as a reference tool in the process of aligning their action plans with the objectives of The Strategy. The Global Mechanism was also urged to assist affected Parties in developing integrated investment frameworks in conjunction with the review and alignment process.

Regional coordination

Mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of implementation were discussed based on document ICCD/COP(9)/3. The Parties held diverging opinions between establishing regional coordination mechanisms (RCM) (G77/China) and using existing bodies (developed countries) to prevent duplicating functions. Final Decision 3/COP.9 reflected the consensus reached between the Parties and called upon the Executive Secretary and Managing Director of the GM to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of regional coordination mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. With this in mind, they should support the RCMs and provide one post per region requiring it within available resources. The Decision also stated that:

- staff provided by the GM within available resources should be co-located with posts deployed from the Permanent Secretariat in the same host institution or host country;
- that the RCMs would use, as appropriate, locations and components of existing RCUs;
- the Executive Secretary would review the current hosting arrangements of the existing regional coordination units and conclude, where appropriate, new memorandums of understanding with the host institutions and host countries;

- one post of the Secretariat should also be provided for the Central and Eastern European countries.

Programme and budget

Having discussed a possible budget increase for the biennium (variant of 0 to 21% according to delegates' wishes), the countries agreed on an increase of 4.29% in their annual contribution to the main budget. Final Decision 9/COP.9 approved the work programmes of the Secretariat, GM, CST and CRIC, associated with a total budget of €16,364,800 for the biennium 2010-2011. Parties that had yet to pay their contributions to the core budget for 2008 and prior years were encouraged to do so without delay. The Executive Secretary was called on to propose a results-based work programme and budget for the biennium 2012-2013, including budget scenarios reflecting zero nominal growth and zero real growth.

Assessment of the Global Mechanism (GM) by the Joint Inspection Unit

The report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2009/4) on the GM was presented by the JIU representative. As the GM performance was considered good overall, the inspectors concentrated on the relationship between the GM and the Secretariat. The JIU underlined the weakness of the joint work programme, poor coordination, insufficiently clear mandates and a lack of synergies between the two institutions. Three improvement scenarios were therefore proposed: improving the status quo, merging the GM into the structure of the Secretariat and an in-depth transformation of the GM. An ad hoc contact group was formed for the duration of the COP and its discussions mainly covered the institutional arrangements, the responsibility and the guidelines for data communication.

Final Decision 6/COP.9 invited:

- the GM and the Convention Secretariat to collaborate to produce a joint work programme accompanied by cost estimate for the biennium;
- the Managing Director of the GM to submit a report to each COP for review by the Parties;
- the GM and the Convention Secretariat to collaborate in producing detailed regional work programmes for the allocation of financial resources, submitted to CRIC sessions for review;
- the COP9 Bureau, in conjunction with the Managing Director of the GM and the Executive Secretary of the Convention, to undertake and supervise an assessment of existing and potential reports, the responsibility and institutional arrangements for the GM and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution/organisation to house the GM. It requested the Bureau to submit a report on this assessment to COP10 for decision.

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies

Based on preparatory document ICCD/COP(9)/10 and Add. 1, the COP adopted final Decision 8/COP.9 encouraging more cooperation with the relevant international bodies on matters pertaining to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) with respect to the implementation of The Strategy. The Decision urged further coordination with the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and Convention on Biological Diversity through the Joint Liaison Group to harmonise and facilitate the reporting requirements of Parties and requested the Secretariat to elaborate policy promotion frameworks that foster advocating issues such as synergy with climate change adaptation and mitigation and biological diversity of global ecosystems given their link to DLDD.

Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the UNCCD and outcome of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Having considered the document on "Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and outcome of UNCCD 16 and 17" (ICCD/COP(9)11, the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Parties to develop national, regional and sub-regional research centres and networks for the exchange of research, information, traditional and cultural knowledge, and technology concerning arid, sub-humid lands.

Roster of independent experts

Final Decision 21/COP.9 requested the Parties, through consultation with their national focal points and, where applicable, with the science and technology correspondents, to update the database and propose new candidates in order to achieve a better gender balance and representation of all relevant disciplines, and of all individuals with expertise in the field of desertification, land degradation and drought. The information was to be submitted within six months after the conclusion of the COP session. The Decision also called on the Secretariat to propose a revision of its current procedures, to update the software required to maintain rosters and to submit a feasibility study to COP10 on a web-based search tool for use in consulting the rosters of experts of the three Rio Conventions.

CST S-2/CRIC 9: FEBRUARY 2011: BONN, GERMANY

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CST

Assessment of the organisation of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference

The Committee firstly examined the report ICCD/CST(S-2)/2 accompanied by recommendations by the independent evaluators on the organisation of the CCD

First Scientific Conference. The Committee formulated the following recommendations:

- The putting in place of a conference steering committee to coordinate the organisation, composed of members of the Bureau of the Committee, the UNCCD Secretariat and the selected lead institution or consortium.
- Financial assistance by the lead institution or consortium to the Secretariat.
- The establishment of an independent scientific committee representing the different regions by the lead institution or consortium.
- Holding the CST every two years during an intersessional period of the CRIC to ensure the participation of scientists and encourage that of policymakers.
- Earlier preparation of working groups to optimise their work time.
- The CST organised as a plenary session followed by breakout groups (working groups) based on the themes of the Conference.
- The invitation to the scientific community from the Committee to consider potential themes for future UNCCD scientific conferences, in preparation for the tenth session of the CST.

Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference on "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas"

The Committee examined the need for balanced representation of interested stakeholders and different geographical areas in debating the theme of the next UNCCD Scientific Conference. It was recommended that the secretariat avoid the risk of duplication of effort with the ongoing economics of desertification/land degradation and drought (E-DLDD) initiative. Regions were called upon to mobilise experts through the CST Bureau to contribute to the process on the theme of the conference.

Outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference

The Committee took note and reviewed the detailed results in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/2 in the form of eleven recommendations on themes targeted by the Convention: monitoring and assessment, the structure of public decisions of different geographical settings, sustainable land management, coordination of information with the different multilateral environmental agreements, support for public decisions on the Convention themes through relevant economic models, the synergy and pooling of different sources of fundamental and methodological expertise, setting up of an independent scientific consultative mechanism, accessibility of required data and networking of scientific information. The Committee recommended: regional discussions on the establishment of a consultative, multi-discipline, interna-

tional and independent scientific mechanism, on sharing local and scientific knowledge and on monitoring and assessment.

Measures to enable the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat organise a global e-forum to discuss and identify further possible scenarios and assessment criteria for these phenomena, thereby ensuring participation in the assessment through regionally based facilitation. The outcome of the assessment process should be presented during COP10 to facilitate a decision being taken during this session. Strengthening the contribution of scientific advice was addressed, recommending especially the improvement of scientific networking at all geographical levels and creating links with other mechanisms working on these themes, especially the IPCC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Science and technology correspondents

Having considered document ICCD/CST(S-2)/5, the Committee called for the survey on the roles and responsibilities of science and technology correspondents to be circulated again in order to receive more contributions from Parties. A review of the recirculated survey should be presented for decision at COP10. There were also calls to improve communication procedures with the correspondents and updating of rosters of experts.

Progress made on the knowledge management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification/land degradation and drought issues

The Committee mainly discussed the development of the UNCCD knowledge management system, based on a survey of needs launched by the Secretariat.

The Committee recommended firstly that the respective roles of the CST and the CRIC in preparing this knowledge management system be clarified. All stakeholders on this topic were invited to become involved in developing it. In addition, it should be based on existing knowledge management systems (mainly at different geographical levels) and on partnerships, in order to obtain information on best practices, traditional knowledge and all other relevant information. The report indicated lastly that the Secretariat should take into consideration the technology and capacity limitations that end users may have.

Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

Progress made in the methodologies and baselines for the effective use of the subset of impact indicators was reviewed firstly based on documents ICCD/CST(S-2)/7 and ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.1 and the following recommendations were made:

- The use of biophysical (or ecosystemic) indicators, following the provisional adoption of a stratified approach to reporting on "land cover status", given the different levels of technical capacity of affected country Parties and very tight compliance deadlines, fixed for 2012.
- Continued work by the Secretariat and on the measuring, monitoring and reporting methods of the "proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line", addressing the topics related to the establishment of the poverty line and the spatial disaggregation of data.
- Refinement of the term "in affected areas" through input from the scientific community so that it can be used to interpret the impact indicator measurements on better-defined areas. This topic should be reviewed during the tenth session of the CST.
- The use of indicators from sources accessible to national actors as far as possible.
- The publication of reporting templates and guidelines (with detailed glossaries) for the effective use of the subset of impact indicators to be presented at COP10 by the Secretariat, as directed by the CST Bureau.
- The harmonisation of measuring practices of the subset of impact indicators between the different countries and regions having assessed their needs.

Progress made on the refinement of the set of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 was reviewed by the Committee for a second time based on documents ICCD/CST(S-2)/8 and ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.1. The following recommendations were made:

- The inclusion of periodic scientific peer reviews in the Convention process.
- The inputs by the scientific community and stakeholders to a global e-forum launched by the Secretariat to compile comments on refining the set of impact indicators.
- Closer involvement of the GEF through its Scientific Advisory Panel in the iterative process for the refinement of the UNCCD set of impact indicators, mainly through aligning the GEF indicators with the set of Convention indicators.
- The establishment of proposals (mainly financial) by the Secretariat to establish an ad hoc advisory group of technical experts and an institutional partners group, for review at COP10.
- The adoption of the amended DPSIR (driving forces-pressure-state-impact-response) integrated with ecosystem services as an initial framework, which should be regularly re-evaluated, and a scheme for categorising indicators based on their "readiness" for operational use.

- The use of impact indicator tests to refine their appropriateness with the objectives of the set of indicators, in conjunction with current research projects.
- The need to give the affected country Parties the possibility of reporting voluntarily on impact indicators from the entire set, in addition to the two required for the fourth reporting cycle in 2012. To that end, minimum reporting tools should be made available.

NINTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

The ninth session of the CRIC focused on the implementation of the Convention, assessing it in relation to the operational objectives of the strategic plan and framework, the specific UNCCD financial flows and best observed practices. The Parties secondly reviewed the procedures likely to improve the communication of information and the procedures for reviewing the implementation of The Strategy A detailed report of this session can be found in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/16.

Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators

The Parties firstly gave their opinion based on the preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports of affected country Parties and developed country Parties, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organisations and the Global Environment Facility on the operational objectives of The Strategy.

Note that the review of the implementation of **operational objective 1** (advocacy, awareness raising and education) has shown that a major effort still has to be made by all country Parties to raise awareness to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and its synergies with climate change and biodiversity, together with communication and education issues, to raise the required level of understanding and, therefore, of support to implement the Convention effectively and meet the global target set by Decision 13/COP.9.

The implementation of **operational objective 2** (policy framework) has emerged as principally needing to be improved in the country Parties by aligning their national, subregional and regional programmes with The Strategy, especially with respect to the target of all affected countries having such a programme by 2014. These countries were urged to set aside part of resources made available by the GEF for this alignment. Eligible affected country Parties urged the GEF, in collaboration with the UNCCD bodies, to simplify procedures to access this mechanism through the most direct and simplified channel.

Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention

The Parties welcome the availability of data on financial flows despite some highlighted methodological uncertainty. Important linkages between the NAPs and the integrated investment frameworks (IIF) were highlighted as was the need to consider these two processes together during the alignment processes. The potential benefits of

reporting on progress in implementing investment frameworks in the future were also underlined. The affected country Parties were called on to increase their efforts to establish IIFs with the aim of at least ten affected country Parties establishing a CII every year until 2014. Some Parties underlined the need for further comprehensive analysis on the difficulties encountered by country Parties regarding the establishment of IIFs, in order to provide sound guidance for the achievement of the related targets.

Having requested refinement and consolidation (mainly in terms of geographical distinctions, Rio markers and sectors considered) as to the analysis of financial flows by the Global Mechanism, the Parties requested the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in line with Decision 13/COP.9, to consult with country Parties and the relevant entities involved on improving the reporting template for the analysis of financial flows.

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

Parties attending the Committee session recognised that compiling best practices was an essential first step in the systematic introduction of best practices under the Convention. These practices should be listed and classified in a global framework for the COP10. The Secretariat was therefore called on to prepare this global framework by revising presentation templates for best practices, reviewing their classification, facilitating consultations between the CRIC and CST Bureaus and procuring adequate technical and financial support for the affected country Parties to replicate and improve best documented practices.

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

Refining the iterative process relating to the assessment of the implementation (PRAIS), mainly the performance indicators, methods and reporting procedures, was requested to make it easier to access. The report noted that certain Parties underlined that the reports as generated from the PRAIS portal did not represent a good tool for awareness-raising at national level. It was felt that the iterative process required a more realistic timetable for future reporting.

The Parties requested the Secretariat to establish, for COP10, reporting templates and guidelines for the communication of information to subregional and regional organisations called on to report on the implementation of SRAP and RAP. At the same time, the Parties were urged to broaden their coordination with the subregional organisations involved through regional coordination mechanisms.

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

The Parties reviewed progress in implementing paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of Decision 6/COP.9. The Parties called on the Global Mechanism to provide additional details on the financial resources allocated to each country and on their use to

COP10. Clarifications on the notion of "financing for DLDD and UNCCD implementation" were sought to improve the presentation and analysis of financial data.

COP10/CST 10/CRIC 10: OCTOBER 2011: CHANGWON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

TENTH SESSION OF THE COP

The main issues of COP10 concerned the strengthening of the scientific base of the Convention (mainly through on-going reforms of the CST) and its institutional framework (with special attention paid to the changing role of the Global Mechanism). The implementation of The Strategy and the realignment of structures and activities of the Parties to comply with it were reviewed. More especially, the COP considered the work of CRIC 9 and the implementation of the PRAIS system, together with most recent progress in developing indicators and national reporting communication and analysis methods.

Apart from a general revision of the implementation, the COP set out provisions to complete the institutional reforms commenced when adopting the Strategy, including:

- the adoption of a programme and budget for the Convention and its subsidiary bodies, the reports on the execution of activities from the previous biennium and the updating of financial statuses;
- continuing with the assessment and reform of the Global Mechanism, following the assessment by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2009 and an independent analysis by consultants engaged by the COP Bureau;
- the review of mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention;
- the application of new procedures governing the participation of civil society organisations in meetings and other processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and
- continuing reforms of the Committee on Science and Technology, following the assessment of the 1st Scientific Conference and the preparations for the 2nd Conference planned for 2012.

Lastly, the COP also focused on a certain number of points relating to its stature in the wider international community:

- monitoring the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development of interest to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

- the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020); and
- the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy.

An interactive dialogue with members of parliament took place on 13-14 October, two dialogue sessions with the civil society organisations (CSO) on 14-19 October and the Ministerial round tables on 17-18 October. At the end of this segment the Government of the Republic of Korea presented the "Changwon Initiative" that identified the intended measures of the Republic of Korea to implement the decisions of COP10.

The Conference adopted 39 decisions, as recommended by the Chairman of the COP, the Bureau, the Committee of the Whole, the CRIC, the CST and the Ad hoc Panel of Experts. This section deals with decisions adopted following the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole and the next sections with those following the recommendations of the CRIC and the CST respectively⁸⁶.

Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment of action programmes with The Strategy

Under Decision 2/COP.10, the COP recognised the need to accelerate the alignment of national, subregional and regional action programmes with the Strategy and encouraged the affected country Parties and Regional Implementation Annexes to intensify their efforts to achieve this alignment. The COP also, among other things, invited the Convention institutions to continue providing affected country Parties with the support they require to build institutional and technical capacity for the effective alignment and implementation of the action programmes within available resources, including the relevant technical assistance for the preparation, revision and alignment of subregional and regional action programmes.

Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

The Parties referred to document ICCD/COP(1)/21, on the mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, to consider recent progress in the application of decisions made during previous sessions. The report noted genuine progress in regional coordination, especially the cooperation between the GM and the Secretariat through the Regional Coordination Units (RCU). However, shortfalls were noted in the implementation and adoption of regional and subregional action programmes, which seemingly were still not effective practical frameworks. Decision 3/COP.10:

86. This summary is based on the report of the COP 10/CRIC 10/CST 10 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 241, 24 October 2011 and the report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth session held in Changwon on 10-21 October (ICCD/COP(10)/31).

- committed the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to strengthen their cooperation at regional level;
- requested the Secretariat and the GM to continue to support the implementation of regional priorities as identified by the regions;
- Called on the Executive Secretary, at the request of and in collaboration with the Parties concerned, to support the effective functioning of the thematic programme networks, subject to the provision of the necessary financial and technical support by the Parties;
- decided that the institutions listed in the Annex to the Decision should act as reporting entities; and
- requested that those Regional Implementation Annexes that had not yet identified their subregional and regional reporting entities do so before 31 December 2011.

Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy

Decision 4/COP.10 calls on the Parties to implement the comprehensive communication strategy and invites financial and in-kind support to ensure effective implementation.

Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organisations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

In its Decision 5/COP.9, the COP had laid the bases for revised procedures to be introduced for the participation of civil society organisations (CSO) in the meetings and processes of the Convention. This COP marked the first full year of application of new procedures governing the selection, allocation of financing and coordination of civil society organisations; they were intended to be more transparent and to encourage neutral and constructive debate between the COP and the CSOs.

Decision 5/COP.10 on the revised procedures governing the participant of CSO in the CCD meetings and processes has two sections: the first covers the revision of procedures for the accreditation of CSO and representatives from the private sector to the COP and the second the revised procedures governing their participation in the UNCCD meetings and processes. The Conference of the Parties decided, among other things, that the CSOs should submit a report on their activities and their contributions to the implementation of the Convention to the Secretariat, with a copy to the national focal point. The Decision also stipulated, among other things, that the selection panel for the participation of CSO and the private sector in the UNCCD meetings included CSO representatives from each of the annexes of the Convention.

Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism

The Parties reviewed documents ICCD/COP(10)/3 on the measures taken for the implementation of paragraphs 1-3 and 5-8 of Decision 6/COP.9 and the documents on the assessment of existing and potential reports, the accountability and the institutional arrangements of the GM (ICCD/COP(10)/4 and ICCD/COP(10)/INF.2-7). In addition, a contact group on monitoring the assessment of the GM was established.

In its Decision 6/COP.10, the COP decided, among other things, that:

- the accountability and legal representation of the GM should be transferred from IFAD to the Secretariat;
- the Executive Secretary should assume overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on accounting, performance and activities of the Global Mechanism, to the COP;
- the Executive Secretary delegated operational authority, as appropriate and in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, to the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to manage the programme and budget of the GM and enter into agreement with lending institutions; and
- revised the Memorandum of Understanding with IFAD to limit it to (1) logistical and administrative support and (2) privileges and immunities granted to GM staff through the Government of Italy.

The COP requested, among other things:

- that the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Managing Director of the GM and with the support of the senior staff of the Secretariat and the GM to, among other things, prepare rules of procedure to govern the relationship between the Secretariat and the GM, develop and implement a joint corporate identity, streamline the financial and administrative management and coordinate reporting to the CRIC and the COP;
- that the Executive Secretary to ensure that all staff and accounts of the GM fall under a single administrative regime administered by the UN in Geneva;
- that the Executive Secretary undertake a process to identify a new housing arrangement for the Global Mechanism, including potential co-location with the Secretariat, with consideration to costs, operational modalities and synergies and governance efficiencies, provide this information to the Bureau of COP10 by 1 July 2012 and submit a recommendation to COP11 for a decision; and

- that the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM, through regular or special meetings based on availability of extra-budgetary funds, seek the views of Parties and relevant actors on the work of the GM and to report to the COP the views expressed.

Common fund-raising strategy

In its Decision 7/COP.10, the COP took note of the draft common fund-raising strategy (2012-2015), annexed to the Decision. The COP also requested the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue coordinating their fund-raising efforts, ensuring alignment and integration with wider strategies to address strategic objective 4 of The Strategy and to include reporting on their fundraising efforts in the overall report on the performance of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies.

Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

In its Decision 8/COP.10, the COP, among other things, invited the Parties to submit their inputs to the UNCCD by 1 November 2011, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare actively for and participate in the UNCCD and to contribute to the compilation document, to ensure that due regard was paid to DLDD, and decided to include in the COP11 agenda an item entitled "Follow up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on 'Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication' and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies

Delegates considered document ICCD/CRIC(10)/18 on progress in implementing Decision 8/COP.9, the documents on the draft awareness-raising policy frameworks (ICCD/CRIC(10)/19-21 and ICCD/CRIC(10)/ INF.1), documents ICCD/CRIC(10)/22 and INF.1 on synergies in reporting under the Rio Conventions. Lastly, COP Decision 9/COP.10 requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen and build on established and new cooperation initiatives with the international organisations and institutions on DLDD issues and invited the Parties to establish national collaborative processes on synergies in reporting, involving national focal points and their representatives from the Rio conventions.

Programme and budget for the biennium 2012-2013

The Parties considered a series of documents dealing with this item; the programme budget and the quantified provisional two-year work programmes of the Secretariat, the CRIC and the CST for 2012-2013 (ICC/COP(10)/7-8), the financial

performance of the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(10)/10), the draft quantified two-year work programme for the GM (ICCD/COP(10)9.Rev.1) and a report on the implementation of the quantified two-year work programme (2010-2011) for the GM (ICCD/COP(10)/15). The contact group on the budget workplans considered a draft decision on the programme budget for 2012-2013 throughout the week, which culminated in project growth of 0.2% over the budget for the previous period.

Decision 10/COP.10 had 24 operational paragraphs, including agreements on the approval of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for €16,128,344, the approval of the staffing table and the adoption of an indicative scale of contributions for 2012-2013. In addition, the Decision:

- decided to maintain the level of working capital reserve at 8.3% of the estimated expenditure in the Trusts Fund for the core budget;
- approved a contingency budget of €2,033,000 for conference servicing;
- took note of the estimated additional costs of up to €1,496,000 which would be incurred if COP 11 was held in Bonn;
- took note of the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary (€12,139,138) and the GM (€14,737,041) for the biennium 2012-2013 and requested the Parties in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions; and
- requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2014-2015, including budget scenarios reflecting zero nominal growth and zero real growth.

Election of officers of the Committee on Science and Technology

Decision 25/COP.10 replaced paragraph 1 of rule 22 with an alternative text stating that the President of the CST would be elected at the last meeting of the COP and would take up his post immediately. It also stipulated replacing rule 31 with a text stating that the Vice-Presidents of the CST would be elected at the same time as the President.

United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification

Decision 31/COP.10 requested the Secretariat, among other things, to extend its partnership network to include representatives of the civil society and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and called on financing to support the preparation and implementation of the programme for the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification.

TENTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

The work of the CRIC mainly cover the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategy, mainly the multi-year workplans of Convention bodies, the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, the modalities, criteria and

mandate proposed for the mid-term assessment of the 10-year strategic plan and framework, the assessment of the implementation of the Convention through performance indicators, the iterative process on the assessment of the implementation, the best practices and the work programme for CRIC 11. The recommendations of the CRIC led to the adoption of decisions on these items by the COP.

Multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies

Based on a review of the report by CRIC 9 (ICCD/CRIC(9)/16) and the draft multi-year workplan for the Secretariat (2012-2015) (ICCD/CRIC(10)/3), the provisional multi-year workplan for the GM (ICCD/CRIC(10)/5), the multi-year workplans for the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(10)/4-6) and (ICCD/CRIC(10)/7-ICCD/COP(10)/CST/10), the COP approved, in its Decision 1/COP.10, the strategic orientations of the CST, CRIC, GM and Secretariat and:

- requested the CST to continue to strengthen activities relating to advocacy, awareness-raising and education and to engage in further coordination work with the CRIC on data management;
- invited the Parties, donors and financial institutions to provide other technical and financial means;
- requested the Secretariat and GM to prepare multi-year workplans using a results-based management approach; and
- decided that future performance reviews to be conducted by the CRIC, starting with its twelfth session, should be based on reports on the implementation of the two-year costed work programmes of the Convention institutions and its subsidiary bodies; and
- decided to use the performance indicators and their related targets included in the workplans to assess the performance of the Convention and its subsidiary bodies.

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The GEF presented a report on its financing activities for combating desertification (ICCD/CRIC(10)/23) and the Secretariat a note on facilitating access to GEF financing for combating desertification in focal lands (ICCD/CRIC(10)/24). The amendment to the GEF Instrument meant that it would henceforth serve as a UNCCD financial mechanism. In its Decision 11/COP.10, the COP welcomed the improved resource allocation system to eligible countries through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources and the allocation of additional funds to support activities under the focal area, in accordance with the priorities of the Convention. It requested the Executive Secretary to consult with the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF on whether amendments to the current Memorandum of Understanding were necessary and to report to COP11. It further invited the GEF to:

- support the alignment of subregional and regional programmes with The Strategy;
- envisage increasing allocations to combating land degradation, within the availability of resources; and
- simplify further its procedures in the interest of full and timely utilisation by the eligible countries.

Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention

COP Decision 12/COP.10 on the proposed modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy established an ad hoc Intersessional Working Group (IWG), subject to available funding. The mandate of the Group was to prepare recommendations on the mid-term evaluation under the guidance of the COP Bureau. The COP further decided that the IWG could draw on the expertise of consultants and institutions in accordance with the terms of reference attached to this document.

Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators

In final Decision 13/COP.10, the COP recognised that significant steps had been taken to monitor and assess the implementation of The Strategy and concerning its operational objectives, among other things:

Operational objective 1: advocacy, awareness raising and education: the improvement of strategies to advance the awareness-raising to DLDD issues;

Operational objective 2: policy framework: the acceleration of the alignment of action programmes with The Strategy;

Operational objective 3: science, technology and knowledge: the improvement of national monitoring systems specific to desertification, land degradation and drought, mainly through technical and financial support;

Operational objective 4: capacity-building: the strengthening of technical and capacity-building support; and

Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer continuing to prepare integrated investment frameworks and mobilise new and additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention.

The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and impact indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures

Based on the review of reports from Parties and other entities (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/1) and document ICCD/CRIC(10)/13 on the revised methodological guidelines governing reporting by civil society organisations, COP Decision 14/COP.10 included sections on refining the set of performance

indicators and associated methodologies, improving how best to measure progress on strategic objective 4 of The Strategy, the format and methodological guidelines for reporting by civil society organisations (2012-2013) and guidelines for the preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports.

Best practices on implementation of the Convention

The delegates reviewed the iterative process for the refinement of review methods and best practices (ICCD/CRIC(10)/15). In its Decision 15/COP.10, the COP stipulated, among other things, that the review of best practices would be carried out under a programme shown in an annex, invited the reporting entities to continue reporting on best practices on the themes already considered during previous CRIC sessions and took note of the revised classification of best practices.

Programme of work for CRIC 11

The final Decision (16/COP.10) on the programme of work for CRIC 11 stated that CRIC 11 would review the communication of data in accordance with Decision 11/COP.9 on the additional procedures or institutional mechanisms intended to help the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and to review the means and reporting by specified entities.

TENTH SESSION OF THE CST

The work of the CST covered the reshaping of the operation of the Committee for Science and Technology in accordance with The Strategy, how best to measure progress, measures enabling the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought, knowledge management, the fellowship programme, the roster of independent experts, the role and responsibilities of science and technology correspondents and the work programmes for CST Ex 3 and CST 11. This work gave rise to several decisions, including two on the establishment of ad hoc working groups: one to continue the participatory iterative process on the refinement of impact indicators and the monitoring and evaluation of impacts and the second to continue the discussions on the options in the field of scientific advice provided to the UNCCD.

Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

The delegates mainly addressed the outcome of the 1st Scientific Conference, the preparations for the 2nd and the theme of the 3rd Scientific Conference. Decision ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.8 dealt with the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, the timetable and theme for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, the organisation of the CST in a scientific and technical conference-style format and the financing. COP decided (Decision 18/COP.10), among other things, to delay the 2nd Scientific Conference, originally scheduled in 2012, until March 2013 at the latest. It also decided to

hold the 3rd Scientific Conference in 2014, during the extraordinary session of the CST, on the theme “Combating desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”. The COP asked the Secretariat to organise, after the 2nd Scientific Conference, an in-depth assessment of the conference and invited the CST Bureau to assess whether to hold scientific conferences during intersessional or ordinary sessions of the CST. The COP also invited the industrialised country Parties, international institutions and stakeholders to make voluntary contributions for the organisation of the 2nd and 3rd Scientific Conferences.

Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy

The delegates adopted a decision (ICCD/COP(10)CST/L.1) on measures to refine and report impact indicators. This decision requested the CST to continue to provide assistance to pilot impact indicator monitoring exercises, to establish an ad hoc technical expert group responsible, mainly, for continuing the participatory iterative process of refining indicators and to adopt, provisionally, draft reporting templates for the two mandatory impact indicators. The COP especially decided (Decision 19/COP.10) that the core principles defined in the participatory scientific peer review process and contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 set the stage for the development of proposals to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies based on national capacities and circumstances.

Measures to enable the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought: assessment of how to organise international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process

Decision 20/COP.10 requested the CST to plan both long-term and short-term measures to enable the Convention to provide scientific support and decided to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to discuss further the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on DLDD issues.

Knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories

Based on the review of document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/9, COP Decision 21/COP.10 mainly requested the Secretariat to continue to improve knowledge management, subject to additional financial resources, including elaborating an information platform related to DLDD issues, carrying out the taxonomy for internal content categorisation with respect to the UNCCD, defining criteria and priorities applicable to knowledge management under the Convention, taking into account the results of the knowledge needs assessment and encouraging the establishment of links with regional knowledge management systems via existing networks. The COP

also requested the CRIC and the CST Bureau to work together in defining ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to their respective mandates.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme

The COP decided (22/COP.10) that the multi-stakeholder partnership model should be applied in launching the fellowship programme and, among other things, requested the Secretariat to form a steering group, in collaboration with those institutions that formally express interest, to articulate a clear strategy for the programme. It also invited voluntary contributions for the programme and requested the Secretariat to facilitate its establishment and report on progress at COP11.

Roster of independent experts

Decision 23/COP.10 invited the Parties to revise and update the details of existing national experts and to propose new candidates, urged Parties that have not yet nominated experts for the roster to do so and requested the CST to review and update the list of disciplines. It also directed the Secretariat to set up web-based facilities to ease the process of updating the roster.

Role and responsibilities of science and technology correspondents

Based on documents ICCD/COP(10)/CST/7 and ICCD/ COP(10)/CST/INF.4, Decision 24/COP.10 stipulated, among other things, that the role of science and technology correspondents was to assist national focal points in scientific matters related to the implementation of the Convention, recommended that any further responsibilities for science and technology correspondents should be proposed by the national focal points in their countries and invited the Secretariat to communicate on matters relating to the involvement of scientists in the Convention process with national focal points, with copies to science and technology correspondents

Work programmes for CST Ex-3 and CST 11:

The Decision regarding the work programme of CST Ex-3 (26/COP.10) stipulated, among other things, that the CST Ex-3 would be held for four days in Bonn, Germany, not later than March 2013, in the event that no Party made an offer to host the session and meet the additional financial cost. It further decide to include the following items on its agenda: The UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, progress made in refining the impact indicators and the preparations for the 3rd Scientific Conference. The COP also requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the COP Bureau, to prepare for the CST Ex-3 and to facilitate the participation of science and technology correspondents in the meeting.

