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UNCED (follow-up)
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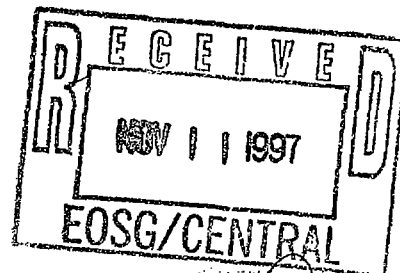
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TO: Mr. Jean-Claude Faby	FROM: Patrizio Civili <i>MC</i>
FAX.: (212) 963-1010	FAX.: (212) 963-2155

Could your office please prepare a brief on the issues covered by the attached letter and a draft reply, for the Secretary-General ?



INTERIM SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
SECRETARIAT INTERIMAIRE DE LA CONVENTION DE LUTTE CONTRE LA DESERTIFICATION



TELEFAX MESSAGE

A/TO :

Mr. Patrizio Civili
Director
Executive Office of the Secretary General
United Nations
New York

Fax: (1-212) 963.2155

Mr. Jean-Claude Faby
Chief
Office of the Under-Secretary-General
Dept. for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
United Nations
New York

Fax: (1-212) 963.1010

DE/FROM :

Salvano Briceño
Deputy Executive Secretary

DATE: 6 November 1997

SUJET/SUBJECT :

First Conference of the Parties

THIS TELEFAX MESSAGE CONSISTS OF 4 PAGE(S) INCLUDING THIS ONE
NOMBRE DE PAGE(S) Y COMPRIS FEUILLE DE COUVERTURE : 4

Further to the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997, please find herewith a letter from Mr. Dini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and President of the First COP, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

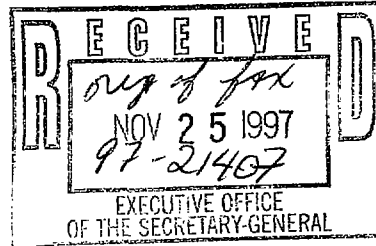
CCD

Geneva Executive Center, 11/13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (41-22) 979-9407 Fax: (41-22) 979-9030/31
Email: nmattana@unccd.ch

UNCED (follow-up)
Italy

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

001 / 04858



Rome, - 5 NOV.1997

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to inform you on the outcome of the First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD/COP 1, Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997), and to request your assistance in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference.

The Conference completed its consideration of all the main items on its agenda, particularly its Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, the terms of reference for the functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology, the functions and hosting of the Global Mechanism, the selection of Bonn (Germany) as the location of its Permanent Secretariat, and the budget of the Permanent Secretariat for 1999. The Conference also decided to request the General Assembly to finance from the Regular Programme Budget of the UN, the conference services costs of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage of the Convention Secretariat to the United Nations. As far as administrative matters are concerned, the Conference accepted the offer of the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention. The Interim Secretariat of the Convention has been requested to ensure the required follow up with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat. The Conference also

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

decided that in order for the Permanent Secretariat to enjoy administrative and financial autonomy, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme of the United Nations. The Conference further decided to request the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Conference through its Bureau, to appoint the first Head of the Convention Secretariat, with the title of Executive Secretary at the level of Assistant Secretary-General on an exceptional basis and for a three year period, starting on 1 January 1999. At the end of the term of the first Head of the Convention Secretariat, the post of the Head of the Convention Secretariat shall be classified at the D2 level with all the other senior posts of the Secretariat from 1 January 1999 having appropriate relationship to the D2 level.

I would be very grateful if this appointment can be done at your earliest convenience in order to facilitate the smooth transition of the Secretariat from the interim to the permanent status as well as the timely relocation of the Secretariat to Bonn.

The Convention is a product of the visionary work carried out by the United Nations at the Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) in search of sustainable development. Its work will be closely linked to the other two Rio Conventions, on Biological Diversity and Climate Change and other multilateral and bilateral efforts in combatting land degradation.

The UNCCD has received invaluable support from several members of the United Nations family particularly WMO, UNEP, UNDP, IFAD, FAO, UNESCO, UNITAR, GEF, World Bank as well as other multilateral and bilateral organizations. It is expected that their support will continue and expand in the future.

However, as it enters a new critical phase, the UNCCD will require above all, the dedicated support from the United Nations Secretariat as envisaged in the institutional linkage of the Convention Secretariat to the United Nations. Therefore, I would like to request, on behalf of the Parties

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

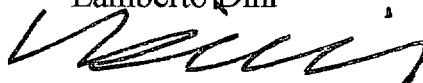
to the Convention, your assistance in ensuring that the support of the United Nations Secretariat is maintained as a much needed complement to the efforts by the Parties, whilst everything is being done to secure the widest possible support in favour of this innovative international instrument.

I am requesting the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations to follow up with your office on these various issues, particularly with regard to the appointment of the first Head of the Convention Secretariat.

I remain, Mr. Secretary-General, at your entire disposal and wish a positive outcome in the deliberations of the General Assembly at its Fifty-Second session.

Yours sincerely,

Lamberto Dini



Minister of Foreign Affairs
President of the first session of the Conference
of the Parties of the United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

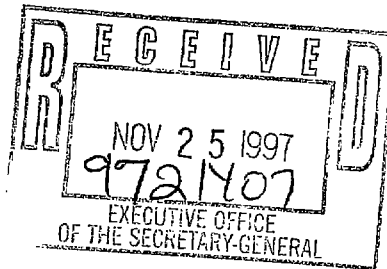


PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

2 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

TEL: (212) 486-9191
FAX: (212) 486-1036

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New York, November 21, 1997

Dear Under Secretary-General,

*Please find herewith enclosed the original of the letter addressed
to the Secretary-General by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lamberto Dini.*

*An advance copy of the letter has already been handed over, on
November 14.*

With my best regards,

*Very truly
Yours,
Giulio Terzi*
Couns. Giulio Terzi

*Mr. S. Iqbal RIZA
Chef de Cabinet
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations*