



**STATEMENT BY CHERRYL GORDON, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, AT THE 7TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) ON AGENDA ITEM 9: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 23, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CONVENTION, THE RELEVANT ARTICLES OF THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEXES, AND IN THE RELEVANT DECISIONS OF THE COP (Nairobi, Kenya, 21 October 2005)**

Mr. Chairman.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, on this agenda item.

The G77 and China commends the UNCCD Secretariat for preparation of the documents under consideration and thanks the inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for taking the time to come to Nairobi to present this Report. We welcome the Report and express our appreciation for the frank, constructive and professional approach taken by the JIU inspectors in preparing the Report for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

The G77 and China take this opportunity to reiterate our commendation of the UNCCD Secretariat for its commitment to the implementation of the Convention, and for continuing to demonstrate leadership in this regard. We recognise the severe limitations which continue to be placed on its operations by the lack of stable funding. We urge all country Parties to do their best to rectify this state of affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

As mentioned in our statement to the Plenary of this Conference on Monday, 17 th October, the G77 and China believes it is the responsibility of the Conference to address the JIU Report, which was suggested by COP 6. Many of the observations made by the JIU inspectors accord with those which have been made by the G77 and China, year after year, since the beginning of this Convention. I will not go into detail, Mr. Chairman, but obviously, the inspectors' lingering dismay at the lack of commitment to the Convention, deserves to be highlighted.

Mr. Chairman,

The G77 and China is of the view that this COP must produce a decision on the JIU Report. As stated previously, we would participate actively in the elaboration of such a decision.

In this context,

We feel that some of these recommendations need to be considered and/or implemented by this COP. Other recommendations clearly require more in-depth analysis. For these, the G77 and China would strongly recommend the establishment, by this Session of the COP, of an ad hoc working group to meet, between this COP and the next, which would undertake the task of working on the more complex recommendations, with a view to submitting concrete recommendations to COP 8.

We understand, Mr. Chairman, that there are a few other issues currently being addressed in the COP, which cannot or will not be completed by the end of COP 7, owing to their complexity or simply, time constraints. The G77 and China is open to consideration of such items, to be identified by the COP, to be included in the work of this proposed ad hoc working group.

We would present other specific issues on the JIU recommendations, when the time comes.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