In the final decision on the work programme for the CST 11 (27/COP.10), the COP invited the CST to focus its attention on activities that would lead to the achievement of the outcomes adopted in the programmes and budget of the Convention bodies and decided that the agenda would focus on two priorities: the review of pro-

gress on the iterative process to refine impact indicators and the improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories. The COP also decided that CST 11 would be held for at least four days, requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation of science and technology corresponds in the work of CST 11 and decided to include on the agenda:

- the CST report on its Ex-3 session;
- consideration of the provisional multi-year workplan for the CST (2014-2017);
- the improvement of knowledge management;
- advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy
- consideration of progress made in the organisation of international interdisciplinary scientific advice;
- reshaping of the operation of the CST in line with The Strategy; and
- the roster of independent experts.

CST S-3/CRIC 11: APRIL 2013: BONN, GERMANY

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CST

The third special session of the CST focused on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), progress made in refining the impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and the review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)⁸⁷.

87. This section is based principally on the 'Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on its third special session, held in Bonn on 9-12 April 2013' (ICCD/CST(S-3)/7) and the report on /CST-11 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 242, 15 April 2013.

Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

For information, Decision 13/COP.8 of the Conference of the Parties had decided that in future, the CST Bureau would organise all ordinary CST sessions in a scientific and technical conference-style format, in conjunction with the lead institution or consortium with the qualifications and expertise required in the thematic topic chosen by the Conference of the Parties.

a) Preparations for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference

The theme chosen by COP9 for the 2nd Scientific Conference was "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas" In accordance with the provisions of Decision 16/COP.9, the Davos Global Risk Forum (Davos GRF) was selected as lead institution under the guidance of the CST Bureau.

The 2nd Scientific Conference was incorporated into the CST meeting. Delegates to the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference meet in a series of four plenary sessions: Economic and social impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought, cost and benefits of policies and practices addressing land degradation and drought in the drylands, drivers of change and resilience increase and strategies and policies for local, national, regional and international level.

b) Preliminary outcome of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference on "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas"

The Committee considered and took note of the preliminary conclusions of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference prepared by GRF Davos and the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Parties were urged to comment further and a pre-session compilation document was to be prepared by the Secretariat on this topic for review at CST 11.

c) Preparations for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on the theme "Combating desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices".

The Committee noted document ICCD/CST(S-3)/4 summarising progress in the preparations for the 3rd Scientific Conference and the selection process for the lead institution or consortium in charge of organising it. It also welcomed the consortium "Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development", selected by the CST Bureau to organise the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference under the guidance of the CST Bureau.

Progress made in work undertaken to refine the impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

It will be recalled that Decision 17/COP.9 established an iterative process to develop proposals to refine the set of impact indicators and associate methodologies to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy, taking into account: (a) application and review of impact indicators by affected countries, (b) scientific peer review of the relevance, accuracy and cost-effectiveness of the impact indicators, (c) possible synergies with relevant programmes, projects and institutions, including those associated with the other Rio conventions and (d) relevant contributions from UNCCD Scientific Conferences. The COP further requested the Committee to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions and to recommend a minimum set of impact indicators for consideration at the eleventh session of the COP. An Ad Hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) was established to maintain the participatory iterative process whereby the scientific community, national focal points and science and technology correspondents could contribute the refining impact indicators and to monitoring and assessing impacts.

The Committee noted document ICCD/CST(S-3)/5 reporting on progress since COP10. The AGTE representatives described the principal conclusions of their work and presented a summary of their preliminary recommendations, given in Annex III to document ICCD/CST(S-3)/7, and sent to CRIC 10. These recommendations included, in particular:

- using the term "progress" indicator rather than "impact" indicator;
- pursuing harmonisation rather than standardisation;
- the delineation of affected areas under a three-layered approach as a precondition to tracking progress in implementing the Convention;
- continuing to refine the set of provisional indicators proposed initially in Decision 17/COP.9 and improved in Decision 19/COP.10, to produce a minimum set mentioned in their report; and
- complementing these indicators by relevant regional, national and/or local information and by indicators designated by the Group as "narrative indicators").

Review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

In its Decision 12/COP.9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Committee to contribute to the work of the CRIC in reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators

relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Document ICCD/ CRIC (11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6 and Rev.1 provided a summary and preliminary analysis of the information provided on this subject and the Committee duly took note. The Committee also noted the conclusions of the open-ended contact group presented in document ICCD/CST(S-3)/L.3, including:

- making the PRAIS portal more user-friendly;
- encouraging the affected country Parties to submit their reports and/or amend their responses on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, even after the official deadline, to expand the baseline datasets and enable future trend analysis;
- inviting the affected country Parties to make further use of information from United Nations institutions and other international sources;
- inviting the development partners and the GEF to envisage extending the technical and financial assistance for developing the capacities of affected country Parties in reporting against impact indicators in order, among other things, to harmonise definitions and methodologies to be used at national level;
- inviting international and regional institutions and bodies and relevant partners with expertise in monitoring and assessing DLDD phenomena to support the Parties and regions in filling the information gap for reporting;
- examining the relevant document and on-going efforts, like the New World Atlas of Desertification;
- improving the reporting template and developing further the reporting manual;
- encouraging the affected country Parties to use a consistent and common approach in delineating affected areas, taking into consideration the findings provided by the AGTE;
- envisaging further efforts to increase spatial data on poverty in affected areas;
- adopting broad land cover types, based on existing and internationally-recognised classification systems, for use by affected country Parties in reporting on land cover status;
- submitting a declaration on countries considering the use of a common methodology for reporting on land productivity based on readily available and internationally-recognised datasets;
- identifying appropriate mandatory indicator(s) relating to strategic objective 3 for the next information communication cycle; and

- systematically completing the minimum set of globally-harmonised indicators by regionally, nationally and/or locally relevant information and indicators.

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

CRIC 11 focused on the implementation using provisionally-adopted impact indicators and results, financial flows, issues regarding the alignment of national action programmes (NAP), communication strategies, best practices, exchanges with the other relevant conventions and with the competent international conventions and organisations, institutions and agencies and the governance of the GM⁸⁸.

Assessment of the implementation using provisionally-adopted impact indicators

The Parties analysed the information provided by the affected country Parties and the developed country Parties, the subregional and regional entities, the United Nations bodies, the intergovernmental organisations and the GEF and the information from the Secretariat and the GM on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, mainly presented in documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/8 and 9 prepared by the Secretariat with a first analysis, document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6 giving a preliminary analysis of information provided by the affected country Parties and document ICCD/CRIC(11)/9 with the contribution by the Committee on Science and Technology.

Strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, including the contribution by the CST on the review and assessment of scientific data relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

Based on discussions among the Parties, the CRIC 11 report stated, among other things, that:

- some Parties recommended that the AGTE consider proposing a simple method for the delineation of affected areas;
- some Parties recommended that the CST increase efforts towards harmonising data and methodologies as a prerequisite to establishing a baseline for global assessment;
- some Parties recommended working towards a better balance between quantitative and qualitative assessments/indicators;
- some Parties recommended using readily available and internationally-recognised datasets and building synergies with the other Rio conventions in order to reduce the costs of data collection;

88. This section is based principally on the 'Report of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 15 to 19 April 2013' (ICCD/CRIC(11)/19) and the report on CRIC-11 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 243, 22 April 2013.

- Some Parties recommended that the AGTE continue working on the development of clear terminology, classifications and definitions for impact indicators. Some Parties recommended that global institutions provide further methodological guidance for reporting on the mandatory impact indicators applicable to land cover status and the proportion of the population living below the poverty line;
- some Parties recommended adopting an indicator on soil organic carbon to measure progress against strategic objective 3;
- Several Parties recommended methodologically and technologically improving the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) portal, mainly by making it less complex and more user-friendly. Some recommended that PRAIS be reorganised and its templates simplified;
- Several Parties requested that development partners and financial institutions, particularly the GEF, should consider extending further technical and financial assistance in developing the capacities of affected country Parties in reporting against impact indicators; and
- some Parties encouraged all country Parties to leverage fully synergies among the Rio Conventions at national level, especially with regard to NAPs and National Biodiversity Action Plans.

Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy

Delegates analysed the information provided by the affected country Parties and the developed country Parties, the subregional and regional entities, the United Nations bodies, the intergovernmental organisations and the GEF and the information from the Secretariat and the GM on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 prepared by the Secretariat served as a basis for the discussions along with document ICCD/CRIC(11)/6 on the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy. The main points raised by the Parties for each objective are as follows:

Operational objective 1 of The Strategy

- some Parties expressed concerns with regard to the reliability and representativeness of information on the total percentage of populations informed;
- some Parties recommended that the mid-term evaluation should consider revisiting the operational objective 1 indicators and the possibility of more effective and reliable tools for measuring awareness-raising efforts; and
- some Parties suggested the need to set up a repository of information within the UNCCD on lessons learned in advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

Operational objectives 2 and 4 of The Strategy and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy

- the Parties welcomed the funding from the GEF for supporting NAP alignment although many Parties expressed concern with regard to the level and timeliness of financing intended for the alignment process;
- several Parties recalled the need to streamline NAP, more to fill specific gaps than to intervene in all aspects of land management;
- several Parties noted that preliminary analyses of sustainable land management (SLM) options, including economic valuation, should be conducted and that priorities consistent with national development policies - particularly in agriculture, food safety, natural resource management, climate change, biodiversity and poverty reduction, where applicable - should be set before the alignment process started. Specific internal coordination mechanisms should be established, such as interministerial cooperation frameworks and steering committees, to drive the process and ensure coherence;
- several Parties recalled that the alignment process should be participatory and inclusive of all stakeholders;
- several Parties indicated that the Intersessional Working Group on the mid-term evaluation should pay particular attention to the alignment process and the review of relevant indicators;
- several Parties stressed that the Secretariat should develop effective tools for guiding the alignment process; and
- the Parties expressed their concern over the financing intended for the implementation of NAPs. Several Parties highlighted the need to facilitate direct access to financing, especially the GEF and climate change financing, at local and national level.

Operational objective 3 of The Strategy

- several Parties recommended increasing national ownership and leadership with regard to DLDD monitoring systems;
- some Parties recommended building on the lessons learned by the donor countries;
- some Parties recommended that lending institutions investing in DLDD monitoring systems should harmonise their interventions at national and local level;
- some Parties recommended using ecosystem-based monitoring that integrates socioeconomic land degradation drivers as an effective DLDD monitoring approach; and

- some Parties recommended strengthening the coordination and communication between the national correspondents of the Rio Conventions.

Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objectives 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy and the outcomes of the open dialogue session

Strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy and financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention

The review of information on financial flows intended for implementation of the Convention included information submitted by the different entities on strategic objective 4, operational objective 5 and the financial flow, together with information from the standard financial annex and the programme and project monitoring sheet that form part of the detailed reporting templates. This was the first time that the various entities had to answer questions affecting strategic objective 4. The preliminary data on this objective were presented and analysed in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/10 from the Secretariat, the data on operational objective 5 were found in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/11 and on financial flows in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/12. The following items figure in the session report:

- several Parties urged developed country Parties, the GEF and the GM to increase their financial contributions to enable affected country Parties to improve their reporting systems and increase their understanding and use of the impact indicators;
- several Parties called on the GEF to assess and improve its internal processes to ensure rapid disbursement of funds to eligible countries and called on Convention institutions to facilitate access to this financing by communicating information to the GEF implementing agencies efficiently and in a timely manner to ensure they are aware of the financial needs of the UNCCD process;
- some Parties requested the Convention institutions to explore new financial mechanisms to enable countries to meet their reporting requirements;
- several Parties also called on the GEF to secure additional resources and facilitate access under the sixth replenishment of the GEF;
- several Parties asked the GEF, the GM and other partners to increase their efforts to build the capacity required in resource mobilisation;
- some Parties recommended that NAPs aligned with The Strategy should be given priority in the allocation of resources, and requested the GM to facilitate resource mobilisation for initiatives included in the NAPs;
- several Parties recommended focusing on implementing decisions related to institutional arrangements to make the GM operational as soon as possible;

- several Parties highlighted the importance of involving private financing in the implementation of the Convention; and
- some Parties recommended that the mid-term evaluation should pay particular attention to the assessment and evaluation of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, with a view to making the Convention processes more dynamic and effective. Other Parties requested that the financial implications of implementing The Strategy be determined.

Outcomes of the open dialogue session on the role of the civil society organisations in the mobilisation of financial resources to support the implementation of the UNCCD through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

- many Parties and other stakeholders recognised the major role played by the CSOs;
- several speakers recommended that CSOs be involved in the national coordinating bodies;
- some Parties and CSOs stressed the need to build capacity among the CSOs, particularly with regard to resource mobilisation and access to funds, especially the GEF;
- some Parties called for the GM, the GEF and other donors to provide funds for CSOs to implement projects at national level;
- some Parties recommended that CSOs could share their knowledge and success stories relating to the private sector with the national authorities;
- several Parties expressed concern with the low number of COP-accredited CSOs attending CRIC 11 and recommended looking into ways and means of ensuring increased participation of civil society actors at CCD meetings; and
- several Parties stressed the need to involve CSOs in the reporting process.

Consideration of best practices

The CRIC and CST received the mandate to define means to promote the analysis and spread of best practices. In this context, the eleventh session of the CRIC considered the recommended databases as presented in document ICCD/CRIC (11)/13 of the Secretariat in order to formulate recommendations to the COP. The Parties raised the following points in particular:

In terms of identifying recommended databases and institutions, the report mentioned especially that:

- some Parties requested more information on the work and achievements of institutions responding to the call for expression on best practices, to

determine the institutions wishing to support CRIC in compiling and spreading best practices in sustainable land management, including adaptation;

- some Parties recommended that information on SLM (sustainable land management) best practices be consolidated and made available in a centralised best practice repository or through a data-sharing initiative. In this regard, several Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among the institutions participating in the call;
- some Parties recommended that best practices should be reviewed by experts, local communities and end users, to validate that these submissions are indeed best practices in local contexts; and
- some Parties recommended that the IPBES be invited to review strategies to address the issue of links between best practices, land potential and local capacities and knowledge.

In terms of accessibility of information on best practices, the report stipulated that:

- some highlighted the need to use and protect intellectual property rights of innovations presented as best practices;
- a good number of delegates welcomed the identification of elements in a data access policy and requested the Secretariat to continue looking at the practices and policies of other conventions and multilateral bodies.

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, including input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

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

The Parties examined document ICCD/CRIC(11)/15 featuring a first analysis of data relating to the refined set of performance and impact indicators and associated methods. Based on their discussions, the following points were among those noted in the session report:

- several Parties requested the CST and the CRIC to look further into refining the indicators, paying particular attention to the e-SMART (economic - Specific - Measurable - Achievable - Relevant -Time-bound) criteria, and to simplify the reporting templates in order to reduce the overall reporting burden on Parties and other reporting entities;
- several Parties recommended further engagement in the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy as an opportunity to rectify difficulties encountered in operationalising The Strategy and reporting on its implementation;

- some requested a longer reporting period and an amended reporting frequency in order to respond better to the reporting requirements, reporting cycles and indicator sensitivity; and
- some Parties recommended developing special sections within the PRAIS portal to report on supplementary indicators and/or specific actions taken by countries to combat DLDD.

