

**Report, based on the IIWG's review of the JIU report,
including how best to address the recommendations therein**

Draft prepared for the IIWG by Unisféra and IECN

6 April 2007

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), by its decision 23/COP.6, decided that the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations would carry out a comprehensive review of the UNCCD secretariat. The consequent JIU report was submitted for the consideration of the COP at its seventh session (COP 7). At COP 7, the Parties decided that the detailed review of the JIU report would be carried out during the intersessional period before COP 8, to be held in autumn 2007. For this purpose the COP, by its decision 3/COP.7, established an Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group (IIWG). This Group was further requested to develop a 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention by addressing, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the JIU report. In line with the decision 3/COP.7, the Bureau of the COP was assigned to prepare the terms of reference of the IIWG. These terms state that the documentary outputs of the IIWG would include:

- (a) A report, based on the IIWG's review of the JIU report, including how best to address the recommendations therein;
- (b) A draft 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD.

This report responds to requested output (a). Requested output (b) is presented in a separate report.

II. REPORT, BASED ON THE IIWG'S REVIEW OF THE JIU REPORT, INCLUDING HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

In accordance with its mandate, the IIWG conducted a detailed review of the JIU report in preparation of the present report. In reviewing the recommendations, the IIWG took note of actions already taken by the Executive Secretary who has already accepted and acted upon several JIU recommendations. The IIWG also took note of comments made by Parties on the recommendations.

The 25 recommendations made by the JIU have been considered in different ways by the IIWG depending on their strategic, financial, institutional or administrative nature. It was recognized that each recommendation has to be addressed, *inter alia*, in the Ten-Year Strategic Plan, in COP decisions and/or through specific actions to be undertaken by Convention institutions, including the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism. In some instances, Parties and partner organisations also have a role to play in response to relevant JIU recommendations.

The following table summarizes the IIWG review of the JIU recommendations and of its proposed approach to how best to address them. It shows how JIU recommendations can fully or partly be addressed in the strategic plan, COP decisions or through actions by Parties or Convention bodies.

Rec #	JIU Recommendation	Nature	Response in Strategic Plan	Other Proposed Response	Note
<i>I. Policy Issues</i>					
1a	The COP should invite the affected country Parties to integrate and prioritize their National Action Programmes (NAPs) into their national development plans.	Strategic	Strategic Plan Outcome 2.2	COP to invite affected country Parties to act accordingly. Parties to report to COP on their implementation of recommendation.	
1b	The COP should invite the developed country Parties to mainstream UNCCD objectives into their development programmes/projects.	Strategic	Strategic Plan Outcome 2.3	COP to invite developed country Parties to act accordingly. Parties to report to COP on their implementation of recommendation. COP to invite OECD DAC and GM to develop guidelines on mainstreaming UNCCD in development cooperation	
2	The COP may wish to invite all country Parties to designate high-ranking officials of relevant ministries to be in charge of UNCCD affairs.	Strategic	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to invite Parties to act accordingly. Parties to report to COP on their implementation of recommendation.	
3	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to monitor and report to each session of the COP on the implementation of the above recommendations.	Strategic		COP to request to Executive Secretary to act accordingly	
<i>II. Governance</i>					
4	The COP may wish to consider giving the Bureau sufficient legislative power to enhance its authority so as to meet any emergencies when the COP is not in session, and may wish to revise the Rules of Procedure of the COP accordingly.	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to delegate appropriate powers to the Bureau COP to revise its Rules of Procedure accordingly	
5a	The COP may wish to schedule the sessions of the CST prior to the sessions of the COP	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP Decision on CST to be based on Strategic Plan and AHWGR	
5b	The COP may wish to request all country Parties to designate officials with relevant expertise as their representatives on the CST and to establish a specific procedure to this effect.	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to adopt specific procedure COP to request Parties to act accordingly and report to COP on designation of official	

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<i>III. Functions and activities of the UNCCD Secretariat</i>					
6	In preparing submissions for the COP, particularly those on programme and budget proposals, the Executive Secretary should follow closely the guidance given by the COP, and adopt results-based planning, programming and budgeting, including on the implementation of additional activities called for in the various decisions of the COP.	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to request the Executive Secretary to prepare results-based planning, programming and budgeting	<i>Accepted by Executive Secretary</i>
7	The Executive Secretary should ensure that the Secretariat focuses on its catalytic role in its interactions with the affected country Parties under Article 23, paragraph 2 (c) of the Convention.	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to request Executive Secretary to prepare guidelines for its catalytic interventions for approval by the COP. COP to request Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of this recommendation	
8a	The developed country Parties are invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 7.	Financial	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	Option 1: COP to invite developed country Parties to prepare a joint technical and financial support platform to meet Article 26, par. 7 in light of the Strategic Plan and Action Plans of the Secretariat and the GM Option 2: COP to invite GEF to make financial resources available for reporting through GEF enabling activities Option 3: Funding for reporting is integrated into core budget of the Convention	
8b	The developed country Parties are invited to ensure that higher levels of voluntary funding are provided to UNCCD trust funds to place them in a better position to support the implementation of the Convention.	Financial	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to invite developed country Parties to prepare a joint voluntary financial support platform based on the Strategic Plan and Action Plans of the Secretariat and the GM	
9	The Executive Secretary should, as a matter of priority, propose revised procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the COP and other activities, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions.	Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to request the Executive Secretary to propose revised procedures for adoption at COP	

