



# General Assembly

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## Sixtieth session Second Committee

Agenda item 52 (g)

### **Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

**Jamaica:\* draft resolution**

### **International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

*Taking note* of the decision of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005, on the celebration of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification,<sup>1</sup>

*Deeply concerned* by the exacerbation of desertification in all regions of the world, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on poverty eradication,

*Aware* of the unique opportunity offered by the International Year of Deserts and Desertification to raise public awareness on the issue of desertification and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities affected by desertification,

*Welcoming* the decision of the Government of Algeria to host a world summit dedicated to the “Protection of deserts and combating desertification” in October 2006,

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\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

<sup>1</sup> See ICCD/COP(7)/13, paras. 4-7.

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparation of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the nomination of United Nations honorary spokespersons for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, and encourages the Secretary-General to nominate additional personalities in that respect so as to promote a successful celebration of the Year worldwide;

2. *Reiterates* its call to Member States and all relevant international organizations to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries;

3. *Also reiterates* its call to countries to contribute, as they are able, to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and to undertake special initiatives in observance of the Year with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Special Fund of the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of resolution 58/211 entitled "International Year of Deserts and Desertification 2006";

5. *Invites* Governments and all relevant stakeholders that have not yet done so to inform the secretariat for the Convention of activities envisaged for the observance of the Year;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to make available to the Parties to the Convention and to observers a consolidated list of all activities reported, including lessons learned and best practices, in order to coordinate information and avoid overlapping of activities;

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support, within its mandate, activities undertaken by affected developing countries parties to the Convention in the framework of the Year;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the celebration of the Year.

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<sup>2</sup> A/60/169.