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Desertification**

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Havana, 25 August – 5 September 2003
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:
 1. Election of the President.
 2. Election of other officers:
 - (a) Election of Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (b) Election of the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.
 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 4. Credentials of delegations.
 5. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers.
 6. Programme and budget:
 - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005;
 - (b) Report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003;
 - (c) Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2002-2003;
 - (d) Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 ended 31 December 2001; Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors;
 - (e) Need for, modalities for, costs involved in and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units;
 - (f) Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003.

7. Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention:
 - (a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
 - (b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism relating to affected country Parties' experience and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;
 - (c) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention.
8. Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;
 - (b) Maintenance of the roster of experts;
 - (c) Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work.
9. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention.
10. Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
11. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions.
12. Outstanding items:
 - (a) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

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

13. Special segment: interactive dialogue session.
14. Programme of work for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.
15. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Venue

2. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 25/COP.5, and in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) (decision 1/COP.1 as contained in ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1), the sixth session of the COP will be held in Havana, Cuba, from 25 August to 5 September 2003.

Logistic arrangements

3. A few weeks before the opening of COP 6, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures, as well as other logistic arrangements for the session, to be contained in ICCD/COP(6)/INF.1.

Participants

4. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), for each State or regional economic integration organization ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Consequently, the Parties as at the opening of COP 6 on 25 August 2003 will be the States and regional economic integration organizations which have deposited their instruments by 28 May 2003. Those which deposit their instruments after 28 May and by 8 June 2003 will become Parties during COP 6. Those that do so after 8 June 2003 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers, together with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, as well as accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Relevant information on the status of ratifications has been made available on the secretariat's Internet web site at the following address: <http://www.unccd.int>.

Agenda

5. By its decision 5/COP.5, the COP decided to include in the agenda for its sixth session standing items on its agenda as defined in 9/COP.1 as well as certain selected items. These have been taken into account in the provisional agenda, in addition to matters arising from other decisions.

Documentation

6. A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session have been made available on the secretariat's Internet web site at the following address: <http://www.unccd.int>.

1. Election of the President

7. Rule 22 of the rules or procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2) provides for the election of the President from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Rule 26 of the rules of procedure stipulates that at the first meeting of each ordinary session, the President of the previous ordinary session, or in the absence of the President, a Vice-President, shall preside until the COP has elected a President for the session.

2. Election of other officers

(a) *Election of Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology*

8. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2), nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties in a manner such that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. Together with the President and, according to paragraph 4 of the annex to decision 1/COP.5, the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), they shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions.

(b) *Election of the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention*

9. Rule 31 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2) provides for the election by the COP of chairpersons of subsidiary bodies other than the CST, unless the COP decides otherwise.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10. The COP will have before it the provisional agenda (see chapter I above) to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the sections below elaborate, is contained in annex II.

Purpose of the session

11. The Convention provides, in article 22, paragraph 2, the tasks of the COP. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate the activities in this respect, while taking account of decisions of the COP on its programme of work, in particular decision 5/COP.5, and other relevant decisions.

Opening plenary meeting

12. With regard to the structure of the opening plenary meeting, the COP may wish to consider the following scenario. The President of COP 5 would open the session and call for the election of the President of COP 6. The President of COP 6 would make a statement after his or her election. Statements would then be made on behalf of the host country and by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, to be followed by statements from the representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, regional and interest groups as well as a representative of non-governmental organizations. The President would then call for the election of Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the CST, as well as adoption of the agenda and organization of work. Finally, the COP would discuss accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and admission of observers.

Establishment of a committee of the whole and allocation of its tasks

13. The practice followed at the previous sessions of the COP was to establish at the opening plenary meeting a sessional committee of the whole (COW), chaired by a Vice-President of the COP and open to the participation of all Parties. The COP may wish to follow the same practice at its sixth session. The COW would recommend draft decisions for adoption by the COP. Its Chairperson would have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. The COP could allocate to the COW the following items: programme and budget, consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, consideration of the outcome of the WSSD relevant to the UNCCD, consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure, programme of work for the seventh session of the COP, and any other matter deemed to be appropriate.