Rec #	JIU Recommendation	Nature	Response in Strategic Plan	Other Proposed Response	Note
10	The COP should endorse the benchmarking framework for results-based management.	Administrative		COP decision to endorse the benchmarking framework for results based management, to adopt Strategic Plan and to decide on next steps	
11	The COP should approve the establishment of a Task Force comprising the main UNCCD constituencies that would use the results-based management benchmarking framework to draw up a long-term strategic framework for UNCCD, that would establish the exact functions and activities of the UNCCD secretariat and enable the Executive Secretary to draw up a medium-term plan.	Strategic		COP to adopt Strategic Plan. COP to adopt decision on exact functions and activities of the secretariat (see 14) COP to request Executive Secretary to draw up a medium-term plan for the secretariat based on the Strategic Plan and its decision on functions and activities of the Secretariat	
12	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to contract an independent expert entity to conduct a desk-to-desk workload analysis as part of a needs assessment review of the human and financial resources required to deliver the expected results under the medium-term plan.	Administrative		COP to request to Executive Secretary to meet this recommendation, in due course	
13	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to put forward results-based budget proposals based on the findings of the needs assessment review, and linked to a medium-term plan, in line with the benchmarking framework for results-based management.	Administrative	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to request to Executive Secretary to meet this recommendation, in light of the Strategic Plan	
IV. Relationship between the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism					
14	The Task Force to be established under Recommendation 11 above should be requested to: (i) Make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the Global Mechanism. (ii) Review the current administrative arrangements for the GM as contained in the MOU between IFAD and the COP, including the possibility of separate budget submissions and performance reporting to the COP.	Strategic / Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to adopt Strategic Plan. COP to adopt decision on exact functions and activities of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism COP to adopt a decision on status of GM, if needed.	
V. Financial and budgetary issues					
15	The COP should adopt and apply similar procedures for its decision-making processes as those contained in Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.	Administrative		Implemented	<i>Approved at COP.7. To be implemented at COP.8</i>
16	The COP should consider adopting euro budgeting and a single currency system of assessment -the euro- from the 2008-2009 biennium.	Administrative		Implemented	<i>Approved at COP.7. To be implemented at COP.8</i>

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VII. Other issues in administration and management					
17	The COP should request the United Nations Secretary-General to delegate full authority to the Executive Secretary of UNCCD through a comprehensive statement of all delegated authorities and associated accountabilities, which would replace earlier delegation.	Administrative		COP to request UN Secretary General to act accordingly	
18	The Executive Secretary should elaborate a strategy for human resources management as an essential part of the proposed results-based management strategy.	Administrative		COP to request the Executive Secretary to elaborate an HR strategy and to report on implementation of this recommendation	Partially implemented
19	The Executive Secretary should: (i) Review the gender balance at the Professional level and above and, as opportunities arise in the secretariat, make efforts to move towards the target set by the United Nations General Assembly. (ii) Review the geographical distribution at the Professional level and above and, as opportunities arise in the secretariat, make efforts to achieve a more equitable distribution.	Administrative		COP to request the Executive Secretary to apply this recommendation and to report on its implementation	Partially implemented
20	The Executive Secretary should develop, for consideration and approval by the COP, a comprehensive information and communication technology strategy to support the proposed results-based management strategy.	Administrative		COP to request Executive Secretary to develop ICT strategy as per recommendation	Partially implemented
21	Following the development and approval of the ICT strategy, the COP may wish to establish a dedicated ICT Fund preferably within the framework of the core budget.	Financial / Administrative		Possible COP Decision in due course	
22	The COP should request the Executive Secretary to make an estimate of the increased operating costs of the new premises and recommend how best to meet these additional requirements.	Administrative		COP to request the Executive Secretary to implement recommendation and report on its implementation	<i>In progress To be estimated for 2008-2009 biennium budget</i>
23	The Executive Secretary should continue to explore the possibilities for the expansion of cost-saving common and joint services with his counterparts in Bonn and systematically report on progress to the COP.	Administrative		COP to request the Executive Secretary to implement recommendation and report on its implementation	<i>In progress Incremental process</i>
VII. Coordination and cooperation					
24	The COP should direct the Executive Secretary to work with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio Conventions and boost synergies in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation, and to systematically report to it on progress made.	Strategic / Institutional	Strategic Plan Outcomes, 2.4, 4.6 Implementation Framework	COP to request the Executive Secretary to implement recommendation and report on its implementation	
25	The Secretariat should make strenuous efforts to play a catalytic role between the concerned Parties and the various partner organizations to enhance cooperation between them in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, it should elaborate a concrete plan of action and systematically report to the COP on progress made.	Strategic / Institutional	Strategic Plan Implementation Framework	COP to request the Executive Secretary to submit plan of action and to report on implementation	