

Article 3

Action programmes

1. In conformity with the Convention, in particular its articles 9 to 11, and in accordance with their national development policies, affected country Parties of the region shall, as appropriate, prepare and implement national action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought as an integral part of their national policies for sustainable development. Subregional and regional programmes may be prepared and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the region.

2. In the preparation of their national action programmes, affected country Parties of the region shall pay particular attention to article 10, paragraph 2 (f) of the Convention.

Article 4

Content of national action programmes

In the light of their respective situations, the affected country Parties of the region may take account, inter alia, of the following thematic issues in developing their national strategies for action to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, pursuant to article 5 of the Convention:

- (a) increasing capacities, education and public awareness, technical, scientific and technological cooperation and financial resources and mechanisms;
- (b) eradicating poverty and improving the quality of human life;
- (c) achieving food security and sustainable development and management of agricultural, livestock-rearing, forestry and multipurpose activities;
- (d) sustainable management of natural resources, especially the rational management of drainage basins;
- (e) sustainable management of natural resources in high-altitude areas;
- (f) rational management and conservation of soil resources and exploitation and efficient use of water resources;
- (g) formulation and application of emergency plans to mitigate the effects of drought;
- (h) strengthening and/or establishing information, evaluation and follow-up and early warning systems in areas prone to desertification and drought, taking account of climatological, meteorological, hydrological, biological, soil, economic and social factors;