Committee on Science and Technology

14. The CST is tentatively scheduled to meet from 26 to 28 August. In accordance with decision 16/COP.5 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1 containing a provisional agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations which are listed in annex I of this document.

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

15. The CRIC is tentatively scheduled to meet from 26 to 29 August. In accordance with decision 1/COP.5 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared ICCD/CRIC(2)/1 containing a provisional agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations which are listed in annex I of this document.

Ad hoc group of experts

16. It is proposed that the open-ended ad hoc group of experts, reconvened pursuant to decision 21/COP.5, meet on 3 September 2003.

Initial segment

17. It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 6 be divided into three segments. During the initial segment from 25 to 29 August, in addition to the CST and CRIC sessions, the COW would initiate its work in accordance with the agenda of the COP.

18. The plenary meeting would meet on 29 August to hear reports from the COW, the CST and the CRIC, to take all necessary decisions on matters before the COP and to review the organization of work for the second week, including providing for further meetings of the COW as appropriate.

Special segment

19. During the special segment on 1 and 2 September, Parties would have an opportunity to review, and make statements on, the implementation of the Convention. The special segment would include a round table of heads of States and governments and an interactive dialogue session at ministerial level.

Round table of members of parliament

20. The fifth round table of members of parliament, as requested in the annex to decision 23/COP.5, is planned on 3 and 4 September. It is anticipated that any outcome from the round table would be communicated to the COP for consideration.

Concluding segment

21. During the concluding segment, the Conference will take any decisions not previously adopted. It will also have before it for adoption the report on credentials to be submitted by the Bureau. It will decide the date and venue of the seventh session of the COP, taking account of:

(a) Article 22, paragraph 4 of the Convention, which provides that, unless otherwise decided by the COP, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly; thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years;

(b) Rule 4, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, which provides that at each ordinary session, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session and that the COP should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult;

(c) Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which states that the sessions of the COP shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties;

(d) Decision 1/COP.2, which provides that the fifth ordinary session of the COP shall take place in the year 2001, and that thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years; and

(e) Any offer to host the seventh session and meet the additional financial cost.

The COP will also decide the date and venue of the third session of the CRIC, taking into account decision 1/COP.5.

22. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding plenary meeting on 5 September. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 4 September.

Times of meetings

23. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with local working hours and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the Conference will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings to be held with interpretation services at any one time.

4. Credentials of delegations

24. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure states: "The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternative representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat, if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization." Rule 20 of the rules of procedure states: "The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision." This report will be contained in ICCD/COP(6)/10. Furthermore, rule 21 states: "Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials."

5. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers

25. Article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention states: "The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. 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." Rules 6 and 7 of the rules of procedure contain provisions to similar effect.

26. Decision 26/COP.1 contains provisions on accrediting non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations to the first and subsequent sessions of the COP. In accordance with these procedures, a list of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations proposed for accreditation at COP 6 is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/9.

6. Programme and budget

27. The Convention, in article 22, paragraph 2(g), calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake necessary arrangements for their financing.

28. A general overview of the programme and budget documents submitted to COP 6 for consideration is provided in ICCD/COP(6)/2.

(a) *Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005*

29. By its decision 4/COP.5, the Executive Secretary was requested to submit to the COP at its sixth session a programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Executive Secretary was further requested to include detailed tables and narrative of the proposed expenditures and resource requirements for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies. The proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.1, while ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.2 contains relevant information on the proposed utilization of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund for the biennium 2004-2005.

(b) *Report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003*

(c) *Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2002-2003*

(d) *Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 ended 31 December 2001; Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors*

30. By its decision 4/COP.5, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its sixth session on the financial performance of the Convention's funds, and also requested the Executive Secretary, in the performance reports for 2002-2003, to include detailed tables and narrative of the implemented expenditures for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, specified according to the actual fund utilized. The report on the performance of the Convention's funds in the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.3, while ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.4 contains information on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the same biennium. The audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 and the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors are contained in ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.5.

