



POINTS FOR THE INTERVENTION BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF SPAIN IN THE IPM-CSD 17

<i>Introduction</i>	<p>Madame Chair,</p> <p>First of all, Spain endorses the intervention made by the Czech Republic in behalf of the European Union. The issues we are discussing in this session, as well as the need for addressing them through an integrated approach, currently are extremely relevant in my country.</p>
---------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

ELEMENTS FOR INTERVENTION ON DESERTIFICATION

<i>Spain is a country affected by desertification</i>	<p>The National Action Programme to fight desertification (PAND), approved in August last year, shows that 18% of Spanish territory has a high or very high risk to be affected by desertification processes. This information reinforces the fact that Spain is the most affected country by desertification in the European Union.</p>
<i>National Action Plan</i>	<p>This programme was designed to assess and specify the geographic areas in risk of desertification in Spain, as well as the identification of factors leading to desertification and the means to fight desertification and drought. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Laying the foundations to coordinate thematic actions. o The proposal of an institutional framework for its development at national level. o It includes an economic reference framework in the medium term for the fight against desertification. <p>From the beginning the harmonization of PAND and the related thematic policies, especially agriculture and rural development, has been pursued. This has been done in coordination with the Spanish Strategy on Sustainable Development (PAND), The National Plan for Adaptation to climate Change, and the Spanish Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity. All affected ministries, entities and stakeholders participated in the drafting of the Programme.</p>
<i>Links between desertification and climate change</i>	<p>The approval and implementation of the National Action Plan contributes to the prevention and mitigation of this phenomenon, which threatens wide areas in our geography. This threat is exacerbated by climate change in our country since both processes feed back each other. On the other hand there are clear interlinkages between desertification and drought. Drought is a relevant issue for us and we are severely affected by it. In order to minimise the negative environmental, economic and social impacts caused by drought, the Spanish water policy framework introduces the development of a hydrological indicator national system, which acts as a reference for River Basin Authorities to establish Drought Management Plans (DMP). These plans are useful documents and efficient tools to manage water resources under drought episodes with a planned approach. Spain has a national drought observatory, but is also interested in the launching and establishment of an International Drought Observatory. Finally, Water savings and water efficient technologies are being promoted.</p>
<i>Reforestation Plan</i>	<p>Madam Chair, Spain will launch a programme that will plant 45 million trees from 2009 to 2012 and will contribute to fix carbon and fight climate change, as it applies one of the PAND</p>



	<p>actions while reducing erosion risk and saving soil potential.</p>
<p><i>Catalogue of technologies to fight desertification</i></p>	<p>Another action line included in PAND is the “Analysis, outreach and exploitation of results of research and innovation programmes on desertification”, after a new Catalogue of technologies to fight desertification in Spain is implemented. You can access the catalogue by visiting the Web of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Areas</p> <p>This catalogue enables the recompilation, organization and evaluation of advances made by the scientists, industry and managers of the territory.</p> <p>By preparing and delivering the catalogue, technology transfer between countries that have signed the UN Convention to Fight Desertification is facilitated.</p>
<p><i>Host of COP8 and Presidency of the Bureau</i></p>	<p>Being an affected country, Spain hosted the 8th Session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention to Fight Desertification. We all worked in order to get a 10 year strategy that will make new instruments available, reinforce the existing ones and strengthen cooperation with other UN Conventions. This is the spirit of Spain while President of the Conference of Parties.</p>
<p><i>Importance of scientific work and indicators</i></p>	<p>And, in relation to our task, we would also highlight the importance of the Convention to establish quantitative goals and indicators Aimed at monitoring the Convention. In this regard, we consider that scientific work and the reinforcement of CST are crucial.</p>
<p><i>Madrid High Level Meeting</i></p>	<p>Finally, Madame Chair, we want to insist in the evident links between desertification, drought, climate change and food security. Addressing the problem of food security demands a global response. In this regard, we would like to highlight the recently held Madrid High Level Meeting on Food Security for All and the agreements reached there.</p>