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies

Proposed standard approach and process in elaborating advocacy policy frameworks and proposed advocacy policy framework on the issue of drought and water scarcity

Based on consideration of document ICCD/CRIC(11)/16 presenting a proposed draft standard approach and process to ensure consistency of advocacy policy frameworks in global and thematic issues relating to desertification, land degradation and drought and relevant for work carried out under the UNCCD, the Parties noted the following items in the session report:

- several Parties recommended that the Secretariat and UNCCD bodies strengthen the science-policy interface with a focus on drought (including water scarcity);
- several Parties called upon development partners, the GEF, international and regional development banks and other financial institutions to assist the Secretariat and Convention processes by providing additional adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the advocacy policy framework on drought (including water scarcity);
- several Parties recommended that the COP approve the advocacy policy framework on drought (including water scarcity);
- several Parties recognised the importance of developing national drought management policies and mainstreaming them in existing plans and mechanisms, especially NAPs;
- several Parties underlined the need to put policies and mechanisms in place to address disaster risk management related to drought;
- several Parties stated that synergies between conventions should be encouraged at national level, but that, at global level, multilateral environmental agreements should keep their independence;
- some Parties expressed concern that adding areas for exploration could distract Parties from the main focus of fostering implementation of the Convention on the ground and increase costs.

Measures for the implementation of Decision 6/COP.10 and the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

The Parties took note of the documentation prepared by the secretariat with regard progress made in the implementation of decision 6/COP.10) and the review of information regarding the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy.

PART 3

DECIPHERING THE MAIN TOPICS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MEETINGS OF CRIC 12, CST 11 AND COP11: WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, SEPTEMBER 2013

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CRIC

At its twelfth session, the CRIC will assess the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, the multi-year workplans of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies, including through performance indicators, and the procedures for communication of information and reporting quality and format to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, promoting and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and competent international bodies and the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.

Assessment of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy

For information, CRIC was established by the Conference of the Parties to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention. The Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) was adopted to monitor the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention (Decision 13/COP.9). Decision 11/COP.9 stipulated moreover that the Committee would assist the Conference of the Parties to review the performance during sessions held in conjunction with the COP, whilst the assessment of the implementation should be undertaken during the sessions held between the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

- a) **Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its eleventh session:** The CRIC 12 will consider the CRIC 11 report (ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1), established following an initial assessment based on information provided by the Parties and other entities during the fourth reporting and review cycle in 2010-2011 and 2012-2013. It included recommendations and conclusions on: (a) the assessment of the implementation using provisionally-adopted impact indicators; (b) the assessment of the implementation using provisionally-adopted performance indicators and the assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance

with The Strategy; (c) the review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy and the outcomes of the open dialogue session; (d) consideration of best practices; (e) improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the COP, including the input from the CST on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy; and (f) promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies. It also provides information on the actions taken by the Committee on progress made in implementation of Decision 6/COP.10 and the review of information regarding the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, respectively.

b) **Multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies:** The CRIC is responsible for reviewing multi-year workplans of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies. The Parties will consider the multi-year workplan of the Convention (2014-2017) presented in document ICCD/CRIC (12)/2-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/9.

c) **Performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies:** In accordance with Decision 11/COP.9, it is the remit of the CRIC to undertake a performance review of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies taking an results-based management approach based on reports on the two-year costed work programmes. In addition, the performance indicators and their targets included in the workplans should be used to allow for a proper assessment. A preliminary analysis of these outcomes is presented in documents: ICCD/CRIC(12)/3 (information provided by the Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, CST and CRIC on their performance during the biennium 2012-2013), ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.1 (performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies), ICCD/COP(11)/8 (financial performance of the Convention trust funds, ICCD/COP(11)/9 (unverified financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2012-2013), ICCD/COP(11)/10 (audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium ended 31 December 2011), ICCD/COP(11)/11 (state of contributions to the Convention special trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013), ICCD/COP (11)/12 (audited financial statements for the Convention special trust fund for the biennium ended 31 December 2011) and ICCD/COP(11)/13 (audited financial statements for the Convention special trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013).

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

a) **Consideration of the overall report on the fourth reporting and review process:** The Parties will consider the report by the Executive Secretary in document ICCD/CRIC(12)/7 on the fourth reporting and review process. The procedures

and outcomes will be addressed, as will human and financial resource requirements, the lessons learned and feedback received from Parties and other reporting entities.

b) Consideration of best practices on the implementation of the Convention

- i) **Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices:** The CRIC and CST bureaux received the mandate to define means to promote the analysis and spread of best practices. Under this context, the Bureaux of the two subsidiary bodies addressed this issue during a joint meeting in September 2012 and a consultation in May 2013. The eleventh session of the CRIC had also considered the recommended databases as presented in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/13 from the Secretariat. The joint report from the CRIC and CST Bureaux on promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices (ICCD/CRIC(12)/4-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/7) will be reviewed by the two bodies.
- ii) **Accessibility of best practices:** The CRIC 11 also addressed this item. It will be recalled that the CRIC was entrusted with considering the question of a framework directive for making data and information communicated by the Parties accessible to the general public. Although the reports provided by the Parties to the Secretariat must enter the public domain, nothing has been specified about raw data or on data sharing. In common with other United Nations institutions, the UNCCD has not adopted a consistent approach in the matter. Different templates exist, between refining an information divulging policy, allowing the publication of data with conditions and restrictions and free access, either universal free access to data and information without conditions (but combined with a denial of liability and a general obligation to name the source), via a data access policy inspired by practices followed by other United Nations institutions that manage databases thus supplied by the Parties (like the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)). The Parties provided inputs on this topic during CRIC 11 and will review this item further during CRIC 12 (see CRIC 11 in the previous section, under the heading Consideration of best practices).

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies.

In its Decision 9/COP.10, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to continue formulating an additional advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought (including water scarcity), to develop a standard approach and process to ensure consistency of advocacy policy frameworks, to advise on any other emerging issues and strategic approaches that require an advocacy policy framework and To submit reports on these issues to its eleventh session. The Parties considered a proposed draft standard approach and process to ensure consistency of advocacy policy

frameworks in global and thematic issues relating to desertification, land degradation and drought and relevant for work carried out under the UNCCD; the conclusions are presented in the reports ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1., ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.2 and ICCD/CRIC(12)/CRP.1. The review and assessment of progress also figures on the programme of work of the CRIC at its twelfth session.

Report by the Global Environment Facility on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification and Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility

The Parties will examine document ICCD/CRIC(12)/6 under the assessment of collaboration with the GEF. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF must also work together to determine whether the Memorandum of Understanding should be amended and to report to the eleventh session of the COP.

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CST

The eleventh session of the CST will address how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, consideration of progress made in the organisation of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with The Strategy, improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories, the roster of independent experts, consideration of the progress report of the UNCCD fellowship programme and consideration of the draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2014–2017).

Review of the report on the third extraordinary session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Parties will review the report of the third extraordinary session of the CST (CST S-3), found in document ICCD/CST(S-3)/7.

Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy

The CST will address three aspects: The iterative process for the refinement of the set of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; improving the quality and the format of reports on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties; and integrating, analysing and interpreting impact indicator information from a scientific point of view. For information, Decision 17/COP.9 requested the Secretariat, under the guidance of the CST Bureau and using an iterative process, to develop proposals to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies and Decision 19/COP.10 established an ad hoc advisory group of technical experts (AGTE) tasked, mainly, with continuing the iterative participatory process whereby the scientific community, national focal points and science and

technology correspondents contribute to the refinement of impact indicators and the monitoring and assessment of impacts.

The AGTE recommendations are contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/2. It also includes a proposal for a refined set of meaningful, globally applicable and cost-effective impact indicators and, among other things, a science-based approach for the delineation of affected areas, suggestions on how to simplify the reporting process while focusing on the benefits that reporting might hold for a country and how to integrate nationally and locally relevant information/indicators into the global impact assessment.

Consideration of progress made in the organisation of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice in the Convention process

The COP requested the CST (Decision 18/COP.9) to conduct an assessment of how to organise international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, taking into account the need to ensure transparency and geographical balance. The CST considered an overview with four options on how to organise international, interdisciplinary scientific advice (mainly in documents ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(10)/CST/MISC and ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.1). An ad hoc working group was also established, taking into consideration regional balance, to discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice on DLDD issues.

Parties to CST 11 will consider this item further based on documents ICCD/COP(11)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.2. These summarise the conclusions and recommendations of suitable components that would shape an integrated scenario for providing scientific advice to the COP on DLDD, as elaborated by the ad hoc working group. The Committee will decide on recommendations to be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties.

Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with The Strategy

Review of the outcomes of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference: During the CST S-3, the Parties had a chance to review the preliminary outcomes of the 2nd Scientific Conference presented by the Davos Global Risk Forum (Davos GRF) as the lead institution. The Parties were then invited to submit their views and comments before CST 11. Based on documents ICCD/COP(11)/CST/4 (a compilation of assessments and recommendations of Parties on the review of the preliminary outcomes of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference), ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.3 (on the final outcomes of the 2nd Scientific Conference) and ICCD/COP(11)/CST/4 (on how to maintain the momentum from the Conference in a sustainable manner), the Parties will discuss this item and may forward recommendations to the COP.

Assessment of the organisation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference: The Parties will consider document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/4 which addresses the in-depth assessment of the organisation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, including

the approaches to scientific partnership-building employed, and document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.5 which outlines the results of the assessment of the organisation of the 2nd Scientific Conference, as conducted by an independent consultant.

Assessment of UNCCD scientific conferences: For information, since Decision 13/COP.8, all ordinary CST sessions have been organised in a scientific and technical conference-style format in consultation with a lead institution that has expertise in the thematic topic chosen by the Conference of the Parties. Decision 18/COP.10 requested the CST Bureau to conduct, after the 2nd Scientific Conference, an assessment of whether to hold the scientific conferences during intersessional or ordinary sessions of the CST. Document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/4 presents the outcomes, among other things. The CST will consider these outcomes and may also wish to address the timetable for further scientific conferences.

Consideration of the progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on “Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”: The 3rd Scientific Conference will be held in 2014 during an extraordinary session of the CST, in accordance with the Decision 18/COP.10. The “Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development (STK4SD)”, selected as lead institution, has undertaken the first steps in preparing and organising the 3rd Scientific Conference. Document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/5 summarises progress since CST S-3 to the end of May 2013. Further progress made after this date will be presented verbally by the Chairman of CST 11.

Improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories

Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal: As a reminder, COP10 had adopted Decision 21/COP.10 on improving knowledge management. The Parties will consider document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/6, setting out the actions taken under the general knowledge management by the Secretariat, including the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal, and document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.4 highlighting the progress and improvements made to the portal.

Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices: This item has been addressed earlier in the section presenting the CRIC 12 agenda items under "Consideration of best practices on the implementation of the Convention (i) Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices". The joint report from the CRIC and CST Bureaux on promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices (ICCD/CRIC(12)/4-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/7) will be reviewed by the two bodies.

Roster of independent experts

In accordance with Decision 23/COP.10, which requested the Parties to update the details of current national experts and propose new candidates, and those that had not yet nominated experts for the roster to do so, the CST to review and update the

list of disciplines and the Secretariat to set up an Internet page to facilitate the process of updating the roster, document ICCD/COP(11)/15 presents progress made in updating the roster of experts using tools on the web page and a proposal for a review of disciplines of the roster of independent experts, for preliminary consideration by the CST. The Parties may wish to make recommendations on this topic to the Conference of the Parties.

Consideration of the progress report of the UNCCD fellowship programme

The Parties will consider the progress report on the facilitation activities with the multi-stakeholder partnership and the establishment of the fellowship programme, in accordance with Decision 22/COP.10. Document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/8 outlines the main issues to be addressed by CST 11, including the establishment of the steering group for the fellowship programme, the work of that group and the attempts at building partnerships to implement the fellowship programme.

Consideration of the multi-year workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2014–2017)

The Parties will consider the draft multi-year workplan for the CST found in document ICCD/CRIC(12)/2-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/9 in accordance with Decisions 3/COP.8, in which the COP requests the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies to develop results-based management multi-year (four-year) workplans, and 1/COP.10 requesting the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to establish, in accordance with Decision 3/COP.8, a multi-year workplan (2014-2017), using results-based management approaches. Decision 1/COP.10 also requested the Secretariat to integrate these plans into a complete multi-year workplan for the Convention, for consideration at COP11.

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COP

The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD will deal mainly with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention, the governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism, including recommendations on the new housing arrangements of the Global Mechanism, the programme and budget, collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, including the amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF on enhanced collaboration and a special segment of dialogue sessions.

Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts

This item has been addressed earlier in the CST section under the heading Roster of independent experts.

10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy)

For information, the Strategy, adopted by Decision 3/COP.8, contains four strategic objectives: improving the living conditions of affected populations, improving the conditions of affected ecosystems, generating global benefits through effective implementation of the Convention and mobilising resources to support implementation of the Convention. These objectives must serve to guide the action of all stakeholders and all Convention partners during the period 2008-2018.

The Strategy also contains five operational objectives listed below. These must guide the short- and medium-term action (three to five years) taken by all the stakeholders and all the Convention partners to work towards achieving strategic objectives:

- 1) **Advocacy, awareness raising and education** to influence actively relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues;
- 2) **Action framework:** to support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;
- 3) **Science, technology and knowledge:** to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought;
- 4) **Capacity building:** to identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;
- 5) **Technology financing and transfer:** To mobilise and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness .

Each session is an opportunity for the Parties to take stock of the implementation at all levels. Under COP11, the Parties will address the review the implementation of the Convention, the review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy, the independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, the alignment of action programmes with The Strategy and the review of the report of the CST.

- a) **Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties:** The COP is responsible for reviewing the reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and giving them guidance (UNCCD Article 22, paragraph 2(d)). The COP will review the report of CRIC 11, including the draft decisions, during its plenary session.

- b) **Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy:** The delegates will consider the report on progress made in implementing the comprehensive communication strategy, presented by the Executive Secretary and figuring in document ICCD/COP(11)/2.
- c) **Independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy:** The update reviewed process will be presented to the Parties; information on this can be found in document ICCD/COP(11)/21.
- d) **Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention:** Decision 3/COP.10 asked the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to strengthen their cooperation at regional level by ensuring the effectiveness of addressing region-specific issues. The Parties will consider the report presented by the Executive Secretary and contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/14. This describes the main issues to be addressed during COP 11 on this item, mainly:
- some progress has been made with improving the institutional arrangements for hosting RCUs, especially in the LAC region;
 - effectively functioning RCUs and RCMs can become valuable vehicles in helping to develop some of the tools and processes for implementation at all levels, including the alignment of NAP and SRAP, the effective functioning of thematic programme networks, awareness-raising, bilateral and multilateral cooperation and building capacities through the transfer of technology, the sharing of expertise and knowledge and the exchange of information.
 - Adequate financial resources remain a serious hindrance to the effective participation of CSOs in the Convention processes at subregional, regional and global level. Supporting CSO participation, at least at subregional and regional level, is a question that could be partly addressed with the assistance of RCUs and through cooperation within the RCMs.
 - A need for participation of organisations and institutions making up the RCMs was identified.
- e) **Alignment of action programmes with The Strategy:** During its previous session, the COP adopted Decision 2/COP.10 on the acceleration of the alignment of NAPs, SRAPs and RAP with The Strategy. As stated earlier, CRIC 12 is tasked with considering the CRIC 11 report (ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1), including especially the assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy. Many Parties contributed to this item during CRIC 11, addressing mainly: the financing from the GEF for supporting NAP alignment, the need to streamline NAP, the importance of preliminary analyses of sustainable land management options, priorities consistent with national development policies and related internal coordination mechanisms, the participatory aspect of the alignment process, the importance

of the availability of effective tools for guiding the alignment process and the need for direct access to financing, especially the GEF. CRIC 12 may wish to submit draft decisions for review at COP11 on this topic.

