

No. 27528

MULTILATERAL

Convention establishing a Permanent Inter-State Drought Control Committee for the Sahel. Concluded at Ouagadougou on 12 September 1973

Authentic text: French.

Registered by Burkina Faso on 27 August 1990.

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention portant création du Comité permanent inter-États de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel. Conclue à Ouagadougou le 12 septembre 1973

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistrée par le Burkina Faso le 27 août 1990.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION¹ ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT INTER-STATE
DROUGHT CONTROL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAHEL

The President of the Republic of the Upper Volta,
 The President of the Republic of Mali,
 The President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania,
 The President of the Republic of the Niger,
 The President of the Republic of Senegal,
 The President of the Republic of Chad,

Considering the bonds of brotherhood and fruitful cooperation existing between their peoples and their Governments,

Considering the scale and gravity of the exceptional drought which has plagued the Sudano-Sahelian region for several years past,

Considering the disastrous consequences of the drought for their economies and the life of the peoples of the region,

Convinced of the need for a concerted struggle against the drought and its consequences,

Assert by means of the present Convention their common will to deal with this calamity and to strengthen their cooperation in all fields, and

Have agreed on the following provisions:

I. CONSTITUTION — HEADQUARTERS

Article 1

A Permanent Inter-State Drought Control Committee for the Sahel (CILSS) shall be established jointly by the Republic of the Upper Volta, the Republic of Mali,

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1974, i.e., one month after half of the signatory States had deposited their instruments of ratification or approval with the Government of Burkina Faso, in accordance with article 17:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	
Burkina Faso.....	1 June	1974
Niger.....	28 January	1974
Senegal.....	26 May	1974

Subsequently, the Convention came into force for the following States one month after the deposit of their instruments of ratification with the Government of Burkina Faso:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	
Mali..... (With effect from 4 October 1974).	4 September	1974
Chad..... (With effect from 16 January 1975).	16 December	1974
Mauritania..... (With effect from 15 May 1975).	15 April	1975

the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of the Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Chad.

Article 2

The Committee shall have its headquarters at Ouagadougou, the capital of the Upper Volta.

II. STRUCTURE — FUNCTIONING

Article 3

The Committee shall comprise the following organs:

A Conference of Heads of State, which shall meet as and when required;

A Council of Ministers in which each member State shall be represented by one or more Ministers, according to the topics on the agenda.

Article 4

The functions of the Committee shall be:

1. To coordinate all action to combat the drought and its consequences at the subregional level;
2. To make the international community aware of the problems caused by the drought;
3. To appeal for resources to carry out the emergency programme agreed upon by the States as part of the campaign to combat the drought;
4. To mobilize resources in order to finance operations within the framework of subregional cooperation;
5. To assist member States and existing bodies in the area in seeking financing for their individual programmes.

Article 5

The tasks of promotion and coordination of the work of the Committee shall be entrusted to a Minister, who shall have the title of Regional Coordinator. He shall be appointed by the Council for a period of two years.

Article 6

The Regional Coordinator shall take any steps required for the implementation of the recommendations, resolutions and programmes of action approved by the States concerned.

Article 7

The Council shall meet at least once a year when convened by the Regional Coordinator. It may meet at any time at the request of a member State.

Article 8

The Regional Coordinator shall be assisted by a Technical Secretariat whose duties shall be laid down in the rules of procedure.

Article 9

The Technical Secretariat shall be composed of technical staff and experts made available to the Committee, at the request of the Regional Coordinator, either by the member States or by Governments or by the various organizations.

IV. RESOURCES

Article 10

The Committee's funds for maintaining the Technical Secretariat shall be derived from contributions from member States and assistance of all kinds.

Article 11

The Committee may receive donations and legacies, and may contract loans.

Article 12

Emergency operations, as well as the implementation of certain measures of interest to member States, may be financed by special donations in cash and in kind and by the Special Fund for the Sahel.

V. MEMBERSHIP

Article 13

Membership of the Permanent Inter-State Drought Control Committee (CILSS) shall be open to any African country:

- (a) Whose agricultural and stockbreeding economy is dominated by the ecological conditions of the Sudano-Sahelian region;
- (b) Which has been declared a disaster area and recognized as such.

Article 14

Applications for membership shall be made by means of an official request to the Committee, which shall take the relevant decision.

VI. REVISION — RATIFICATION

Article 15

This Convention may be amended or revised if a member State addresses a written request to that effect to the Regional Coordinator, who shall inform the other member States. An amendment shall come into effect only after it has been approved by the member States.

Article 16

This Convention shall be approved or ratified by the signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

The original instrument shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of the Upper Volta, which shall transmit certified copies of the document to all the signatory States. The instruments of approval or ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Upper Volta, which shall notify all the signatory States to that effect.

Article 17

This Convention shall enter into force one month after one half of the signatory States have deposited their instruments of approval or ratification with the Republic of the Upper Volta.

DONE at Ouagadougou on 12 September 1973.

The President
of the Republic of the Upper Volta:

[Signed]

General SAMGOULÉ LAMIZAMA

The President
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

[Signed]

MOCKTAR OULD DADDAH

The President
of the Republic of Senegal:

[Signed]

LÉOPOLD SÉDAR SENGHOR

The President
of the Republic of Mali:

[Signed]

Colonel MOUSSA TRAORÉ

The President
of the Republic of the Niger:

[Signed]

HAMANI DIORI

For the President
of the Republic of Chad:

[Signed]

DJIDINGAR DONON
Minister of State for Agriculture