

Decision 6/COP.10

Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling articles 20, 21, 22 and 23 of the Convention, and decisions 10/COP.3, 3/COP.7 and 3/COP.8,

Recalling also article 22 of the Convention, which states that in its function and capacity as the supreme body of the Convention, it shall take the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, and *recalling* article 27 of the Convention, which requires the Conference of the Parties to consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling further decision 6/COP.9, notably its paragraph 9,

Welcoming the report by the Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties on the evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism as a follow-up to the assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit,

Realizing that since the establishment of the Global Mechanism, progress in mobilizing and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing countries has not yet met expectations, and that a new and more effective approach is needed at all levels within the framework of the implementation of the Convention under the authority, guidance and orientation of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting that the inconsistencies and contradictions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism have resulted in lack of oversight, inadequate reporting and accountability by the Global Mechanism,

Having considered reports on progress made on the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9,

Recognizing the need to ensure accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and institutional coherence in the delivery of services by the Convention's institutions and bodies for the implementation of the Convention and its 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), in line with the relevant provisions of decision 3/COP.8,

Recognizing also the need 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,

Mindful that the appointment and recruitment of staff, management and the auditing of the accounts of the Global Mechanism are under the rules and regulations of the

International Fund for Agricultural Development and have not been subject to direct review and guidance by the Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the letter contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/INF.5, in which the International Fund for Agricultural Development states that the “Memorandum of Understanding which currently governs the relationship between the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Mechanism is out of date and needs to be reformulated” and further states that should the Conference of the Parties decide to retain the International Fund for Agricultural Development as a host for the Global Mechanism, there “should be no cost or liability to the International Fund for Agricultural Development” in any future possible relationship,

Determined to find lasting solutions to the Global Mechanism institutional and managerial challenges recurrently identified by the various external assessments undertaken, including the 2009 Joint Inspection Unit report and the report by the Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, which have impeded the delivery of better services to Parties,

1. *Decides* that the accountability and the legal representation of the Global Mechanism shall be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the UNCCD secretariat;
2. *Reaffirms* that the Global Mechanism is accountable to and reports to the Conference of the Parties under its mandate, and *decides* that all issues related to the implementation of the Convention will be reported to the Conference of the Parties through the Executive Secretary;
3. *Decides also* that the Executive Secretary shall assume overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on, inter alia, accounting, performance and activities of the Global Mechanism, to the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, with the support of senior staff of the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism and others as appropriate, to inter alia:
 - (a) Develop internal rules and procedures for the relationship between the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism;
 - (b) Coordinate and facilitate the joint implementation of workplans and programmes as per the decision of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) Develop and implement a joint corporate identity with joint information and communication strategies;
 - (d) Undertake streamlining of financial management and administration for cost efficiency;
 - (e) Coordinate the required reporting to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Conference of the Parties through the Executive Secretary;
5. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to ensure that all accounts and staff managed by the Global Mechanism are under one single administrative regime administered by the United Nations Office at Geneva and managed under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;
6. *Decides* that the appointment of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism shall be done through the recruitment process of the United Nations by the Executive Secretary;

7. *Decides also* that the Executive Secretary delegates operational authority, as appropriate and in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, to the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Manage the programme and budget assigned to the Global Mechanism, including entering into service contracts, arrange travels and missions;

(b) Take such actions as the Managing Director deems relevant to implement the agreed workplans and programmes of the Global Mechanism;

(c) Enter into agreement with donors on programmes and voluntary contributions;

(d) Employ personnel for the Global Mechanism;

8. *Decides further* to revise its Memorandum of Understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development contained in decision 10/COP.3, regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism, and *requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties to notify the International Fund for Agricultural Development of this decision no later than 1st November 2011;

9. *Directs and authorizes* the Executive Secretary, in order to address the governance issues immediately, and under the guidance of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties and in consultation with the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to revise and implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund on Agricultural Development to limit the International Fund for Agricultural Development to (1) logistical and administrative support other than those provided under paragraph 5 and (2) privileges and immunities to Global Mechanism staff through the Government of Italy;

10. *Directs also* the Executive Secretary to work with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to further modify the Memorandum of Understanding to enable its timely termination once the new housing arrangement has been concluded;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to undertake a process to identify a new housing arrangement for the Global Mechanism, including potential co-location with the UNCCD secretariat, with consideration to information on costs, operational modalities and synergies, and governance efficiencies, and to provide this information to the Bureau of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties no later than July 1, 2012;

12. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to organize an informal discussion with Parties in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on the results of the process;

13. *Requests further* the Executive Secretary to submit progress reports to the Bureau of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision;

14. *Directs* the Executive Secretary to present to the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties a recommendation on the new housing arrangement for the Global Mechanism, including potential co-location with the UNCCD secretariat, for the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to adopt a final decision;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary measures as a matter of urgency, in consultation with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to implement the governance arrangements in this decision to ensure that the administrative, procedural and legal aspects of this decision are implemented;

16. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, through regular or special meetings based on availability of extra-budgetary funds of, inter alia, Regional Coordination Mechanisms, in particular the Regional Committees, to seek the views of Parties and relevant actors on issues relating to the work of the Global Mechanism, notably on implementation of Global Mechanism programmes and operations at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, and to report to the Conference of the Parties the views expressed for Parties consideration and action ;

17. *Requests further* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit to the intersessional meeting of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties, reports on progress made on the implementation of this decision.

9th plenary meeting

21 October 2011