



## Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General  
19 July 2011

Original: English

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### Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

#### Tenth session

Changwon, Republic of Korea, 11–20 October 2011

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies**

**Draft advocacy policy frameworks**

### Draft advocacy policy framework on gender

#### Note by the secretariat

##### *Summary*

The draft advocacy policy framework on gender (PFG) pursues the strategic objective of identifying targets for mainstreaming gender issues into the implementation of the Convention and its 10-year strategic programme to enhance the implementation of the convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy).

Parties have recognized the important role that women and men play in countries affected by desertification and/or drought by ensuring their full participation at all levels. This is a priority issue when addressing the increased effectiveness of the Convention, as indicated by The Strategy.

The focus of this document is to promote the integration of gender within the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Policies proposed on gender mainstreaming seek to make effective the recognition of the roles of women and men in the Convention and to assist in reducing vulnerability by enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of UNCCD actions at all levels.

The COP may wish to consider a decision on the draft advocacy policy framework as contained in the present document, fully integrating gender into the implementation of The Strategy, and empowering the secretariat to report at CRIC sessions on the subsequent implementation, in accordance, inter alia, with decisions 8/COP.9, decision 5/COP.9 and document ICCD/COP(9)/4/Add.1 and its corrigendum.

The COP may also wish to decide upon the enhanced cooperation framework with other United Nations bodies by prioritizing gender mainstreaming in the development of

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policies and measures to implement the convention.

UNCCD country Parties may also decide upon the resource allocation necessary to assist the Convention and its secretariat in the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender, its targets and options for implementation, as set out in this document.

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## I. Background

1. Women in drylands make crucial contributions to agriculture and rural processes in animal husbandry and as farmers, workers and entrepreneurs. Their roles vary across regions, but in every part of the world women face gender-specific constraints that reduce their productivity and limit their potential contributions to agricultural production, economic growth and the wellbeing of their families, communities and countries.

2. Closing the gender gap in agricultural yields could benefit as much as 100–150 million people, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization publication, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–2011*. The yield gap between men and women averages approximately 20–30 per cent and most research finds that this gap is due to differences in resource use. Bringing yields on land farmed by women up to the levels achieved by men would increase agricultural output in developing countries by between 2.5 and 4 per cent. Such an increase in output could reduce the number of malnourished people in the world by 12–17 per cent.

## II. Mandate

3. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in its twentieth preambular paragraph, stresses “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.”

4. In accordance with article 5, paragraph (d). of the Convention affected country Parties to the Convention commit themselves to “promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought”.

5. A central element for the implementation of the Convention at the national level is the establishment of partnerships between national authorities and representatives from civil society. A major responsibility of the national partnerships is to put in place processes leading to the formulation of national action programmes (NAPs), which are aligned with the objectives of The Strategy and based on the principles of continuous planning and active involvement of the dryland populations. In addressing the issues of implementation of the UNCCD, the provisions outlined for NAPs highlight women as a stakeholder group that should be recognized and their contributions taken into account. Moreover, according to article 10, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, governance on NAP development, implementation and review has to be based on the decision-making processes that men and women adopt at the local level. The secretariat aims at playing a fundamental role in facilitating NAP development; and this is therefore also the case when addressing options for mainstreaming gender issues through the NAPs.

6. To date, Parties to the UNCCD have adopted decisions on the promotion of capacity-building in accordance with resources available, accounting for the full participation at all levels of local people, especially women and youth, with the cooperation of non-governmental and local organizations as provided for in article 19, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention.

7. Cooperation among various development actors seeking to ensure the advancement of women for UNCCD implementation is further emphasized in article 19, paragraph 3.

