

### Decision 4/COP.7

Necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

*Recalling also* its decision 8/COP.3 regarding the Recife Initiative: Towards enhancing the implementation of the Convention,

*Further recalling* decisions 8/COP.4 and 4/COP.6 regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention,

*Having reviewed* the report of the CRIC on its third session, including the outcome of the panel discussions on selected strategic areas for action, namely sustainable use and management of rangelands, reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes, and desertification monitoring and assessment; and *sharing* the concerns expressed over the fate of pastoralism;

*Reiterating* that successful implementation of the identified strategic areas for action mentioned in the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention, as contained in the annex to decision 8/COP.4, remains essential for the achievement of the Convention goals and objectives and the continuity of the measures undertaken to combat desertification within the framework of national sustainable development policies;

1. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties and any other affected country Party that has notified the secretariat pursuant to article 9 of the Convention to develop NAPs as a tool to help identify investment priorities and channel resources to eradicate rural poverty and to reach the primary users of natural resources;
2. *Invites* affected country Parties to continue taking necessary measures to include, as appropriate, in their national development strategies important elements to combat desertification, inter alia, sustainable agriculture, forest, pastoral and drylands management, sustainable use and management of rangelands, and desertification monitoring and assessment;
3. *Encourages* the CST to continue efforts, with the support of the international community, for promoting benchmarks and indicators, which should result in quantified, time-bound and costed targets relating to combating land degradation and desertification in a long-term perspective, and *requests* the GM to prepare a document on options for financing instruments, institutions and processes for international and domestic finance for financing these targets, starting with NAPs and possible future consideration of subregional and regional action

programmes, in collaboration with the members of its Facilitation Committee, and to report to the COP at its eighth session;

4. *Invites* all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to transmit to the secretariat no later than the end of 2006 their written suggestions on policy options and practical measures to monitor, on a regular basis, progress in the strategic areas of implementation with a view to outlining intermediary targets in a long-term perspective, and *further requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation document for COP 8;

5. *Calls upon* all Parties, relevant international and non-governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to continue supporting efforts towards the successful implementation of the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
28 October 2005*