- f) **Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties:** During its first session, the COP decided (Decision 9/COP.1) that the review of CST reports, including its recommendations to the COP and its work programme, would be a standing item on its agenda. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the recommendations of CST 11 and provide the necessary guidance to the CST.

Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism, including recommendations on the new housing arrangements of the Global Mechanism.

By its decision 6/COP.10, the COP decided that the accountability and the legal representation of the GM would be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Convention Secretariat. Henceforth, the GM should report to the COP under its mandate and all issues relating to the implementation of the Convention should be presented to the COP by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary assumed overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on accounting, performance and activities of the Global Mechanism, to the COP; In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD should be reviewed, especially with regard to the administrative and operational modalities of the GM.

An informal debate on this topic was organised at CRIC 11 and a report (ICCD/COP(11)/3) is being submitted to the eleventh session of the COP for a decision. It includes especially recommendations on new housing arrangements for the GM, considering, among other things, potentially sharing premises with the Convention Secretariat and taking into account costs, operating modalities, synergies and governance efficiencies.

Programme and budget

As mentioned in the section on CRIC 12, the COP is responsible for approving the programme and budget, including for its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake the necessary arrangements for their financing.

- a) **Programme and budget for the biennium 2014-2015:** The Strategy of the COP requested the CST, CRIC, GM and Secretariat to prepare multi-year workplans (four years) according to the principles of results-based management for integration in the comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention. These workplans include biennial cost estimations for the work programme. The budget, prepared by the Secretariat, integrates the estimated costs of all the biennial programmes. As mentioned in the specific section on CRIC 12, this body will review the integrated, comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention and the COP will review the costed biennial work programmes. The following

documents will be considered by COP11: document ICCD/COP(10)/6, that presents the draft budget reflecting miscellaneous scenarios (zero nominal growth and zero real growth in results-based budget and work programmes for the biennium 2014-2015), document ICCD/COP(11)/7 presenting the costed integrated work programme 2014-2015 and covering the proposed work programmes for the Secretariat, GM, CST and CRIC and document ICCD/CRIC(12)/2-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/9, that contains the full multi-year work plan for the Convention (2014-2017).

- b) **Financial performance for the Convention trust funds:** In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period must be provided to Parties. In addition, Decision 10/COP.10 requested the Executive Secretary to report to COP11 on the state of the trust funds. The most recent information can be found in documents ICCD/COP(11)/8 ICCD/CRIC(12)/3 and ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.1. In addition, the unverified financial statements for the Convention trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013 are found in document ICCD/COP(11)/9, the audited financial statements for the Convention trust fund are found in documents ICCD/COP(11)/10, ICCD/COP(11)/12 and ICCD/COP(11)/13 and the report on the state of contributions to the Convention trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013 is found in document ICCD/COP(11)/11.

Follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)

Decision 8/COP.10 expressed the deep appreciation of the Parties to the UNCCD to the United Nations General Assembly for convening and holding the High-level Meeting on “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” at its 66th session on 20 September 2011. The Executive Secretary was also requested to participate actively in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to contribute to the compilation document within the context of the Rio+20 Conference themes, to ensure due regard to DLDD issues. The Parties will examine document ICCD/COP(11)/5 presenting the information on this matter.

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility: amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility on enhanced collaboration

Decision 2/CO.10 requested the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the GEF, to report to COP 11, through CRIC, on the implementation of provisions of this decision (supporting the alignment of subregional and regional programmes with The Strategy, increasing the allocations and simplifying the procedures). CRIC 12 could forward to COP11 draft decisions for consideration and adoption, including on the alignment of action programmes with The Strategy and their implementation.

Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organisations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

COP10 adopted Decision 5/COP.10 granting observer status and participation in official meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention to civil society organisations and other entities representing business and industry that fulfil certain requirements. The Secretariat is tasked with facilitating the process of revising and updating the list of these organisations and entities by establishing formats, guidelines and other tools that might be required for this purpose. The Parties to COP11 will consider the report of the Secretariat (ICCD/COP(11)/4) on the implementation of this Decision.

Outstanding items

During COP11, the Parties will address a series of outstanding items including Rule 47 of the rules of procedure (document ICCD/COP(11)/16), procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation (document ICCD/COP(11)/17) and the annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures (document ICCD/COP(11)/18).

United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)

The last COP adopted Decision 38/COP.10 stipulating the inclusion of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020) on the COP11 agenda. The Parties will consider a report on the activities supporting the Decade, found in document ICCD/COP(11)/19.

Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organisations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions

By its Decision 27/COP.1 (repeated in Decisions 38/COP.10 and 5/COP.9), the COP requested that open dialogue sessions organised by NGOs be included in the official programme of work of the sessions of the COP and that the Secretariat facilitate the inclusion of at least two half-day sessions in the official programme of work. These sessions should be organised in consultation with the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties through its President. The two half-day sessions have been scheduled provisionally for 20 and 25 September.

Special segment: dialogue sessions

An interactive dialogue session is planned between the high-level officials of Parties attending COP11 on 23 and 24 September. This session includes round-table discussions on suggestions for actions to achieve the objectives of The Strategy and guidance on furthering the implementation process. General information on this question can be found in document ICCD/COP(11)/INF.2.

PART 4

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE NEGOTIATOR

1. THE APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS

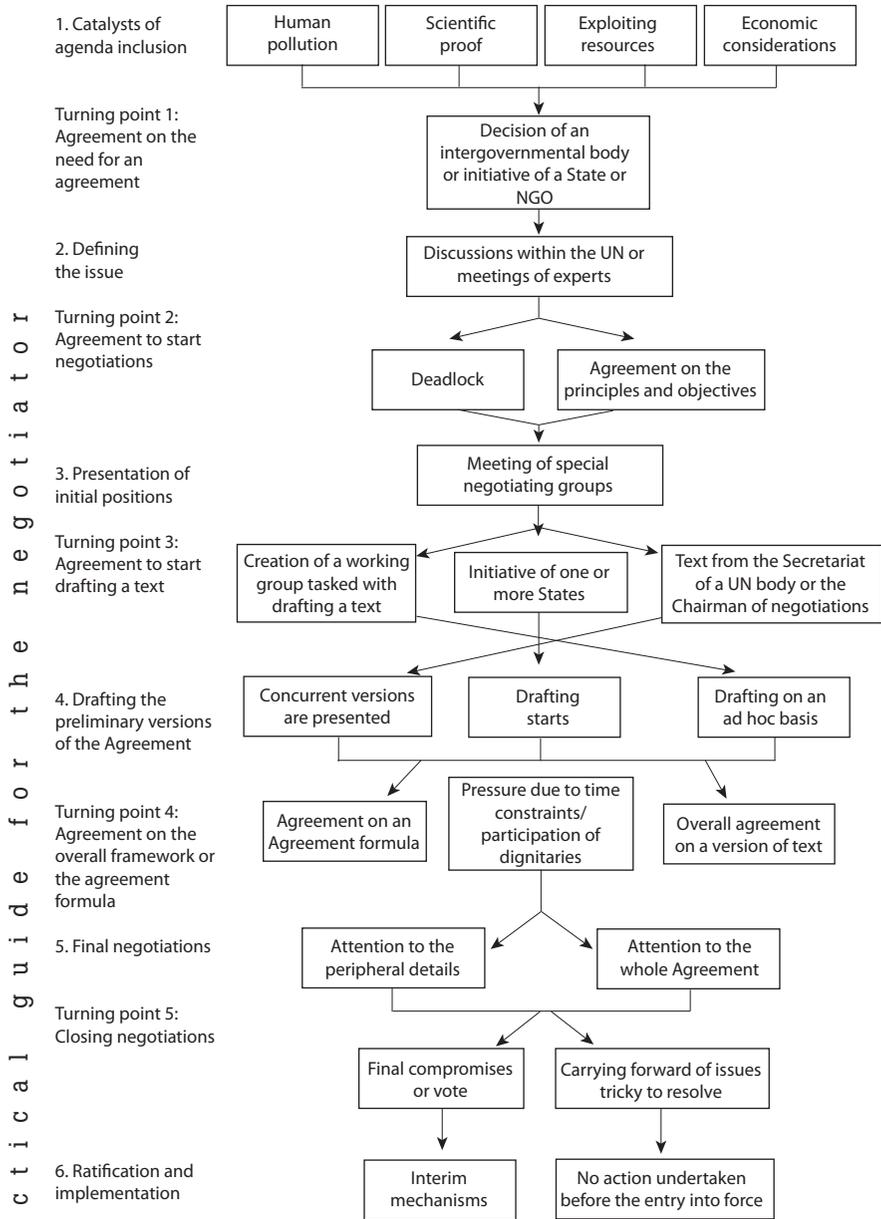
The negotiator's days are long, full and riddled with the unexpected during meetings of multilateral bodies. Experienced negotiators learn over time how best to equip themselves for changing circumstances; on the other hand, for many, this is their baptism of fire. The aim of this section is to guide the first-timers so that they feel more confident and thus achieve the best possible outcome.

Getting ready to get the most out of their participation in the negotiations involves:⁹⁰

- a good understanding of the issues at the meeting he is about to attend;
- in-depth understanding of the interests of his country and knowledge of its detailed position;
- knowledge of other country positions; to achieve this, consult other delegations, Internet sites and coalition documents, if appropriate;
- knowledge of proposals previously adopted or rejected by the intergovernmental body;
- having consulted and read the documents published by the Convention Secretariat before the meeting;
- keeping a trace of previous positions and referring to them when developing new positions;
- making sure you have a clear and precise mandate before leaving the capital;
- preparing an ideal position and a minimum position for each of the issues under negotiation; the zone of possible agreement is alignment between the minimum positions of groups;
- knowing what you are prepared to abandon and establishing links between these points and gains that could be achieved through discussions with other Parties;
- preparing your intentions in advance, if appropriate.

90. According to various sources, including: Joyeeta Gupta, On Behalf of My Delegation, ...: A Survival Guide for Developing Country Climate Negotiators, IIDD, 2001 (www.cckn.net/pdf/my_delegation_en.pdf).

Box 7.9 The negotiating phases



Adapted from: Pamela Chasek, "A Comparative Analysis of Multilateral Environmental Negotiation", *Group Decision and Negotiation*, 6: 437-461, 1997.

Preparing a briefing book is a way of making sure that all points have been covered. The book includes a file for each negotiating issue including all the relevant information - the delegation's ideal and minimum positions, its previous positions, the previous positions of other countries or groups of countries, the relevant official documents and any other source of useful information.

It is also important to try to avoid a "hollow" negotiating mandate, i.e. a mandate without substance which encourages vague and general declarations and which restricts the possibility of developing regional positions and building coalitions. This means favouring precise, constructive interventions leading to realistic proposals rather than ideological-type pronouncements which impede the formation of common-interest coalitions.

2. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DELEGATE

If you are a member of a large delegation, your day will probably start with a meeting of your delegation, before the opening of the plenary session or the start of the work of the working groups. Regional group meetings under the CCD are held in the morning, in addition to the G77/China meetings. Attending these meetings gives you the chance to obtain information on the state of negotiations and, if appropriate, to coordinate positions. As many discussions take place outside the formal negotiating framework, it is often useful to attend the meetings of your delegation or your negotiating group to update yourself and make sure that you will be able to follow the discussions of the day that is just starting. The meetings are also a chance for you to coordinate with your colleagues and split the many forums and events between you (plenary, working groups and sub-groups, informal groups, side events, protocol events and miscellaneous meetings).

Official sessions normally take place before lunch (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and in the afternoon (3 pm. to 6 p.m.). Negotiations frequently continue into the evening and even the night. Simultaneous interpretation is halted at the end of official sessions (sometimes later) in most negotiating rooms. This can prove a hindrance to the continuation of negotiations, as several delegations are unable to follow the discussions that are normally held in English. The negotiator must be prepared to be highly flexible, for formal and informal negotiating sessions can take place at any time, even over the weekend. The negotiator's day can also include lengthy waits, when the President and his bureau are working on a summary text, for example. Make sure you check regularly for the session resumption time and when and where the text will be made available.

Side events are organised during the lunch break and at 6 p.m. These events are a valuable source of information in addition to providing an informal venue for building or enhancing your network of contacts. The same is true of receptions and other organised social activities (often by the host country or by delegations) in the context of negotiations or on the side.

A few essential rules for the negotiator

1. Support the process and participate constructively even in difficult situations. Unwarranted obstructionism can undermine the whole system.
2. Look for the win-win situations and look for opportunities to support countries with different interests where possible. Their support may be needed in the future.
3. Treat other participants courteously and honestly. Good relationships and trust are invaluable assets, particularly when thinking about the long term. Humour and diplomacy can be very persuasive.
4. Focus on substantive objectives and be flexible on wording when your instructions allow. Focus on the interests of your country and other countries, rather than positions, to make progress.
5. Nevertheless, listen to the speakers very carefully and also pay scrupulous attention to what is not said. Be aware of the hierarchy of terms used. For example, "must" and "decide" carry more weight than "should", "can", "recommend" or "invite", among others.
6. In a session, when concerned and in doubt, request square brackets around the text in question and allow discussion to move on.
7. A workshop or informal group may help to resolve an impasse. More information and deeper understanding of the issues are sometimes the only way to move forward.
8. Prepare carefully for interventions, with a clear focus on objectives. Prioritise interests and focus the number and length of interventions accordingly. Brevity and restraint are appreciated and are often very effective in winning support from others.
9. Be prepared for practical necessities, including alternative transportation, alternative meals, and local currency (small denominations!). Carrying simple food and a bottle of water is a good idea. Eat when possible – a negotiator's life is unpredictable and meals do not always happen when planned!

Taken from: *MEA Negotiator's Handbook*, p. xi, and "*On Behalf of My Delegation, ...*": *A Survival Guide for Developing Country Climate Negotiators*, J. GUPTA, 2001.

3. THE DELEGATE'S INFORMATION SOURCES

A certain number of resources cannot be ignored. The Secretariat publishes an official journal of the session. This describes the day's working sessions along with side events and other scheduled activities. It is also a good idea to consult the Earth Negotiations Bulletin that reports on the previous day's negotiations. This Bulletin is

also a useful tool in widening the history of a question in the negotiations, as meeting summaries are published when each one closes.

The official documents relating to the negotiation, including the agenda, must always be to hand. These documents are usually available on the Convention Secretariat's website and from the documentation centre that is normally located permanently at the negotiation venue. Preparatory official documents should be available in all the United Nations official languages. However, this is not always possible, but most documents are least available in French.

It is also essential to pick up the working documents (conference room papers (CRP)) - see the document listing under point 5 below). These are documents produced during the negotiations and distributed to the documentation centre as the negotiations advance. They are usually in English only. The various versions of the President's texts are essential, if appropriate, as are the final versions of decisions and the report that will be adopted during the closing plenary session. These documents are normally translated into all the United Nations official languages.

Some delegations have a guide, or briefing book, that sets out the issues and details their negotiating positions.

Look out for side events. These activities are organised by Parties, research centres or universities, non-governmental organisations, international organisations or players in the private sector, who use them to present research findings, positions or claims, good practices to be shared, etc. They take place during negotiating sessions, most often, but not exclusively, during the lunch break and after 6 p.m. They can be held in rooms in the main building where the negotiating sessions are held, or in nearby hotels or other premises. Permanent information fairs are organised in some forums for the entire negotiation session. Interested organisations can set up an information kiosk here and distribute documentation to the visitors. Information about side events can normally be found in the official journal produced every day by the Secretariat.

Lastly, do not hesitate to consult the members of other delegations and the members of non-governmental organisations attending the meeting. They could provide additional information, clarify certain issues that can seem rather obscure, update progress in discussions in a working group or provide information on the time and place of a meeting or the distribution of a working document.

4. THE AGENDA

A UNCCD meeting agenda takes the form of a document with the identifier ICCD/COP(x)/1, ICCD/COP(x)/CST/1 or ICCD/CRIC(x)/1. The agenda is annotated and describes each issue that will be addressed during the meeting. Associated documents are also mentioned. The Conference of the Parties (COP), the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and

the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) normally hold their meetings in parallel. For example, COP7 (17-28 October 2005), CST 7 (18-20 October 2005) and CRIC 4 (18-21 October 2005) were held simultaneously in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2005. This means that the meeting agendas can sometimes overlap. It is therefore useful to distinguish clearly the issues and items of agendas to which they relate. The Chairman of the session will refer to these items when a question is addressed. As a same topic can relate to different items on the COP and CRIC agendas, for example, a table like this, illustrating the COP7 issues, may prove necessary to avoid confusion.

Guide to the Negotiations UNCCD - COP11

Major issues	Relevant agenda items		
	COP7	CST-7	CRIC-4
Review of the implementation of the Convention	7		2
Review of the implementation in country Parties		12a	2b
Recommendations and future work programme of the CRIC	7a		5, 6
Procedures and mechanisms likely to improve the review of the implementation	7b		
Scientific and technical issues	8		
Roster of independent experts and ad hoc expert groups	8b	4, 15	
Traditional knowledge		7	
Benchmarks and indicators		8	
Early warning systems		9	
Assessment of drylands degradation		10	
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment		11	
Recommendations and future work programme of the CST		14	
Improving the operation of the CST	6		
Synergies between relevant environmental conventions	10	13	
Institutional issues			
Programme and budget for the financial period 2006-2007	6		
In-depth review of activities of the Secretariat	9		2b
Global Mechanism	14		3
Implementation financing (GEF)			4
Follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	11		
Rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units	12		
Outstanding items	13		
Consideration of the interim report on the status of preparation of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification	15		
Consideration of the report on relations between the secretariat and its host country	16		
Work programme of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session	19		

5. NAVIGATING IN UN DOCUMENTS

The table below gives the listing of official documents prepared for UNCCD sessions.

Listing	Type of document	Description
ICCD/COP(x)/doc	Official COP documents	Preparatory documents which will be discussed
ICCD/CRIC(x)/doc	CRIC documents	Preparatory documents which will be discussed
ICCD/CST(x)/doc	CST documents	Preparatory documents which will be discussed
ICCD/COP(x)/AHWG/doc	Documents of the ad hoc working group on improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.	Miscellaneous documents
/Add.doc	Additional documents	Additional sections of one document
/INF.doc	Information documents	General information
L.doc	Limited documents	Normally, draft decisions before their official adoption by the COP
Corr.doc	Corrigendum	Corrections to be made to a document (whose identifier precedes the suffix)
Misc.doc	Miscellaneous documents	Points of view of Parties and observers, etc.
Rev.doc	Revision	Revised version of a document
CRP.doc	Conference Room Papers	Documents circulated during the meeting; they can often be negotiating texts

x = number of the meeting (for example, COP(7))
 doc = sequential number of the document (for example, COP(7)/4).

6. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The rules of procedures is the first item on the agenda of the first Conference of the Parties held after the adoption of a multilateral environmental agreement. It must be adopted unanimously and is of prime importance, as it defines the negotiating modalities and for dealing with business during and between the official sessions. The rules of procedure include the place and frequency of COPs, opening to observers and their status, publication modalities for official documents, rules about the budget, representation of Party States (credentials), constitution and operation of the Bureau and subsidiary bodies, the quorum, voting procedures, conduct of debates, etc. Delegates to the COP should also be very familiar with the rules of procedure to ensure control of the technical aspects of negotiations.

The UNCCD rules of procedure were adopted during COP1 (document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1), except for Article 22, paragraph 2 (adopted at COP2), Article 31 (adopted at COP2) and Article 47. Article 47 relates to the voting procedure on substantive issues. The article was still outstanding after COP9 and was placed on the COP10 agenda with a request to the Secretariat to report on the status of similar rules of procedure in other multilateral environmental agreements (Decision 27/COP.9, ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1*).

It is important to understand that, under multilateral environmental agreements, decisions are normally reached unanimously or by consensus. Unanimity means that all delegations approve the proposed text. Consensus means that no delegation objects sufficiently to block the decision. Exceptionally, the President may request a vote. Article 47 of the rules of procedure must state in particular that if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the decision must be taken by a simple majority vote or a two-thirds majority vote (see draft Decision 21/COP.2 in document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1).

UNCCD rules of procedure

Art.	Content	Art.	Content
1	Jurisdictional Scope	31	Election of officers of subsidiary bodies
2	Definitions	32	Voting in subsidiary bodies
3	Place of sessions	33	Matters for consideration
4	Dates of sessions	34	Duties of the head of the Permanent Secretariat
5	Notification of sessions	35	Functions of the Permanent Secretariat
6	Participation of United Nations and specialised agencies	36	Sessions
7	Participation of other bodies or agencies	37	Quorum
8	Notification by Secretariat	38	Procedures for speaking
9	Preparation of provisional agenda	39	Precedence
10	Items on provisional agenda	40	Points of order
11	Distribution of provisional agenda	41	Decisions on competence
12	Supplementary items	42	Proposals and amendments to proposals
13	Addition, deletion, deferment or amendment of items	43	Order of procedural motions
14	Provisional agenda of extraordinary session	44	Withdrawal of proposals or motions
15	Report on administrative and budgetary implications	45	Reconsideration of proposals
16	Incomplete consideration of item	46	Right to Vote
17	Composition of delegation	47	Majority required
18	Alternates and advisers	48	Order of voting on proposals
19	Submission of credentials	49	Division of proposals and amendments
20	Examination of credentials	50	Amendment to a proposal
21	Provisional participation	51	Order of voting on amendments to a proposal
22	Election of officers	52	Method of voting for general matters
23	General powers of the President	53	Conduct during voting
24	Acting President	54	Method of voting for elections
25	Replacement of an officer	55	Absence of majority
26	Temporary President	56	Election to two or more elective places
27	Application of rules to subsidiary bodies	57	Official languages
28	Establishment of subsidiary bodies	58	Interpretation
29	Quorum for non open-ended subsidiary bodies	59	Languages of official documents
30	Dates of meetings	60	Sound records of sessions
		61	Amendments
		62	Precedence of Convention
		63	Italicised headings

7. COALITIONS - KNOWING WHEN TO FORM AN ALLIANCE FOR THE SAKE OF EFFICIENCY

Isolation is one problem that threatens the representative of a small national delegation, as is frequently the case for developing countries. An isolated delegate will be less effective and will lose interest in the negotiations. The best solution to avoid this problem is to follow your regional group or join forces with a coalition.

The UN has created five regional groups to ensure equitable geographical representation within its institutions: the African group, the Asiatic group, the Latin America and Caribbean group (GRULAC), the Central and Eastern European group (CEE) and the Western Europe and Others group (WEOG). When a subsidiary body or any other working or negotiating group is open ended, the members of each regional group delegate the number of people required to represent the group. It can happen, nevertheless, that the members of a same regional group do not share the same interests or negotiating positions. The Chairman can then decide to expand the composition of the working or negotiating group to include more delegates and thus reflect a greater number of viewpoints. He can also decide to use another representation format, as, for example, during the negotiations for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Indeed, during the meeting in Vienna (1999), the Chairman of the Working Group on Biosafety requested the delegations to form groups based on the coalitions of interests being formed during negotiations and to appoint a spokesman for each coalition.

Thus, in several areas, the coalitions of interests do not always follow the regional UN groupings. There are normally three main negotiating blocks: G-77/China, made up of 134 developing countries, the European Union (EU) that represents its 25 member States and the JUSSCANNZ (Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand, joined occasionally by Mexico, Israel, South Korea and Iceland⁹¹). Note, however, that the JUSSCANNZ acts more as a consultation group and does not develop a joint position. In some cases, the issues raised by a negotiation can lead to the establishment of negotiating groups specific to a multi-lateral agreement. For example, in climate change negotiations, the petroleum exporting countries (OPEC) form a group, as does the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

In the international desertification negotiations, the oppositions basically spoke on a North-South axis, although some regional divergences within the South itself were also apparent during the negotiations culminating in the adoption of the UNCCD and still remain⁹². Thus, the countries are basically assembled in regional groups, but the EU and the G-77/China also speak as negotiating groups.

91. http://glossary.eea.europa.eu/terminology/concept_html?term=jusscannz.

92. See note 3, chapter 5.

To avoid being isolated and confused faced with the magnitude and complexity of negotiations, the delegate will make sure he identifies the sub-group to which his country belongs and to befriend other delegations that share his country's viewpoint or are likely to do so. Free time, during breaks and after negotiating sessions, is ideal for addressing members of other delegations and discussing the concerns of your country. A significant proportion of discussions in fact takes place "in the corridors"; it is therefore important and useful to be active both inside the negotiating room and out.

The NGOs may also support a delegation, help it to identify its allies or provide it with information and explanations on the negotiations. The regional group meetings of the delegate and his coalition (G-77, African group, etc.), normally in the morning, are a major source of information and a chance to take part in developing a common stance. Joining up with other delegations will also reduce negotiating costs by sharing both human and physical resources, being better informed, expanding your national position and inserting it into a more global framework and enjoying far more influence, by having items included on the agenda or by defending a viewpoint more effectively, for example. For French-speaking delegations, collaborating with other delegations more at ease in English may also help to express and take their concerns into consideration.

8. WORKING GROUPS

The plenary meeting of the Conference of the Parties is the body that makes the final decisions during negotiating sessions. However, negotiating with nearly two hundred country Parties can sometimes prove taxing and even impossible. Working groups are therefore often established to continue the work on tricky questions in a more restricted context, whilst the COP continues to work on other issues. Most of the texts prepared by working groups are adopted by the COP without modification. A presence in these groups is therefore important if the issue being discussed is crucial for your delegation, as it will not be addressed further in a plenary session. As interpretation is not always provided in the rooms where restricted group meetings are held, it is useful to send members of the delegation sufficiently comfortable with English or to reach an understanding with another delegation to put forward a specific viewpoint.

There are several types of group:

- **Working groups:** these can be established by the Chairman of the COP or by the Chairman of its subsidiary bodies (CRIC, CST) to focus on one or more agenda items requiring special attention. They normally have a chairman and co-chairman representing different regions (for example, one from the North and one from the South). These groups are open to participation by all interested Parties (open ended).

- **Contact groups:** these groups are established when discussions on a specific controversial topic risk slowing down the progress of the COP. They are open most of the time, but in practice it is mainly the Parties involved in the conflict who take part. Their aim is to find a solution to the problem dividing the Parties.
- **Informal groups:** when the contact groups have not managed to resolve the differences, the Chairman can decide to create an informal group. The Parties can thus meet in private. Informal groups are not open to observers.
- **Informal-informal groups (or non-groups):** informal-informal group meetings take place in private, without note taking (no report). Conflicting Parties are able to discuss issues more freely and an attempt can be made to overcome deadlocks in the negotiations.
- **Friends of the Chair:** the Chairman can create such a group in very sensitive negotiations, comprising a small number of key delegates who represent the regional groups, to explore the paths to consensus between the different positions expressed. The Chairman normally chooses the Parties most involved in the discussions to represent the others within the Friends of the Chair. Non-governmental actors may be invited to take part on occasion.
- **Committee of the Whole (COW):** as its name suggests, this has almost the same powers and functions as the COP plenary. It acts in a way like a mirror committee, created to allow greater flexibility in the discussions. Made up of the same participants as the Conference of the Parties, it takes on the operational issues on the agenda and transmits its recommendations to the COP, whereas the Conference of the Parties takes charge of policy issues (elections, votes and official decision making).
- **Drafting groups:** these groups are established to prepare texts for subsequent submission to the COP for adoption. Special drafting groups made up of legal experts are sometimes set up (Legal Drafting Groups (LDG)).

ANNEX I

RATIFICATION STATUS OF THE UNCCD

All member States of the United Nations and also the Cook Islands and Niue (non UN members) are Parties to the Convention. Canada has however advised the Secretary General of the United Nations that it is withdrawing from the Convention. Its withdrawal will take effect on 28 March 2014⁹³.

Ratification status of the UNCCD (as at 29 May 2012)

Source : <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/convention/ratification-eng.pdf>

1. Mexico	03/04/95	24. Burkina Faso	26/01/96
2. Cape Verde	08/05/95	25. Spain	30/01/96
3. Netherlands	27/06/95	26. Micronesia	25/03/96
4. Egypt	07/07/95	27. Israel	26/03/96
5. Senegal	26/07/95	28. Portugal	01/04/96
6. Ecuador	06/09/95	29. Panama	04/04/96
7. Lesotho	12/09/95	30. Lebanon	16/05/96
8. Finland	20/09/95	31. Algeria	22/05/96
9. Togo	04/10/95	32. Gambia	11/06/96
10. Tunisia	11/10/95	33. Malawi	13/06/96
11. Guinea-Bissau	27/10/95	34. Germany	10/07/96
12. Mali	31/10/95	35. Libya	22/07/96
13. Uzbekistan	31/10/95	36. Oman*	23/07/96
14. Afghanistan*	01/11/95	37. Bolivia	01/08/96
15. Peru	09/11/95	38. Mauritania	07/08/96
16. Sudan	24/11/95	39. Eritrea	14/08/96
17. Canada	01/12/95	40. Benin	29/08/96
18. Sweden	12/12/95	41. Norway	30/08/96
19. Denmark	22/12/95	42. Mongolia	03/09/96
20. Switzerland	19/01/96	43. Central African Republic	05/09/96
21. Niger	19/01/96	44. Gabon*	06/09/96
22. Mauritius	23/01/96	45. Botswana	11/09/96
23. Bangladesh	26/01/96		

93. <http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2013/CN.204.2013-Eng.pdf>.

Ratification status of the UNCCD (as at 29 May 2012)

Source : <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/convention/ratification-eng.pdf>

46. Turkmenistan	18/09/96	78. Syrian Arab Republic	10/06/97
47. Zambia	19/09/96	79. Djibouti	12/06/97
48. Lao People's Dem. Rep.*	20/09/96	80. France	12/06/97
49. Haiti	25/09/96	81. Tanzania	19/06/97
50. Chad	27/09/96	82. Guinea	23/06/97
51. Swaziland	07/10/96	83. Italy	23/06/97
52. Nepal	15/10/96	84. Kenya	24/06/97
53. United Kingdom	18/10/96	85. Brazil	25/06/97
54. Jordan	21/10/96	86. Honduras	25/06/97
55. Morocco	12/11/96	87. Madagascar	25/06/97
56. India	17/12/96	88. Malaysia	25/06/97
57. Ghana	27/12/96	89. Saudi Arabia*	25/06/97
58. Burma*	02/01/97	90. Uganda	25/06/97
59. Argentina	06/01/97	91. Dominican Rep.*	26/06/97
60. Burundi	06/01/97	92. Equatorial Guinea	26/06/97
61. Yemen*	14/01/97	93. Guyana	26/06/97
62. Paraguay	15/01/97	94. Seychelles	26/06/97
63. Luxembourg	04/02/97	95. El Salvador*	27/06/97
64. China	18/02/97	96. Ethiopia	27/06/97
65. Pakistan	24/02/97	97. Kuwait	27/06/97
66. Côte d'Ivoire	04/03/97	98. Angola	30/06/97
67. Cuba	13/03/97	99. Belgium*	30/06/97
68. Mozambique	13/03/97	100. St. Kitts and Nevis*	30/06/97
69. Iran	29/04/97	101. Armenia	02/07/97
70. Greece	05/05/97	102. Saint Lucia	02/07/97
71. Barbados*	14/05/97	103. Nigeria	08/07/97
72. Namibia	16/05/97	104. Kazakhstan	09/07/97
73. Grenada*	28/05/97	105. Bahrain*	14/07/97
74. Cameroon	29/05/97	106. Tajikistan*	16/07/97
75. Austria*	02/06/97	107. Ireland	31/07/97
76. Iceland*	03/06/97	108. Cambodia	18/08/97
77. Antigua and Barbuda	06/06/97	109. Dem. Rep. of Congo	12/09/97
		110. Kyrgyzstan*	19/09/97

Ratification status of the UNCCD (as at 29 May 2012)

Source : <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/convention/ratification-eng.pdf>

111. Zimbabwe	23/09/97	142. Tonga*	25/09/98
112. Sierra Leone	25/09/97	143. United Arab Emirates*	21/10/98
113. South Africa	30/09/97	144. Rwanda	22/10/98
114. Chile	11/11/97	145. Sri Lanka*	09/12/98
115. Jamaica*	12/11/97	146. Uruguay*	17/02/99
116. Dominica*	08/12/97	147. Monaco*	05/03/99
117. Costa Rica	05/01/98	148. Rep. of Moldova*	10/03/99
118. Malta	30/01/98	149. Qatar*	15/03/99
119. Nicaragua	17/02/98	150. Solomon Islands*	16/04/99
120. Liberia*	02/03/98	151. Singapore*	26/04/99
121. Comoros	03/03/98	152. Colombia	08/06/99
122. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16/03/98	153. Palau*	15/06/99
123. European Comm.	26/03/98	154. Rep. of Congo	12/07/99
124. Turkey	31/03/98	155. Hungary*	13/07/99
125. Marshall Islands*	02/06/98	156. Georgia	23/07/99
126. Venezuela*	29/06/98	157. San Marino*	23/07/99
127. São Tomé and Príncipe	08/07/98	158. Vanuatu	10/08/99
128. Belize*	23/07/98	159. Republic of Korea	17/08/99
129. Azerbaijan*	10/08/98	160. Liechtenstein*	29/12/99
130. Niue*	14/08/98	161. Czech Republic	25/01/00
131. Romania*	19/08/98	162. Philippines	10/02/00
132. Cook Islands*	21/08/98	163. Cyprus*	29/03/00
133. Samoa*	21/08/98	164. Albania*	27/04/00
134. Vietnam*	25/08/98	165. Australia	15/05/00
135. Fiji*	26/08/98	166. Suriname*	01/06/00
136. Indonesia	31/08/98	167. Trinidad and Tobago*	08/06/00
137. Kiribati*	08/09/98	168. New Zealand*	07/09/00
138. Guatemala*	10/09/98	169. Croatia*	06/10/00
139. Japan	11/09/98	170. Bahamas*	10/11/00
140. Tuvalu*	14/09/98	171. United States of America	17/11/00
141. Nauru*	22/09/98	172. Papua New Guinea*	06/12/00

Ratification status of the UNCCD (as at 29 May 2012)

Source : <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/convention/ratification-eng.pdf>

173. Bulgaria*	21/02/01	180. Andorra*	15/07/02
174. Thailand*	07/03/01	181. Somalia*	24/07/02
175. Slovenia*	28/06/01	182. Bosnia Herzegovina*	26/08/02
176. Belarus*	29/08/01	183. Ukraine*	27/08/02
177. Poland*	14/11/01	184. Maldives*	03/09/02
178. Slovakia*	07/01/02	185. Latvia*	21/10/02
179. FYR of Macedonia*	06/03/02	186. Brunei Darussalam*	04/12/02

* Accession

ANNEX II

10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND FRAMEWORK TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (2008–2018)⁹⁴

DECISION 3/COP.8⁹⁵

10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND FRAMEWORK TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (2008–2018)

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(8)/10 and Add.1 and Add.2,

Emphasising that implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) requires efforts from all Parties, taking into account the different obligations within the Convention,

Recognising that Parties have primary responsibilities in delivering the objectives of the Convention and its implementing strategies, according to their national priorities and in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership,

Underlining the importance of the efficient implementation of the Convention as an instrument to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and also to contribute to the reduction of poverty while promoting sustainable development,

Mindful of changes that have taken place since the entry into force of the Convention, notably with respect to the increasing threats of desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recognising the need for the Convention and its institutions to have adequate resources to allocate, according to their new results-based management (RBM) approach

94. As adopted at the eighth Conference of the Parties, Decision 3/COP.8.

95. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, page 8 onwards.

work programme based on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) in order to respond to the new challenges and needs at all levels,

Aware of the need, in the context of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), for substantial, adequate and timely financial resources and other forms of support corresponding to the needs of affected developing country Parties, to assist these Parties in their implementation of the Convention,

Mindful that the Convention, its Secretariat and other institutions, and supporting bodies, including the Global Mechanism (GM), and the Convention’s financial mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), should cooperate and coordinate their activities in this regard,

Commending with appreciation the intersessional intergovernmental working group for fulfilling its mandate and delivering the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),

1. Decides to adopt the strategy contained in the annex to this decision as the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), hereinafter referred to as “The Strategy”;
2. Also decides on the further specific guidance on the enactment of the Implementation Framework spelled out below;
3. Requests that the various Convention bodies develop their respective RBM multi-year (four-year) programmes of work in line with The Strategy and report on progress in implementation at the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The Conference of the Parties (COP) will take relevant decisions based on recommendations from the CRIC. All draft multi-year programmes of work shall be presented to the COP for adoption;

A. Parties

4. *Requests* Parties to put into operation the implementation of The Strategy, in accordance with their national priorities, in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership;
5. *Urges* affected developing country Parties, and any other affected country Party within the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with The Strategy by, inter alia, addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives;
6. *Requests* Parties to report on progress made in their implementation of The Strategy, based on the reporting guidelines to be considered at the ninth session of the COP (COP9);

B. Committee on Science and Technology

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux of the COP and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), to prepare for the CST, in line with The Strategy, a costed draft two-year work programme taking an RBM approach, such consultations to be conducted as outlined in Decision 12/COP.8;
8. *Further requests* the CST to include on the agenda of its ninth session an item on the consideration of its costed draft two-year work programme, following a RBM approach consistent with The Strategy;
9. *Takes note* that decisions 13/COP.8 and 18/COP.8, to reshape the operations of the CST and on the theme for discussion at the ninth session of the CST (CST 9), will contribute to implementation of The Strategy, in particular operational objective 3;
10. *Requests* the CST to provide advice to the CRIC discussion on reporting at COP9 on how best to measure progress on Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes of its ninth session;
11. *Also requests* the CST to present its costed draft two-year work programme to COP9 for consideration and adoption;

C. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

12. *Decides* that the CRIC will be responsible for reviewing implementation of The Strategy by the Parties and the Convention bodies;
13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux of the COP and the CRIC, to prepare, in line with The Strategy, a draft multi-year work programme for the CRIC taking an RBM approach;
14. *Decides* that the seventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 7) shall be a special session to consider methodological matters to further advance the implementation of The Strategy, in line with Decision 9/COP.8, and in this context decides also that the next session of the CST shall be held in conjunction with this session of the CRIC;
15. *Proposes* that future meetings of the CRIC should be held predominantly in an interactive format, highlighting for each key issue a set of targeted recommendations for the COP to consider and adopt, if appropriate;
16. *Requests* the CRIC to finalise proposals for the performance review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and especially The Strategy, including recommendations emanating from the CST, for discussion at COP9;

D. Global Mechanism

17. *Requests* the GM to revise its current workplan, maintaining the RBM approach, to make it consistent with The Strategy, and to prepare a draft multi-year (four-year) workplan complemented by a costed biennial programme of work;
18. *Further requests* the GM to present its proposed draft multi-year workplan and biennial programme of work to CRIC 7 for review and subsequently to COP9 for consideration and adoption;
19. *Urges* the GM to promote actions leading to the mobilisation of international and national resources needed by affected countries Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention through The Strategy, maintaining a geographical balance so that countries with less capacity can also benefit from these new and additional international and national resources;

E. Secretariat

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft multi-year (four-year) workplan complemented by a costed biennial work programme in line with The Strategy and taking an RBM approach;
21. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to present the proposed multi-year workplan and biennial programme of work to CRIC 7 for review and subsequently to COP9 for consideration and adoption;
22. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to consider engaging in policy dialogue on The Strategy to foster awareness of and buy-in to The Strategy among relevant policy decision makers, making use, inter alia, of the opportunities provided by the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to CRIC 7 and COP9 on the implementation of The Strategy;

F. Secretariat/Global Mechanism coordination

24. *Directs* the Executive Secretary and the GM, within their respective mandates, to implement The Strategy in order to ensure consistency and complementarity in the delivery of services, and to strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level;
25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the GM to submit a draft joint work programme, in accordance with paragraph 22 of The Strategy, at CRIC 7 and to submit it for consideration by COP9;

26. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary and the GM to include indicators of successful cooperation in their RBM-based joint work programme with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of the synergistic services provided by the Secretariat and the GM;
27. *Further requests* an assessment of the GM with recommendations to be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations, to be submitted to COP9 for consideration, based on the following terms of reference:
 - a) To evaluate the work and functions of the GM, in accordance with its mandate as set out in the Convention and relevant decisions of the COP;
 - b) To identify any lack of clarity in the institutional arrangements and accountability set out in the Convention and in the memorandum of understanding between the International Fund on Agricultural Development and the UNCCD, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of the functioning of the Convention bodies;
 - c) To assess the alignment between the programme of the GM and that of the Secretariat, and the conformity of the programme of the GM to the guidance of the COP;
 - d) To evaluate the communication and working modalities between the GM and the Secretariat;
28. *Encourages*, in this context, the Secretariat and the GM to evolve their joint work programme as set out in paragraph 22 of The Strategy, for consideration by the JIU in its evaluation;
29. *Recognises* that regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy, and further recognises that coordination mechanisms must be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and the specific issues of regions;
30. *Calls upon* each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the GM, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia, existing regional coordination activities, tools, and donor and regional funding arrangements, and providing details of staffing, hosting possibilities and other financial resources required, and to define their functions and output and reporting arrangements in terms of implementing the Convention and delivering The Strategy, and to provide these prior to COP9 for consideration in the context of the budget and the programme of work;
31. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile regional proposals and the means for putting them into operation, and to submit these to COP9 for consideration;

32. In the above context, *also requests* the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM on its regional arrangements:
- a) To review the current regional coordination arrangements within the Secretariat and within the GM with a view to improving them;
 - b) To develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements based on the above-mentioned review and the proposals received from regions according to paragraph 30;
 - c) To submit these to COP9 for consideration;
33. *Decides*, while the review process in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 is taking place and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue through the Supplementary Fund to support, and where possible strengthen, the existing Regional Coordination Units, and encourages donors and, in accordance with national capacities and where appropriate, the Parties in the regions concerned to provide funds to this end;

G. Global Environment Facility

34. *Recognises* that the implementation of The Strategy requires the mobilisation of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources at both national and international level for its effective implementation and, in this context, invites the GEF to consider simplifying its funding procedures in order to ease the access by developing countries to GEF funding, and to report back to the COP on progress in this regard;
35. *Invites* the GEF to take The Strategy into account when planning and programming for the next replenishment period, in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention;

H. Civil society

36. *Requests* Parties to promote awareness of, and include, local populations, particularly women and youth and civil society organisations, in the implementation of The Strategy, consistent with operational objective 1;
37. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account input from civil society organisations when formulating the selection criteria for financial support for their participation at UNCCD meetings and processes, consistent with the established rules of procedure of the COP;

I. Planning and budgeting cycles

38. *Decides* that planning and budgeting cycles should be undertaken as set out below and further decides that under the first planning cycle the drafts will be presented at CRIC 7 and considered along with the drafts under the first budget cycle at COP9:
- a) Planning cycle:
 - i) The CST, the CRIC, the secretariat and the GM each formulate multi-year (four-year) workplans according to RBM principles;
 - ii) Multi-year workplans are submitted to the Secretariat for integration into the comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention;
 - iii) Multi-year workplans are regularly updated for each COP to cover the two subsequent intersessional periods;
 - iv) In addition, biennial cost estimations relating to the work programme are developed;
 - (b) Budget cycle:
 - i) The budget cycle is two years;
 - ii) The budget is prepared by the Secretariat, integrating cost-estimated biennial programmes of work for the CST, the CRIC, the Secretariat and the GM;

J. Performance monitoring and indicator development

39. *Invites* Parties and the Regional Implementation Annexes to develop nationally and regionally relevant indicators for the implementation of The Strategy for consideration at CRIC 7 in the context of the development of reporting guidelines for the Parties;
40. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consolidate these indicators with a view to harmonising them as appropriate;
41. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure the integration of recommendations from CST 9 based on discussions at the eighth session of the CRIC (CRIC 8) relevant to establishing reporting guidelines in line with The Strategy;
42. *Decides* that Parties at the tenth session of the COP (COP10) should develop the appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for an independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, and that the evaluation shall be completed for consideration at the eleventh session of the COP (COP11);

43. *Affirms* that the COP will be the main body for assessing and reviewing the overall implementation of The Strategy, assisted in this regard by the CRIC and the CST and involving the COP Bureau as appropriate, in line with their respective mandates;

K. Costing of strategic plan/next steps

44. In accordance with their different obligations under the Convention, *encourages* developed country Parties to consider prioritising the need for supporting the implementation of The Strategy in their respective policies and programmes for cooperation, and *further encourages* affected developing countries to consider making this a priority in their cooperation assistance arrangements;
45. *Recognises* the need for Parties to realign their national action programmes with The Strategy, and invites Parties with the assistance of the GM to mobilise international and national resources, both technical and financial, to assist countries with this realignment;
46. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Governments, multilateral organisations, the private sector and relevant organisations to make resources available to affected developing countries for the implementation of The Strategy.

9th plenary meeting

14 September 2007

ANNEX TO DECISION 3/COP.8

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Developed as a result of the Rio Summit, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a unique instrument that has brought attention to land degradation in the drylands where exist some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people in the world. Ten years after its coming into force, the UNCCD benefits from universal membership and is increasingly recognised as an instrument which can make a lasting contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction globally.
2. After a decade of implementation, it is recognised that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention. Chief among these factors are insufficient financing compared to its two Rio sister conventions, a weak scientific basis, insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses and difficulties in reaching consensus among Parties.