8. Various COP decisions have reiterated the relevance of gender associated with core aspects of the Convention:

(a) Decision 5/COP.9 adopted the revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in the COP and other UNCCD activities as contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/4/Add.1 and its corrigendum, and the eligibility criteria contained therein.<sup>1</sup>

(b) Decision 8/COP.9 requested the secretariat to generate advocacy policy frameworks on thematic issues in order to address the adverse impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), keeping in mind gender sensitive approaches, and to regularly inform affected countries and other key stakeholders on such proceedings that may be useful in the implementation of action programmes;

(c) Decisions 21/COP.9, 11/COP.8, 15/COP.5, 15/COP.4, 15/COP.3 and 13/COP.2 deal with the need to ensure a better gender balance and representation of all relevant disciplines, and of all individuals with expertise on desertification, land degradation and drought;

(d) Decision 1/COP.6, paragraph 17, invited affected developing country Parties other Parties covered by Regional Implementation Annexes, developed country Parties, and concerned institutions, to promote gender-sensitive capacity-building measures for stakeholders to carry out specific participatory and synergistic programmes as part of their NAPs to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, protect biodiversity, facilitate the regeneration of degraded forests, while promoting sustainable livelihoods at local level;

(e) Decision 17/COP.1 adopted procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels of experts taking into account a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, and broad and equitable geographical representation.;

(f) Decision 27/COP.1 requested that NGOs give further consideration to institutional mechanisms for reinforcing different partnerships, which draw on local knowledge and experience, gender issues in partnership building and other critical issues in the implementation of the UNCCD.

9. Decision 3/COP.8 adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) sets out the four strategic objectives to guide the actions for all UNCCD stakeholders and partners: to improve the living conditions of affected populations, to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, to generate global benefits through effective implementation of the Convention and to mobilize resources through effective partnerships between national and international actors.

10. The operational objectives of The Strategy do not target specific policy areas or stakeholder groups; rather they represent broad, cross-cutting thematic areas of action such as advocacy, science and capacity-building. Many of those expected outcomes that have been set by Parties under the operational objectives have, however, direct relevance to gender aspects. For example, outcome 2.1 calls for an assessment of policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management, and for measures to remove these barriers; and outcome 3.5 concerns the establishment of effective knowledge-sharing systems at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end-users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories. Issues relating to gender are reflected in the plans and programmes of the secretariat, which describe in detail the

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<sup>1</sup> (a) Geographical balance; (b) Turnover regime; (c) Consideration of representative networks; (d) Expertise balance; and (e) Gender balance.

services and support to be provided to Parties and other stakeholders in advancing The Strategy. In its 2010–2013 workplan, adopted by Parties at COP 9, Parties decided that the secretariat should facilitate, inter alia, the understanding of existing interlinkages with water scarcity, forestry, gender issues and migration, as well as the related cross-sectoral governance (see decision 1/COP.9, annex IV).

### **III. The value of mainstreaming gender**

11. Implementation of gender mainstreaming methodologies ensures the integration of a gender approach into development and/or environmental action. Gender mainstreaming seeks to ensure that recognition of the diverse roles and needs of women and men is brought to bear on the sustainable development agenda. Rather than merely adding on women's participation to existing strategies and programmes, mainstreaming gender aims at transforming unequal social and institutional structures by recognizing the promotion of gender equality as a central driving principle, that is, reducing vulnerability, and enhancing both the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes, policies and projects.

12. Many efforts to mainstream gender have too often been confined to simplistic, ad hoc and short-term technical interventions that have failed to challenge inequitable power structures and therefore also failed to ensure optimal implementation. Gender disparities remain among the deepest and most pervasive of all inequalities and, in fact, hinder the best of development efforts profoundly. According to the 2005 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, gender continues to be “one of the world's strongest markers for disadvantage” and reducing inequality would be instrumental in making progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

13. Major donors have recognized the importance and added value of mainstreaming gender in development, including in drylands. Currently, gender features among the top five priorities identified by donors when considering proposals for funding, that is, either to advance gender mainstreaming in itself, or to serve as a screening/assessment tool when they are considering whether or not to provide funding for other initiatives.

