



COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRST MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION IN TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Bearing in mind that the desertification is one of the most serious ecological and socio-economic problems which might present the main threat to successful social-economic development of TurkPA member countries,

Concerned by the spread and intensification of desertification in member countries and the human suffering, economic and financial losses and social disruption caused by that,

Recognizing regional collaboration as an important component that provides a valuable opportunity in obtaining methodological, technical and financial assistance from the international community and gives impulse to combating desertification through the assistance,

Aware of the need to identify the major aspects of land degradation arising in the TURKPA member countries and to measure their severity in order to find appropriate solutions to protecting threatened ecosystems and eradicating poverty,

The Parliamentary Assembly proposes to the national parliaments and the governments of the TurkPA member-states:

- a) **to create** a “culture of prevention from desertification” in member countries that includes raising of public awareness of societies, providing of correct information on the issue and contributing to the environmental-friendly attitude of peoples;
- b) **to harmonize** the environmental legislation with the internationally accepted standards of environment protection, including combating desertification;
- c) **to implement** pilot projects on relevant conventions, seeking practical, experimental (methodological) and presentation (informational-promotional) goals;
- d) **to form** and implement various forestry related projects needed in member countries within relevant national action programmes;
- e) **to inventory** the state-owned summer and winter pastures in member countries. As a result of this process it is possible to determine the condition of the soil and in accordance with this condition the existing problems can be solved correctly and easier.
- f) **to protect** vegetative cover. Maintaining vegetative cover to protect soil from wind and water erosion is a key preventive measure against desertification. Properly maintained vegetative cover also prevents loss of ecosystem services during drought episodes.
- g) **to use** modern technologies locally suitable for their application in the regions that mostly suffer from desertification;
- h) **to create** economic opportunities in drylands of urban and rural centers of the member countries in order to change overall landscape of this areas by setting various infrastructure facilities that would lead to prevention of further process of desertification;
- i) **to organize** activities on Agroecological Consulting that would include a joint work of experts and farmers aimed at rational use of soil;

- j) **to reinforce** regional cooperation in the areas such as exchange of information and experience, training and collaborative research programmes;
- k) **to develop** the capacity building measures through improvement of the institutional framework and more active participation of the non-governmental sector in combating desertification;
- l) **to initiate** discussions on elaboration of regional instruments with participation of the TURKPA member countries regarding joint actions in the various areas of environmental protection, including combating desertification, and to organize conference or forum to be dedicated to the deliberations on strengthening cooperation under the TURKPA umbrella;