



ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ ΠΡΩΤΟ
ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΣΗΜΗΣ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ
Αρ. 3376 της 23ης ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1999
ΝΟΜΟΘΕΣΙΑ

ΜΕΡΟΣ ΙΙΙ

Ο περί της Σύμβασης των Ηνωμένων Εθνών για την Καταπολέμηση της Απερμήωσης (Κυρωτικός) Νόμος του 1999 εκδίδεται με δημοσίευση στην Επίσημη Εφημερίδα της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας σύμφωνα με το Άρθρο 52 του Συντάγματος.

Αριθμός 23(III) του 1999

**ΝΟΜΟΣ ΠΟΥ ΚΥΡΩΝΕΙ ΤΗ ΣΥΜΒΑΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΗΝΩΜΕΝΩΝ ΕΘΝΩΝ
ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΚΑΤΑΠΟΛΕΜΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΕΡΗΜΩΣΗΣ ΣΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ
ΕΚΕΙΝΕΣ ΠΟΥ ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΖΟΥΝ ΣΟΒΑΡΗ ΞΗΡΑΣΙΑ
Η/ΚΑΙ ΑΠΕΡΗΜΩΣΗ, ΙΔΙΑΙΤΕΡΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΦΡΙΚΗ**

Η Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων ψηφίζει ως ακολούθως:

1. Ο παρών Νόμος θα αναφέρεται ως ο περί της Σύμβασης των Ηνωμένων Εθνών για την Καταπολέμηση της Απερμήωσης (Κυρωτικός) Νόμος του 1999. Συνοπτικός
τίτλος.

2. Στον παρόντα Νόμο, εκτός αν από το κείμενο προκύπτει διαφορετική έννοια— Εμπνεμία.

«Σύμβαση» σημαίνει τη Σύμβαση των Ηνωμένων Εθνών για την Καταπολέμηση της Απερμήωσης, η οποία έγινε στο Παρίσι στις 17 Ιουνίου 1994.

3. Με τον παρόντα Νόμο, κυρώνεται η Σύμβαση η επικύρωση της οποίας εγκρίθηκε με την Απόφαση του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου με Αρ. 48.284 και ημερομηνία 26.8.1998 και της οποίας το κείμενο στο αγγλικό πρωτότυπο εκτίθεται στο Μέρος Ι του Πίνακα και σε ελληνική μετάφραση στο Μέρος ΙΙ αυτού. Κύρωση
της Σύμβασης.
Πίνακας,
Μέρος Ι,
Μέρος ΙΙ.

Νοείται ότι σε περίπτωση αντίφασης μεταξύ του κειμένου του Μέρους Ι και εκείνου του Μέρους ΙΙ του Πίνακα, θα υπερισχύει το κείμενο που εκτίθεται στο Μέρος Ι αυτού.

ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ
(ΑΡΘΡΟ 3)
ΜΕΡΟΣ Ι

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

The Parties to this Convention,

Affirming that human beings in affected or threatened areas are at the centre of concerns to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Reflecting the urgent concern of the international community, including States and international organizations, about the adverse impacts of desertification and drought.

Aware that arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas together account for a significant proportion of the Earth's land area and are the habitat and source of livelihood for a large segment of its population.

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought.

Noting the high concentration of developing countries, notably the least developed countries, among those experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, and the particularly tragic consequences of these phenomena in Africa.

Noting also that desertification is caused by complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors.

Considering the impact of trade and relevant aspects of international economic relations on the ability of affected countries to combat desertification adequately.

Conscious that sustainable economic growth, social development and poverty eradication are priorities of affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, and are essential to meeting sustainability objectives.

Mindful that desertification and drought affect sustainable development through their interrelationships with important social problems such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, lack of food security, and those arising from migration, displacement of persons and demographic dynamics.

Appreciating the significance of the past efforts and experience of States and international organizations in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, particularly in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977.

Realizing that, despite efforts in the past, progress in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought has not met expectations and that a new and more effective approach is needed at all levels within the framework of sustainable development.

Recognizing the validity and relevance of decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly of Agenda 21 and its chapter 12, which provide a basis for combating desertification.

Reaffirming in this light the commitments of developed countries as contained in paragraph 13 of chapter 33 of Agenda 21.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/183, particularly the priority in it prescribed for Africa, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, decisions and programmes on desertification and drought, as well as relevant declarations by African countries and those from other regions.

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which states, in its Principle 2, that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Recognizing that national Governments play a critical role in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and that progress in that respect depends on local implementation of action programmes in affected areas.

Recognizing also the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Recognizing further the importance of the provision to affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, of effective means, *inter alia* substantial financial resources, including new and additional funding, and access to technology, without which it will be difficult for them to implement fully their commitments under this Convention.

Expressing concern over the impact of desertification and drought on affected countries in Central Asia and the Transcaucasus.

Stressing the important role played by women in regions affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, and the importance of ensuring the full participation of both men and women at all levels in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Emphasizing the special role of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Bearing in mind the relationship between desertification and other environmental problems of global dimension facing the international and national communities.

Bearing also in mind the contribution that combating desertification can make to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related environmental conventions.

Believing that strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought will be most effective if they are based on sound systematic observation and rigorous scientific knowledge and if they are continuously re-evaluated.

Recognizing the urgent need to improve the effectiveness and coordination of international cooperation to facilitate the implementation of national plans and priorities.

Determined to take appropriate action in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought for the benefit of present and future generations.

Have agreed as follows:

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Article 1. Use of terms

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) "desertification" means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities;

(b) "combating desertification" includes activities which are part of the integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at:

- (i) prevention and/or reduction of land degradation;
- (ii) rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and
- (iii) reclamation of desertified land;

(c) "drought" means the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems;

(d) "mitigating the effects of drought" means activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification;

(e) "land" means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, vegetation, other biota, and the ecological and hydrological processes that operate within the system;

(f) "land degradation" means reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as:

- (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water;
- (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and
- (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation;

(g) "arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas" means areas, other than polar and sub-polar regions, in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration falls within the range from 0.05 to 0.65;

(h) "affected areas" means arid, semi-arid and/or dry sub-humid areas affected or threatened by desertification;

(i) "affected countries" means countries whose lands include, in whole or in part, affected areas;

(j) "regional economic integration organization" means an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention and has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Convention;

(k) "developed country Parties" means developed country Parties and regional economic integration organizations constituted by developed countries.

Article 2. Objective

1. The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach, which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

2. Achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

Article 3. Principles

In order to achieve the objective of this Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, *inter alia*, by the following:

(a) the Parties should ensure that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought are taken with the participation of populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels;

(b) the Parties should, in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership, improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels, and better focus financial, human, organizational and technical resources where they are needed;

(c) the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in affected areas and to work towards their sustainable use; and

(d) the Parties should take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them.