### **IV. Methodology**

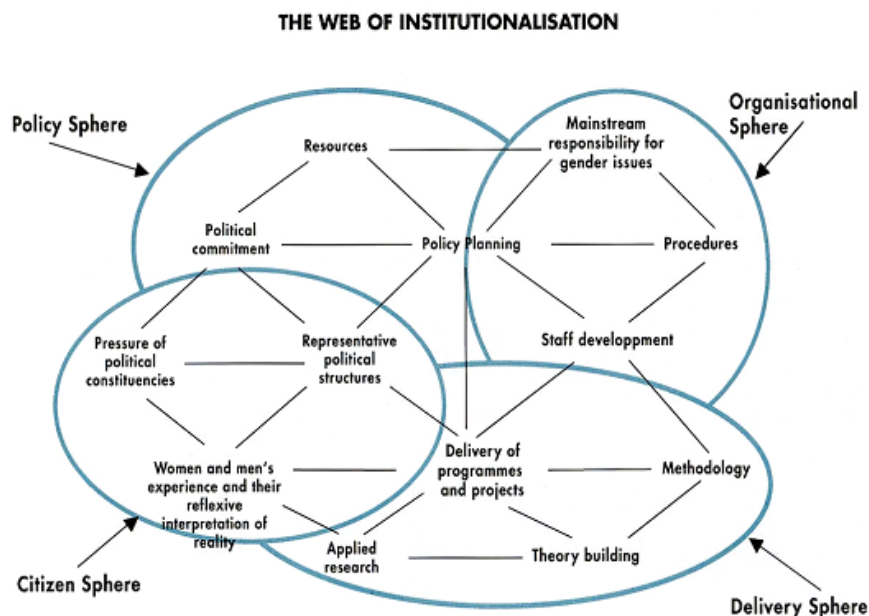
14. In collaboration with the Gender Office of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial support from Finland and Switzerland, the secretariat developed a draft advocacy policy framework on gender (PFG) to be implemented comprehensively throughout the UNCCD and its secretariat. This policy framework benefits from the core mandate of the Convention in addressing land issues. The methodology outlined in the PFG draws from the recommendations resulting from the workshop held on the sidelines of CRIC 9 as well as from other experience related to gender mainstreaming inside and outside the United Nations system. Thus, in implementing the PFG, the UNCCD will benefit from and build on previous successes and challenges.

15. The PFG was developed on the basis of (i) an analysis of current UNCCD gender practice; (ii) analysis of a survey conducted among secretariat staff; and (iii) a three-day workshop with Parties, representatives of civil society organizations and secretariat staff, held at the margins of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9) in Bonn, Germany from 23 to 25 February 2011. Parties contributed with comments and additional inputs through the web-based consultations held during May and June 2011.

16. This PFG defines the commitment made through the Convention process to ensure gender mainstreaming and equality through a holistic and comprehensive internal and

external approach; and it provides a guidance tool for the implementation of the UNCCD and The Strategy.

17. The PFG follows the model of the “web of institutionalization”,<sup>2</sup> and proposes targets and actions in four different spheres: policy, organizational, constituency and delivery.



## V. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification advocacy policy framework on gender

18. The PFG defines the role that the secretariat will play in animating and facilitating efforts, both with partners and Parties at the national, regional and global levels, and in-house as well as with other bodies, to promote gender equality within its work.

19. The PFG is a shared, continuing response of the UNCCD Parties and their secretariat to global commitments and a reflection of the increasing awareness that gender equality is an important prerequisite in promoting sustainable development in drylands.

20. The PFG has four strategic objectives:

- (a) To mainstream a gender perspective within the implementation of the Convention and the associated work of the secretariat;
- (b) To promote gender equality in achieving The Strategy;
- (c) To demonstrate the benefits of mainstreaming gender in addressing DLDD and promoting SLM; and

<sup>2</sup> Levy, C. *The Process of Institutionalising Gender in Policy and Planning: The “Web” of Institutionalisation*. Development Planning Unit, University College London. Working Paper No. 74. United Kingdom. 1996.

(d) To increase the effectiveness of the work of the secretariat and Parties of the Convention.

21. The PFG is a framework for integrating a gender perspective within all units of the secretariat during the period 2011–2018. It also establishes strategic and realistic targets, proposes instruments to address gender concerns in priority areas and substantive activities, methodologically concentrating on the following four spheres.

