

**Draft text for consultations <sup>1</sup>**

**Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the UNCCD and the IWG report on LDN**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) (Rio+20) contained in *The future we want* which, *inter alia*, calls upon Member States to “strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development”,

*Also recalling* decision 8/COP.11 creating an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) to follow up on the Rio+20 outcomes related to land degradation neutrality (LDN),

*Further recalling* that at the same time, decision 12/COP.11 requests the Executive Secretary to propose, for consideration at COP 12, a process and potential terms of reference for developing plans to further improve the implementation of the Convention,

*Welcoming* the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the outcome document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”; and target 15.3: “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world”,

*Reaffirming* their obligation to adopt and implement the commitments made by their national governments on DLDD issues and that joint action of the international community is needed,

*Acknowledging* that the LDN target addresses the primary strategic objective of the Convention, namely to mitigate the drivers and impacts of DLDD,

*Also acknowledging* that achieving national LDN targets would significantly contribute to all three dimensions of sustainable development via the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land resources,

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (operative paragraph 1) and the conclusions and recommendations contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/4 (operative paragraphs 2 to 6).

*Highlighting* that the LDN target could provide the basis for a process and potential terms of reference for developing plans to further enhance the implementation of the Convention,

*Taking note* of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/4,

1. *Endorses* the following definition of land degradation neutrality (LDN): “Land degradation neutrality [in affected areas] [in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas] is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”;
2. *Invites* affected country Parties to:
  - (a) Formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN according to their specific national circumstances and development priorities, and taking into account the list of options for operationalizing LDN at the national level as outlined by the IWG;
  - (b) Use the monitoring and evaluation approach, including the progress indicators, adopted in decision 22/COP.11 to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target;
  - (c) Explore options on how to integrate the LDN target with their National Action Programmes (NAPs) and/or their national sustainable development plans and priorities;
  - (d) Transform the LDN target into an effective vehicle for financing large-scale implementation by creating incentives, mobilizing resources and leveraging investments that address desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues.
3. *Invites* developed country Parties, other governments, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and technical and financial institutions to:
  - (a) Provide the scientific, technical and financial assistance to help affected country Parties to prioritize the setting of national LDN targets and create the enabling environment for their implementation and monitoring;
  - (b) Increase the financial resources made available to and by the Global Environment Facility that are dedicated to enabling activities that make further progress towards national LDN targets;
  - (c) Establish equitable partnerships that encourage responsible investments and practices by the private sector, including sustainable value chains, which contribute to achieving LDN and create enduring institutions that support the health and productivity of the land and its people.

4. *Directs* the secretariat, acting as chef de file, to invite relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders to cooperate with it to implement the target on LDN;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, the Global Mechanism (GM) and subsidiary bodies to:
  - (a) Develop options for scaling up, and scaling out, successful experiences and lessons learned from the ongoing LDN project and other relevant initiatives, and in conjunction with partners working on the Global Land Outlook;
  - (b) Develop options for increasing incentives and financial support, including from market and non-market options (such as the creation of an LDN fund), to be made available for the full realization of national LDN targets;
  - (c) Explore how they could further develop partnerships with other organizations to provide scientific and technical support to the Parties by, inter alia, developing a “user guide” for implementing LDN at the country level.
6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to:
  - (a) Support the development of guidance for formulating national LDN targets, including the identification, development and implementation of policy reforms, investment and incentive mechanisms, and capacity building initiatives to address DLDD;
  - (b) Make options available to Parties, for the integration of national LDN targets with the NAPs and, at the same time, align NAPs with their national sustainable development plans;
  - (c) Further develop and facilitate the use of the UNCCD indicator framework to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards the national LDN targets;
  - (d) Improve the effectiveness of collaboration with the other Rio conventions and other partners at national and sub-national levels to support the implementation and monitoring of LDN targets;
  - (e) Report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

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