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[ADVANCE UNEDITED TEXT]**Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee**

Agenda item 85 (e)

Sustainable development:**implementation of the United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification
in Those Countries Experiencing Serious
Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly
in Africa****[PLS. USE A/RES/58/242 AS REFERENCE]****Qatar *Draft resolution****Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat
Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought
and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution **58/242 of 23 December 2003** and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹ **[PP1]**

Recalling also its resolution **58/211 of 23 December 2003** declaring **2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,**

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

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

***Reaffirming* that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication, and that Desertification contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty, and can give rise to social, economic and political tensions that are factors of forced migrations and conflicts;**

***Further reaffirming* that Desertification constitutes a serious obstacle to sustainable development,**

***Noting* that a timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help achieving the Millennium Development Goals, given the concentration of poverty and hunger in rural, dry and degraded lands of developing countries,**

***Expressing* concern about the insufficient resources for the focal area of sustainable land management in the current financial cycle of the Global Environment Facility,**

***Stressing* the need for more funding from various sources to address land degradation,**

1. ***Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²**
2. ***Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Convention for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and in this regard, invites all Governments to take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention,**
3. ***Invites* also the Secretary-General to take due consideration of the role and the place of the Convention in the ongoing work in the context of the preparation of the 2005 high**

² A/58/158.

level plenary meeting including the report of the Millennium Project;

4. *Invites further* the Global Environment Facility to provide additional resources to its focal area on sustainable land management in its current financial cycle and calls upon the forthcoming replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to increase the level of resources allocated to this focal area, as means to strengthen the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Takes note* with great interest of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty as called for by the Sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* the donor community to increase its supports to the Convention with the view to achieve a global coalition for combating land degradation and desertification to contribute to the improvement of the global environment and to sustainable development of dry lands.

7. *Urges* the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the Secretariat of the Convention to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding in an expeditiously way and to submit it to the next session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention and the subsequent meeting of the Global Environment Facility Council for consideration and adoption.

9. *Also urges* the United Nations funds and programmes, development agencies, UN regional commissions, the Bretton Woods institutions, and the donor countries to integrate actions in support of the Convention in their programmes and strategies to support the

achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;³ [SIMILAR TO OP9]

10. *Calls upon governments, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations including the GEF implementation agencies, as appropriate, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;*

11. *Urges all Parties to the Convention to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and, as they are able, to support related activities organized by the secretariat;*

12. *Reiterates its invitation to all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennia 2003-2004, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the global mechanism;*
[OP11]

13. *Calls upon Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the*

financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,³ and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries; [OP12]

14. Takes note of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

15. ~~Also Requests~~ the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its **sixtieth** session on the implementation of the present resolution; [OP15]

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its **sixtieth** session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. [OP16]

³ ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.