

- (b) identify international cooperation requirements in support of national efforts; and
- (c) promote the participation of bilateral and/or multilateral financial cooperation institutions with a view to ensuring implementation of the Convention.

Article 7

Institutional framework

1. In order to give effect to this Annex, affected country Parties of the region shall:
 - (a) establish and/or strengthen national focal points to coordinate action to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought; and
 - (b) set up a mechanism to coordinate the national focal points for the following purposes:
 - (i) exchanges of information and experience;
 - (ii) coordination of activities at the subregional and regional levels;
 - (iii) promotion of technical, scientific, technological and financial cooperation;
 - (iv) identification of external cooperation requirements; and
 - (v) follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of action programmes.
2. Affected country Parties of the region shall hold periodic coordination meetings and the Permanent Secretariat may, at their request, pursuant to article 23 of the Convention, facilitate the convocation of such coordination meetings, by:
 - (a) providing advice on the organization of effective coordination arrangements, drawing on experience from other such arrangements;
 - (b) providing information to relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies concerning coordination meetings, and encouraging their active involvement; and
 - (c) providing other information that may be relevant in establishing or improving coordination processes.