

- (i) defining the roles and responsibilities of central government and local authorities within the framework of a land use planning policy;
  - (ii) encouraging a policy of active decentralization, devolving responsibility for management and decision-making to local authorities, and encouraging initiatives and the assumption of responsibility by local communities and the establishment of local structures; and
  - (iii) adjusting, as appropriate, the institutional and regulatory framework of natural resource management to provide security of land tenure for local populations;
- (d) measures to improve knowledge of desertification:
- (i) promoting research and the collection, processing and exchange of information on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of desertification;
  - (ii) improving national capabilities in research and in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of information so as to increase understanding and to translate the results of the analysis into operational terms; and
  - (iii) encouraging the medium- and long-term study of:
    - socio-economic and cultural trends in affected areas;
    - qualitative and quantitative trends in natural resources; and
    - the interaction between climate and desertification; and
- (e) measures to monitor and assess the effects of drought:
- (i) developing strategies to evaluate the impacts of natural climate variability on regional drought and desertification and/or to utilize predictions of climate variability on seasonal to interannual time scales in efforts to mitigate the effects of drought;
  - (ii) improving early warning and response capacity, efficiently managing emergency relief and food aid, and improving food stocking and distribution systems, cattle protection schemes and public works and alternative livelihoods for drought prone areas; and
  - (iii) monitoring and assessing ecological degradation to provide reliable and timely information on the process and dynamics of resource degradation in order to facilitate better policy formulations and responses.