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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR  
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES  
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR  
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA  
Tenth session  
New York, 6-17 January 1997  
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties
3. Special action
  - (a) urgent action for Africa
  - (b) action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions
4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention
5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session

Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Arrangements have been made for the tenth session to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 6-17 January 1997.

At the ninth session, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the tenth session, as contained in the report of the ninth session (Document A/51/76/Add.1). The provisional agenda is submitted for adoption.

A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Secretariat's world wide web site at the following address on the Internet: <<http://www.unep.ch/>>. A tentative schedule of work is provided in Annex II.

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 10:00 a.m., on 6 January. The brief opening session will be immediately followed by meetings of regional groups to be continued in the afternoon, as well as the morning of Tuesday, 7 January. The Plenary will resume on the afternoon of Tuesday, 7 January, at which time it will hear statements from the Chairman of the Committee and the Executive Secretary, who will present an overview of issues before the Committee at the tenth session and will introduce the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also review document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau will meet, prior to the opening of the session, at 6 p.m., on 5 January, 1997.

The Contact Group established by decision of the Committee [9/2] will meet at 6.30 p.m. on 8 January, 1997.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

This agenda item refers to issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or soon thereafter. The INCD continued work on these issues at its ninth session in two Working Groups, in accordance with resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period.

The current status of each issue is set out below.

Plenary Issues:

*Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location* - in accordance with its decision [9/2], the Group will have before it for consideration document A/AC.241/63 presented by the interim secretariat, in consultation with the three Governments concerned, comparing the major elements of the offers of the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain, contained in documents A/AC.241/55/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3, to host the Permanent Secretariat at Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, respectively.

Working Group One Issues:

(a) *Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning:* the Group will have before it,

- (i) for further consideration, in accordance with its decision [9/7], document A/AC.241/WG.I(VII)/L.1 submitted by Uganda on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and

(ii) for consideration, in accordance with its decision [9/7], a written compilation (document A/AC.241/64) of questions of members of the INCD concerning the offers of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to provide overall administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat, along with the answers provided.

(b) *Financial rules*: consistent with its decision [9/8], the Group will have before it Annex 1 to Decision 9/8 in the report on the ninth session (document A/51/76/Add.1), containing a revised version of the draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the ninth session.

(c) *Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism*: in accordance with its decision [9/6], the Group will have before it Annex 1 to Decision 9/6 in the report on the ninth session (document A/51/76/Add.1), containing the draft text on the functions of the Global Mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it for further consideration, particularly of its section A, paragraph 4.

(d) *Programme and Budget* - in accordance with its decision [8/3], the Group will have before it for consideration document A/AC.241/65, a draft programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and the budget estimates of the Convention for the first financial period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Working Group Two Issues:

(a) *Organization of scientific and technological cooperation*: the Group will have before it

(i) in accordance with its decision [9/11], a report (document A/AC.241/66) on a draft proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology based on contributions submitted by INCD members by October 15 1996, and

(ii) in accordance with its decision [9/11], a report (document A/AC.241/67) on the work of the bodies of other relevant organisations and Conventions performing work similar to the work envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology, and possible areas of cooperation with such bodies.

(b) *Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties*: in accordance with its decision [9/13], the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/48/Rev.2 providing a revised text reflecting deliberations in the Group at the ninth session.

(c) *Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation*: in accordance with its decision [9/12], the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/68 reporting further on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention.

3. Special action: urgent action for Africa and actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions

The Plenary will continue its examination of measures taken to implement the resolution on urgent measures for Africa, as well as actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean and Northern Mediterranean regions. Discussions will be organized by regions and by themes regarding issues arising in the progress of interim action.

The Executive Secretary will report on measures taken by the Secretariat to facilitate urgent measures for Africa and actions taken in other regions as well as on cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies and coordination with other conventions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Executive Secretary will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote ratification and accession.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/69 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status and funding needs of the Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries, and the Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the report of the session

A draft report on the work of the session will be presented for consideration by the Committee, in accordance with established practice.

**ANNEX I**

**List of documents for the tenth session of the Committee**

A/AC.241/62	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/64	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/51/76/Add.1	Report on ninth session containing, as Annex to Decision 9/8, draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/51/76/Add.1	Report on ninth session containing, as Annex to Decision 9/6, draft text on the functions of the Global Mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it
A/AC.241/65	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/66	Report on a draft proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/48/Rev.2	Draft Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/67	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/68	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in implementation of the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/69	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.13	List of non-governmental organisations recommended for accreditation

**Other documents of relevance**

**Secretariat documents:**

**Fifth session**

A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention
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**Sixth session**

A/AC.241/28	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30 & Add.1	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

**Seventh session**

A/AC.241/32	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/33	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/34	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/35	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/36	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/37	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation

A/AC.241/38	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/39	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/40	Implementation of urgent action for Africa and action in other regions: compilation of information
A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/41/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.10	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

### **Eighth session**

A/AC.241/42	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/44	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/45	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/46	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/47	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration
A/AC.241/52	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/52/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.11	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

### **Ninth session**

A/AC.241/53	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/53/Corr.1	Corrigendum of document A/AC.241/53 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/54	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/54/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Canada
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/54/Add.3	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Spain
A/AC.241/55	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/55/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
A/AC.241/55/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

A/AC.241/55/Add.3	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
A/AC.241/45/Rev.1	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/57	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48/Rev.1	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49/Rev.1	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention
A/AC.241/59	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.12	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

**Report of past INCD sessions:**

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session
A/51/76/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its ninth session

**General Assembly resolutions:**

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

- Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

- Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Any resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session relating to the Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.