3. Also, the UNCCD operates today in an environment that has evolved considerably since when it was first negotiated and it faces different opportunities and constraints which will condition its implementation in the forthcoming decade.
4. For one thing, the policy environment has changed considerably since Rio with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), increased support to Africa and the least-developed countries, stronger commitment for climate change mitigation and adaptation, prospects of global agricultural trade liberalisation, and growing numbers of environmental refugees and migrants shedding new light on the impacts of poverty and environmental degradation.
5. The scientific environment has also evolved with the work of the Millennium Assessment (MA) on dryland ecosystems, which has contributed to improved understanding of the biophysical and socio-economic trends relating to land degradation in global drylands, and their impacts on human and ecosystem well-being. The MA has also contributed to mapping out key gaps in data and knowledge on dryland ecosystems and people.
6. The financing environment has also changed profoundly in the last decade, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial mechanism of the Convention, official development assistance (ODA) flows increasing again after a decade of stagnation, and declining resources for rural development and agriculture. Donors have refocused their financing strategies to support country-driven priorities, based on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other country-led development planning instruments. Lastly, various innovative financing instruments have come to life, including payments for ecological services and carbon finance.
7. This new environment provides the starting point for this strategic plan along with an assessment of the successes and limiting factors of the Convention as it enters its second decade. This strategic plan provides a unique opportunity to address some of the Convention's key challenges, to capitalise on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalised common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders.

II. THE VISION

8. The aim for the future is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

III. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

9. The following “strategic objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008–2018, including raising political will. Meeting these long-term⁹⁶ objectives will contribute to achieving the above-mentioned vision. The “expected impacts” are the long-term effects intended by the strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1:

To improve the living conditions of affected populations

Expected impact 1.1. People living in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management.

Expected impact 1.2. Affected populations’ socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Indicator S-12⁹⁷: Decrease in numbers of people negatively impacted by the processes of desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.

Indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas.

Strategic objective 2:

To improve the condition of affected ecosystems

Expected impact 2.1. Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.

Expected impact 2.2. Affected populations’ socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-5: Increase in net primary productivity in affected areas.

96. For the purposes of this strategic plan, “long term” means ten years or more.

97. The indicators contained in the strategic plan are indicative of the types of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. These global indicators are to be refined further by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) capitalising on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2. See below: chapter VII. Performance monitoring, para. 1.

Strategic objective 3:

To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

Expected impact 3.1. Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.

Indicator S-6: Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas.

Indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.

Strategic objective 4:

To mobilise resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

Expected impact 4.1. Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention.

Expected impact 4.2. Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation at all levels.

Indicator S-8⁹⁸: Increase in the level and diversity of available funding for combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.

Indicator S-9: Development policies and measures address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

IV. THE MISSION

10. To provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilisation, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

98. Indicators pertaining to Parties' implementation are to be further developed and refined. (See below: chapter VII. Performance monitoring, para. 1).

V. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

11. The following “operational objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term⁹⁹ with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives. The “outcomes” are the short and medium-term effects intended by the operational objectives.

10 - Year Strategic Plan and Framework

Operational objective 1:

Advocacy, awareness raising and education

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

Outcome 1.1: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.

Outcome 1.2: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Outcome 1.3: Civil society organisations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and desertification/land degradation and drought are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.

Operational objective 2:

Policy framework

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

Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties revise their national action programmes (NAPs) into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.

99. For the purposes of this strategic plan, “short and medium-term” means for a period of three to five years.

Outcome 2.3: Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.

Outcome 2.4: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.

Outcome 2.5: Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.

***Operational objective 3:
Science, technology and knowledge***

To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socioeconomic trends in affected countries are supported.

Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socioeconomic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonised.

Outcome 3.3: Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.

Outcome 3.4: Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.

Outcome 3.5: Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge¹⁰⁰, are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

Outcome 3.6: Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

100. Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

**Operational objective 4:
Capacity-building**

To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 4.1: Countries which have carried out the national capacity self assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels¹⁰¹ to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national and local levels.

Outcome 4.2: Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and local levels.

**Operational objective 5:
Financing and technology transfer**

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

Outcome 5.1: Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

Outcome 5.2: Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 5.3: Parties increase their efforts to mobilise financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.

Outcome 5.4: Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.

Outcome 5.5: Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation.

101. See the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “Resource Kit for National Capacity Self-Assessment”, 2005, page vi, for a description of the various levels at which capacity can be developed.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

12. This section defines the roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders in meeting the above-mentioned objectives.

A. The Committee on Science and Technology

13. Operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge is a central component of the strategic plan. The CST is given primary responsibility to fulfil this objective as well as a support role for implementing operational objective 1. In order to fulfil this mandate, the CST shall be strengthened to assess, advise and support implementation, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, of the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the causes and impacts of desertification/land degradation, and shall inform COP decisions.
14. The CST shall be reshaped in the following manner:
 - a) Institutional arrangements
 - i) Representation in the CST and the roster of experts is to be based on professional expertise and is to include a wide range of disciplines and experience regarding biophysical and socio-economic aspects. It shall respect equitable representation according to the United Nations rules. Parties shall establish a specific procedure to this effect as per the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations.
 - ii) The COP decides the appropriate frequency of CST meetings, including the possibility of synchronised CST and Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) meetings, with a view to ensuring continuity and providing timely policy advice to the COP in accordance with this strategic plan.
 - iii) The COP appoints the chairperson of the CST for a two-year term. It also appoints the members of the bureau of the CST for two-year terms. With a view to staggering the replacement of the members of the bureau in order to ensure continuity in the work of the CST, half of the members are, exceptionally, to be appointed at COP8 for one-year terms and their replacements are also to be appointed at COP8, for two-year terms.
 - b) Programme of work
 - i) The COP adopts a focused work programme for the CST and establishes clear priorities based on the strategic plan.
 - ii) The COP may invite, as appropriate, renowned scientific institutions and subject-matter expert task forces to consider issues.

iii) Modes of delivery:

- The CST develops a two-year work programme, following a results-based management (RBM) approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
- CST meetings produce sound scientific outputs and policy-oriented recommendations based on the analysis and compilation of peer-reviewed and published literature that inform policy formulation and dialogue at the COP.
- The CST mobilises science and technology experts, networks and institutions with excellence in desertification/land degradation issues under its auspices to bolster the scientific and technical basis of the UNCCD.
- The CST enhances its convening power by adding high-level expertise and systematically peer-reviewing its outputs.
- The CST agenda is to focus on one or two priorities reviewed every biennium, as appropriate.
- The CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, creates and steers knowledge-management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users.
- The CST strengthens its linkages with thematic programme networks (TPNs) and other relevant regional implementation activities whose mandates are improved to provide regional input to the work of the CST.

iv) Priorities:

- The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, tools and methods, biophysical and socio-economic baselines on desertification/land degradation at the national level.
- The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, methodologies and guidelines for monitoring and assessment of desertification/land degradation trends.

- c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

B. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

15. The CRIC plays a central role in reviewing the implementation of the strategic plan through an effective reporting process and documenting and disseminating best practices from experience in implementing the Convention, thereby bringing a cross-cutting contribution to all operational objectives. Overall, the CRIC shall be strengthened to improve feedback loops to measure progress and support continuous improvement in implementing the strategic plan.
16. The CRIC shall be reshaped in the following manner:
 - a) Institutional arrangements The COP is invited to pursue its review of the CRIC and its institutional arrangements in the light of the provisions of this strategic plan.
 - b) Functions:
 - i) Determining and disseminating best practices on implementation of the UNCCD.
 - ii) Reviewing implementation of this strategic plan.
 - iii) Reviewing Parties' contributions to the implementation of the Convention.
 - iv) Assessing and monitoring of CRIC performance and effectiveness.
 - c) Programme of work
 - i) Modes of delivery:
 - Multi-year planning: The CRIC adopts a multi-year work programme, following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - In the context of its ongoing review of the CRIC, the COP should explore the possibility of synchronising CRIC and CST sessions as appropriate and decide on their required frequency in the light of this strategic plan.
 - ii) Priorities:
 - The CRIC is restructured around a simplified and effective reporting process based on information which is comparable across regions and over time. New reporting guidelines are adopted taking into account the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Reporting. Reporting should be inclusive of NAPs, subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs).

- The CRIC systematically documents and disseminates best practices.
 - The CRIC is assigned responsibility for assessing on a regular basis progress made in implementing this strategic plan, based on a set of indicators.
- d) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

C. The Global Mechanism

17. Operational objective 5 on financing and technology transfer is a central component of the strategic plan. The GM has a central responsibility in contributing to this objective, given its mandate to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to mobilise and channel substantial financial resources. The GM also has a support role for operational objectives 1 and 2. In order to fulfil its role, the GM shall strengthen its capacity to mobilise existing as well as fresh sources of finance and to facilitate access to technology.
18. The GM shall be realigned in the following manner:
- a) Institutional arrangements
 - i) GM institutional arrangements with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to remain unchanged.
 - ii) The COP to monitor the effectiveness and added-value of the GM's institutional arrangements with IFAD in line with JIU recommendations.
 - b) Programme of work
 - i) The GM adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - ii) The GM revises its consolidated strategy and enhanced approach (CSEA) in order to prioritise its role in mobilising financial resources for programmatic investments in affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, in affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern European region:
 - The GM engages with donors, the private sector, financial institutions and other relevant institutions to promote actions leading to the mobilisation of substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources.

- The GM advises and assists affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern European region regarding the development of integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.
 - The GM explores new sources of finance and financing mechanisms to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade organisations, foundations, CSOs, and other financing mechanisms, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and the fight against hunger and poverty.
 - The GM supports the development of (sub)regional financing platforms to improve effectiveness, harmonisation and alignment among donor institutions.
- iii) The GM develops a strategy to operationalise its complementary role to the GEF.
- iv) Facilitation Committee (FC):
- The FC is invited to revise its mandate and adopt a joint work programme aligned with the strategic plan.
 - Individual members of the FC are invited to develop consistent and complementary financing platforms to align their activities with the UNCCD strategic plan.
 - The FC reports in a coordinated fashion to the COP and the CRIC on issues relevant to its programme of work.
- c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the consistent and predictable deployment of GM functions under the strategic plan.

D. The Secretariat

19. Successful implementation of this strategic plan requires a strengthening of the core servicing, advocacy and agenda-setting and representation functions of the UNCCD Secretariat - with commensurate capacity and resources - in order to support Parties, the COP and the subsidiary bodies of the Convention in fulfilling their respective roles. The Secretariat has a lead role for operational objective 1 and specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 and 3 as well as a support role in other operational objectives.

20. The Secretariat shall be reshaped in the following manner:
- a) Institutional arrangements The Secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report.
 - b) Programme of work
 - i) The Secretariat adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - ii) Servicing and facilitating functions:
 - The Secretariat performs enhanced servicing functions to support COP and CRIC sessions by:
 - Providing compilation and synthesis of national reports on the basis of new guidelines.
 - Producing case studies, best policy practices.
 - Supporting the preparation of national reports.
 - The Secretariat develops its capacity to service the CST effectively by:
 - Supporting the knowledge management systems established by the CST and performing information and knowledge brokering functions.
 - Supporting the convening and mobilisation by the CST of relevant science, knowledge and technical capacities.
 - The Secretariat supports efforts of affected country Parties to strengthen dialogue and consultation at subregional and/or regional and interregional level.
 - The Secretariat services the regional implementation annexes on request through facilitating cooperation at regional/subregional levels.
 - The Secretariat facilitates a process to determine optimal mechanisms for regional coordination, recognising the positive experience in, and according to the needs defined by, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe, to support the implementation of this strategy, the process to be concluded at COP9.
 - iii) Other core functions:
 - The Secretariat develops increased advocacy and awareness-raising, agenda-setting and representation activities, as appropriate, in relevant forums at the international level.

- The Secretariat coordinates the development and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy at the international level with a set of core communications objectives and expected results.
- The Secretariat works with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio conventions in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation in line with JIU recommendations.
- CSO participation:
 - The Secretariat develops revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions in line with JIU recommendations.
 - The Secretariat develops stronger mechanisms to support a CSO network.
 - The Secretariat advocates for more support and channels grants to facilitate CSO participation in UNCCD meetings and processes.
- c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the good functioning and efficient operation of the Secretariat in performing its core functions and delivering services required for implementing this strategic plan through an RBM framework as mentioned in the JIU report.

E. Secretariat/Global Mechanism coordination

21. In order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the Secretariat and those of the GM as per JIU recommendation, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines of the strategic plan, the Secretariat and the GM shall strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level.
22. This entails the following:
 - a) Programme of work: The Secretariat and the GM submit to the COP a joint biennial workplan setting out a common approach to supporting the Parties and delineating a clear division of labour.
 - i) Accountability: The Secretariat and the GM report in a clear and transparent way on the effective share of labour and the use of the core and voluntary funds relating to the joint workplan. The two organisations report jointly to the COP on the implementation of the joint workplan. The bureau is mandated by the COP to oversee implementation of the joint workplan.

- ii) Efficiency: The Secretariat and the GM will each engage in an exercise on how to increase the efficiency of human and financial resources and seek professional advice on how to organise more effectively for delivery of the joint workplan.

(b) Regional dialogue and coordination:

The COP is invited to consider the establishment of appropriate regional dialogue and coordination facilitation mechanisms. This entails that each region should, for consideration by the COP:

- i) Identify the immediate added value of such a regional body in the context of the new Secretariat and GM workplans.
- ii) Identify what would be the appropriate institutional arrangements for such a body in their region.
- iii) Develop the short/medium-term RBM framework for these bodies.

F. Additional Joint Inspection Unit recommendations to Parties and the Conference of the Parties

23. Parties have a lead role in delivering all the objectives and outcomes of this strategic plan and the substantive JIU recommendations which were integrated into them. In addition, Parties shall implement these process-related recommendations from the JIU report:
- a) The COP is invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 7.
 - b) The COP may wish to consider how the Bureau deals with operational and financial contingencies when the COP is not in session.

G. The Global Environment Facility

24. The COP may invite the GEF to take into account this strategic plan and to align its operations accordingly in order to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

VII. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

25. Indicators:

- a) The strategic objectives indicators contained in this strategic plan are indicative of the type of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. Many of these indicators have been selected from the GEF land degradation focal area strategic objectives, MDGs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2010 Target. These global indicators are to be refined further by the CST, capitalising on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2.
 - b) Operational objectives indicators pertaining to Parties' implementation are to be developed within the follow-up to the IIWG and reviewed by the CRIC.
 - c) Indicators pertaining to UNCCD institutions are to be developed as part of the RBM frameworks to be developed by these institutions and adopted by the COP. The CRIC will review the institutions' progress in the light of these indicators.
26. A mid-term evaluation is to be undertaken by the COP based on the performance monitoring system six years after the adoption of the strategic plan. This evaluation will review progress made in implementing the strategic plan and will recommend appropriate measures to improve performance and further its implementation.
27. Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies are to report on implementation of the strategic plan at CRIC and COP sessions, based on their results-based framework.



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Founded in 2002, UNISFÉRA is based in Montreal, Canada.

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This eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (COP/CCD) forms part of the follow-up to the Declaration of Rio+20 which, in the section devoted to desertification, land degradation and drought (paras. 205-209), highlights the economic and social importance, for sustainable development, of good land and soil management in fighting poverty.

Part 1 of the Guide presents the Convention: its genesis, bodies, main provisions, its recent implementation strategy and its stakeholders. Part 2 continues by recalling the history of deliberations since its entry into force. Part 3 focuses on the issues of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) and related meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 12) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 11). Part 4 provides information on the negotiating framework and practical advice for the delegates to the UNCCD meetings.

We hope that this work will be useful to representatives of non-governmental and international organisations and the general public interested in international current affairs relating to desertification, land degradation and drought. IFDD would like to thank the UNISFERA drafting team and also the UNEP, which kindly financed the English version of the Guide and its "Summary for Policymakers".



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