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

31. In its decision 6/COP.5, the COP recognized the importance of regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention, and the value of efforts at the regional level currently identified as the “regional coordination units” initiative, and noted that this effort has not been considered by the COP. It consequently decided to include on the agenda of the sixth session of the COP an item on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units and requested the secretariat to prepare a background document to facilitate consideration of this agenda item. This is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6.

(f) *Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003*

32. The COP, by its decision 4/COP.5, requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its sixth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the COP. It also requested the Executive Secretary to present a draft indicative scale of assessment. The status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds is presented in ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.7.

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

33. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements.

(a) *Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it*

(b) *Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism relating to affected country Parties' experience and constraints in the implementation of action programmes*

34. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided to establish the CRIC as a subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the COP concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. In the same decision, the COP adopted the terms of reference of the CRIC, which, *inter alia*, define the mandate and functions of the CRIC both at sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP and at sessions held during the COP.

35. At this session, the Committee will consider the comprehensive report of the first session, which, in accordance with decision 1/COP.5, also takes account of information and advice from the Global Mechanism and the CST consistent with their respective mandates; review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism; review the report prepared by the secretariat on the execution of its functions; and consider report on the collaboration with the

Global Environment Facility; with a view to elaborating, where necessary, draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

36. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, the COP will review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them. According to decision 1/COP.5, the CRIC will report on its work at each ordinary session of the COP. This report will be submitted to the COP for its consideration and any decision the COP may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention. Following the same decision, the COP may also wish to approve the programme of work of the CRIC, including estimates regarding financial implications.

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

37. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided that the mandate and functions of the CRIC, as contained in paragraph 1(b) of the terms of reference, shall be subject to renewal at the seventh session of the COP, in the light of lessons learned during the overall review of the Committee. The COP furthermore decided that it shall, no later than at its seventh ordinary session, review the terms of reference of the CRIC, its operations and its schedule of meetings, with a view to making any necessary modification, including reconsidering the need for and modalities of the CRIC as a subsidiary body; it invited Parties to submit written proposals to the secretariat no later than 31 January 2003 on criteria against which the CRIC will be reviewed, with a view to determining such criteria at the sixth session of the COP. The secretariat compiled and summarized these submissions in order to facilitate their consideration by the COP; they are contained in ICCD/COP(6)/3.

8. Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it

38. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided that the review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the CST, including its recommendations to the COP and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it, constitutes a standing item on its agenda. In accordance with decision 16/COP.5, the agenda for the sixth session of the CST will include, *inter alia*, the topics on the agenda of its fifth session. By the same decision, the COP decided that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the CST at its sixth session shall be "Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach".

39. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at its sixth session. The report of the CST will also include the proposed CST programme of work for the period after COP 6. The COP may wish to discuss the programme of work, make suggestions for its revision and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

(b) *Maintenance of the roster of experts*

40. The Convention, in article 24, paragraph 2, provides that the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. The COP in its decision 18/COP.1 adopted procedures relating to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts. By its decision 15/COP.5, the COP made further recommendations on the maintenance and use of the roster, and requested the secretariat to distribute a hard copy of the roster to Parties before the next session of the COP. The updated roster and the report on the use made of it are contained in ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1. By the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster of experts is made available in electronic form, which is possible by making use of the secretariat's Internet web site at the following address: <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cst/experts/search.php>.

(c) *Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work*

41. Article 24, paragraph 3 of the UNCCD provides for the creation of ad hoc panels, as necessary, by the COP in order to provide it, through the CST, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in the fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. After considering the report of the CST, the COP may wish to consider appointing ad hoc panels, as necessary, and defining their terms of reference and modalities of work, in accordance with the procedures contained in decision 17/COP.1 for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

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

42. In accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention, and pursuant to decision 5/COP.5, the COP will review activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies. The report on this matter is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/4.

10. Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (WSSD)

43. By its decision 8/COP.5, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the WSSD, and in the Summit itself, with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD goals and objectives, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, are duly reflected in its outcome, and to report to the sixth session of the COP accordingly. The Executive Secretary's report in this respect is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/5.

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

44. By its decision 27/COP.1, the COP requested that open dialogue sessions organized by non-governmental organizations be included within the official programme of work of the sessions of the COP, and that the secretariat make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two such half-day sessions within the official programme of work. Such sessions would be organized in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the COP through its President. Half-day sessions have been tentatively scheduled for the mornings of 29 August and 4 September 2003.

12. Outstanding items

(a) *Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure*

45. Article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the Convention provides that the COP shall “agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure (...) for itself and any subsidiary bodies”. At its first session, by decision 1/COP.1, the COP adopted its rules of procedure, with the exception of some paragraphs contained in rules 22, 31 and 47. The texts of rules 22 and 31 were amended by decision 20/COP.2. By decision 21/COP.2, the COP decided also to give further consideration to paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure, not yet agreed upon, and the text resulting from this decision was provided in the annex to ICCD/COP(3)/13.

46. By its decision 20/COP.5, the COP, having heard the report of the President of COP 4 on the result of his consultations on the outstanding issue relating to rule 47 of the rules of procedure, requested the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule on the agenda of its sixth session. The information relevant to this item is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/6.

(b) *Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward*

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

47. By decision 20/COP.3, the COP decided, in accordance with articles 27 and 28 of the Convention, to convene during its fourth session an open-ended ad hoc group of experts to examine procedures for the resolution of questions of implementation and annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures, and to make recommendations thereon, taking into account the report prepared by the secretariat and in the light of the progress of negotiations on the same matters in other environmental conventions. By decision 20/COP.4, the COP decided to reconvene the open-ended ad hoc group of experts during its fifth session.

48. At its fifth session, by decision 21/COP.5, the COP decided to reconvene this group during its sixth session. It decided further that the group shall take as the basis of its work a new working document prepared by the secretariat in the light of ICCD/COP(4)/8 and ICCD/COP(5)/8, and noting the progress made in negotiations on the same matter in other relevant environmental conventions. The COP also invited any Parties wishing to communicate their views on these

articles to do so, in writing to the secretariat, by 31 January 2003, and requested the secretariat to include such views in this new working document. This is contained in ICCD/COP(6)/7.

13. Special segment: interactive dialogue session

49. Following decision 5/COP.5, the programme of work of the COP at its sixth session will include an interactive dialogue session during the special segment on the implementation of the Convention.

14. Programme of work for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties

50. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include the following standing items on its agenda:

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

(b) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

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

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

(e) Adoption or adjustment of the programme and budget.

51. In accordance with this decision, and following decisions 5/COP.5 on the programme of work of the COP and 1/COP.5 establishing the CRIC and adopting its terms of reference, the COP may wish to review its programme of work for the next session, as appropriate.

15. Report of the session

52. A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the concluding plenary meeting, in accordance with established practice. The COP is invited to authorize its Rapporteur to finalize the report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Documents available at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties:

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(6)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.1	Programme and budget - Addendum - Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.2	Programme and budget - Addendum - Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (Supplementary Fund and Special Fund)
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.3	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.4	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.5	Programme and budget – Addendum - Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 ended 31 December 2001; Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6	Programme and budget - Addendum - Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units
ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.7	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003
ICCD/COP(6)/3	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(6)/4	Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/5	Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/6	Outstanding items - Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(6)/7	Outstanding items - Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward - Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention
ICCD/COP(6)/8	Committee on Science and Technology - Maintenance of the roster of experts
ICCD/COP(6)/8/Add.1	Committee on Science and Technology - Maintenance of the roster of experts - Addendum
ICCD/COP(6)/9	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(6)/10	Credentials of delegations: Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.1	Arrangements for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties - Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.2	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.3	Directory of focal points for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(6)/INF.4	Inputs from the regional meetings of affected country Parties
Documents available at the second session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention:	
ICCD/CRIC(2)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work – Provisional agenda and annotations

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/CRIC(2)/2	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of the progress made by affected country Parties in implementation of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(2)/3	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Review of the report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(2)/4	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5(d) of the Convention, of the report on activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/CRIC(2)/5	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention, of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/CRIC(2)/6	Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention

Documents available at the sixth session of the Committee on Science and Technology:

ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work – Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2	Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology - Synthesis of reports submitted by Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Preliminary report of the group of experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4	Traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5	Benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6	Early warning systems – Pilot studies on early warning systems

