

2. A consultative and participatory process, involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations, shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation, pursuant to article 10, paragraph 2 (f) of the Convention.

Article 4

Obligation to prepare national action programmes and timetable

Affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean region shall prepare national action programmes and, as appropriate, subregional, regional or joint action programmes. The preparation of such programmes shall be finalized as soon as practicable.

Article 5

Preparation and implementation of national action programmes

In preparing and implementing national action programmes pursuant to articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, each affected country Party of the region shall, as appropriate:

- (a) designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation, coordination and implementation of its programme;
- (b) involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the programme through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations;
- (c) survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action;
- (d) evaluate, with the participation of affected populations, past and current programmes in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in the action programme;
- (e) prepare technical and financial programmes based on the information gained through the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d); and
- (f) develop and utilize procedures and benchmarks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme.

Article 6

Content of national action programmes

Affected country Parties of the region may include, in their national action programmes, measures relating to:

- (a) legislative, institutional and administrative areas;