**FORUM:** Environment Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to combat desertification.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kuwait

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

*Realising* the fact that25%, 3.6 billion hectares, of the earth’s surface has been affected by desertification,

*Alarmed* thatthe livelihood of nearly one billion people in over 100 countries are threatened by desertification,

*Expressing* the need to fund programs that will rehabilitate areas afflicted by desertification through re-nourishing the soil with minerals and planting trees and/or shrubbery to prepare the soil for crop planting,

*Noting with concern* that the vast deforestation as a means to gain energy from burning wood has occurred throughout the past two centuries and has decreased forest areas by almost 46-58 thousand square miles each year,

*Believes* thatthe implementation of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power generation substituting non-renewable energy, will lead to the decrease of desertification,

*Fully supports* the introduction of sustainable farming methods that will not only rehabilitate the soil but also prevent desertification from happening in the future,

1. Suggests the education of the public on the effects of desertification in countries affected by desertification in the interest of raising awareness for the gravity of the issue, which will be accomplished by:
2. incorporating desertification as a topic into school curriculums, as a unit in subjects such as geography overseen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO),
3. the use of media such as radio, television and social media in order to address the general public;
4. Encourages the funding and financial support of programs such as Action Against Desertification launched by the African, Caribbean and Pacific groups of State (ACP) to rehabilitate land affected by desertification, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF);
5. Further encourages the introduction of an array of sustainable farming methods in order to rehabilitate desertified areas and to make the soil fertile for farming through methods such as:
6. the establishment of more seed banks, such as Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank (MSB), in privileged MEDC’s to support diversity of flora in countries affected by desertification and therefore reintroducing selected species
7. enriching soil in affected areas with necessary nutrients as part of the rehabilitation process, implemented and overseen by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with elements such as, but not limited to:
   1. carbon
   2. nitrogen
   3. sulphur
   4. phosphorus,
8. planting trees and shrubbery in areas affected by desertification in effect of deforestation, collaborating with the (UNCCD) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) funded by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);
9. Proposes that farmers in areas affected by desertification create a zone of exchange in which the sharing of different farming and agricultural strategies will be made possible by the use of a monthly newspaper, funded by the EDF and set up as well as distributed by a new subdivision of the UNCCD called the Commission of Shared Agricultural Knowledge (CSAK), which would include:
10. approaches suggested by experts to combat desertification through rehabilitation of the land by the farmers first hand, including but not limited to the recommendation of organic and sustainable fertilisers such as manure, slurry and compost,
11. a forum which allows farmers to share their own personal strategies to combat desertification,
12. a statistical monthly overview of the land rehabilitation progress in countries all over the world affected by desertification;
13. Calls for member nations collaborating with the Comity of Science and Technology (CST) of the UNCCD to implement usage of sustainable energy sources such as solar and wind energy as a substitution of wood in an attempt to decrease deforestation, in effect those employed in the industry of deforestation will be offered jobs in a local sustainable energy cooperation, overseen by the UNESCO;
14. Asks for efforts by governments of developing nations of creating international policies on water management in order to prevent droughts and the salinization of water and soil in an attempt to prevent further desertification of land by establishing limitations of water usage, regulated by the UN Water Resource management.