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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

Third session
New York, 17-18 January 1994
Agenda item 2

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING
SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA

Definition of terms relating to the Convention

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the second session in Geneva, the members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD) were generally agreed on the usefulness of compiling a list of internationally agreed definitions of technical terms that would not be included in the Convention but were related to it. The Secretariat was asked to prepare such a list with the assistance of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification (IPED).
2. In addition, a number of terms had been proposed for definition by various Governments. A list of definitions of those terms has been prepared by Nicolai G. Kharin, a member of IPED (see annex I). It is part of a broader initiative funded by the United Nations Environment Programme to update a glossary of terms relating to arid lands first published in 1975 by Ylym Publishing House, Ashkabad, Turkmenistan.
3. The Secretariat also has compiled, as requested, for the Committee's consideration, a separate sample of some additional terms of relevance to the Convention. The definitions are from intergovernmental organizations and various other sources, as shown on the list, and are provided in English and French (see annex II).

4. Subject to the views of the INCD members, both lists could be made available in other official languages at the fourth session of INCD in Geneva.

5. Members will note that the negotiating text of the Convention prepared by the Secretariat includes a provision (A/AC.241/15, art. 1 (2)) whereby the Secretariat would be required to maintain an information glossary of internationally agreed definitions of other terms relevant to the Convention. The lists contained in annexes I and II below could form the basis of that glossary.