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology – Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Report of the first meeting of the group of experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3	Early warning systems – Publication on early warning systems

Other documents:

First session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

ICCD/CRIC(1)/10	Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its first session
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Fifth session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(5)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session: Action taken

Previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session: Action taken
ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session: Action taken
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session: Action taken
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session: Action taken

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

Monday, 25 August 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<i>Informal consultations</i>	<p><i>Opening of the session by the President of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of the President <p><i>Statement by the President of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties</i> <i>Statement on behalf of the host country</i> <i>Statement by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD</i> <i>Statements by the representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations</i> <i>Statements by the representatives of regional and interest groups</i> <i>Statement by a representative of non-governmental organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of other officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/1</i>) • Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/9</i>)
C O W	---	---
C R I C	---	---

Monday, 25 August 2003, cont'd		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---

Tuesday, 26 August 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	---	---
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme and budget (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2</i>) - Programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.1 and Add.2</i>) - Report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003 (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.3</i>) - Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2002-2003 (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.4</i>) - Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 ended 31 December 2001; Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.5</i>) - Need for, modalities for, costs involved in and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.6</i>) - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2002-2003 (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/2/Add.7</i>) 	---

Tuesday, 26 August 2003, cont'd		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C R I C	---	<p><i>Opening of the session by the Chairperson of the CRIC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/1</i>) • Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of the report of the Committee on its first session (<i>ICCD/CRIC(1)/10</i>) - Overall review of the activities of the secretariat and of the progress made by affected country Parties in implementation of the Convention (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/2</i>) - Review of the report on enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/3</i>)
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the session • Election of Vice-Chairpersons • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1</i>) • Roster of independent experts (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1</i>) • Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8</i>) • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the first meeting of the group of experts (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2</i>) - Preliminary report of the group of experts (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3</i>)
A H G E	---	---

Wednesday, 27 August 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	---	---
C O W	---	---
C R I C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5(d) of the Convention, of the report on activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/4</i>) - Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention, of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/5</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention (<i>ICCD/CRIC(2)/6</i>)
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional knowledge (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4</i>) • Benchmarks and indicators (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5</i>) • Early warning systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot studies on early warning systems (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6</i>) - Publication on early warning systems (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3</i>) • Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesis of reports submitted by Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2</i>)
A H G E	---	---

Thursday, 28 August 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	---	---
C O W	---	---
C R I C	<i>Elaboration of the report of the Committee, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i>	<i>Elaboration of the report of the Committee, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i>
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work • Future programme of work of the Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various matters • Report of the session
A H G E	---	---

Friday, 29 August 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session 	<p><i>Consideration of the preliminary report of the COW</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it - Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism relating to affected country Parties' experience and constraints in the implementation of action programmes • Committee on Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it - Maintenance of the roster of experts (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1</i>) - Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work • Election of other officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Friday, 29 August 2003, cont'd		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	---	<i>To be determined</i>
C R I C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of work for the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention • Adoption of the report of the Committee, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties • Election of officers other than the Chairperson of the Committee <p><i>Closing of the session</i></p>	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---

Monday, 1 September 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<i>Special segment on implementation of the Convention</i>	<i>Special segment on implementation of the Convention</i>
C O W	---	---
C R I C	---	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---

Tuesday, 2 September 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<i>Special segment on implementation of the Convention</i>	<i>Special segment on implementation of the Convention</i>
C O W	---	---
C R I C	---	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---

Wednesday, 3 September 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	---	---
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention - Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/3</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies, in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/4</i>) • Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/5</i>)
C R I C	---	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding items - Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/7</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding items - Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(6)/7</i>) <p><i>Adoption of the report to the Conference of the Parties</i></p>

Thursday, 4 September 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session 	<i>To be determined</i>
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure (ICCD/COP(6)/6) • Programme of work for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties <p><i>Adoption of the report to the COP</i></p>	<i>To be determined</i>
C R I C	---	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---

Friday, 5 September 2003		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credentials of delegations (ICCD/COP(6)/10) <p><i>Consideration of the report of the COW</i> <i>Consideration of the report of the AHGE</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the session
C O W	---	---
C R I C	---	---
C S T	---	---
A H G E	---	---