## **A. Policy sphere**

22. The policy sphere aims at building an institutional framework to deliver on the mandate, political support, procedures and resources to ensure gender mainstreaming within the implementation of the Convention. There are six targeted actions within this sphere.

### **1. Target 1: Gender and DLDD/SLM are strategic priorities of the Convention**

23. The adoption of The Strategy allowed for enhanced implementation of the UNCCD. However, gender issues have only been marginally acknowledged.

24. The effective mainstreaming of gender within the Convention will require its full integration within The Strategy implying the appropriate consideration thereof at all planning and implementation levels and stages.

25. Workplans and reports on progress made in the implementation of the Convention should include updated information on activities within the PFG.

26. The PFG is submitted to COP 10 in accordance with decision 8/COP 9, for consideration and adoption.

27. The secretariat is called upon to provide Parties and partners with periodic updates on progress made towards achieving gender equality.

### **2. Target 2: High-level commitment on gender under DLDD/SLM within the secretariat is secured**

28. High-level commitment and prioritization by senior management within the secretariat is essential for the successful implementation of the PFG. It is important therefore to raise awareness on gender among senior management, in order to secure support for appropriate mainstreaming considerations.

29. Actions should be made to mainstream gender when planning priorities for the secretariat. For this purpose, the management team should further contribute to the mainstreaming of gender in all relevant activities of the secretariat by providing strategic direction on the implementation of the work plans associated with The Strategy.

30. One key opportunity presented to the secretariat to highlight gender mainstreaming in the UNCCD in collaboration with several partners, is the High-level Event on Land Degradation to be organized on the eve of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011.

### **3. Target 3: Ongoing commitments from cooperation partners on gender and DLDD/SLM**

31. It is critical to ensure that gender issues form an essential element of the strategies on resource mobilization, fully taking into account the implementation of the PFG

including through the identification of specific lines in the official budget for its implementation and for the adequate staffing needed.

32. The gender focal point (GFP) of the secretariat, described under the organizational sphere, in coordination with the GM, should further develop action with partners to encourage support of the PFG.

33. Furthermore, there is a need to explore how funding for gender mainstreaming can contribute to implementation of the activities within The Strategy that require innovative sourcing and voluntary contributions.

34. With regard to supporting gender mainstreaming in implementation at the regional, national and local level, it is critical that awareness of gender and DLDD/SLM linkages are built among donors. It is also relevant to harmonize gender planning between the GM and the secretariat; with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat and Agencies; with the World Bank/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), regional banks and other funding agencies, through the guidance of the COP.

35. As a priority towards implementation of the PFG, an initial allocation of special resources for gender-sensitive initiatives needs to be made at local, national and international levels. Options for a special women's fund to implement activities at the national level should be explored.

**4. Target 4: System in place for gender-screening**

36. It is essential to establish a set of institutional procedures that will allow an effective gender-screening of policies, projects, initiatives, training proposals and communication material produced under the Convention. Guidelines to guide these procedures can be created (including checklists for ensuring gender in projects).

**5. Target 5: Active involvement of women in decision-making and research**

37. One of the strongest mandates called for by the COP is the need to guarantee that a better gender balance is achieved within the roster of experts, as well as in the representation of individuals with expertise in relevant disciplines dealing with DLDD.

38. Document ICCD/COP(9)/8 has already informed that the roster of independent experts included 1,570 male and 279 female candidates, representing respectively 85 per cent and 15 per cent of the experts.

39. There is a need to define a coherent system to ensure that Parties can nominate more women to such a roster. A "One Woman One Country" campaign" would be an effective way to pursue this matter.

**6. Target 6: Rio conventions have a shared road map to promote gender equality**

40. The harmonization and synergy efforts to achieve better environmental governance at the global level have received strong political support from various meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, the Environmental Management Group (EMG), the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and have been placed on the agenda for Rio+20. Moreover, COPs of many conventions have requested enhanced cooperation and coordination between the Rio conventions and support for Governments to implement and enforce the multilateral environmental agreements.

41. A joint coordination group on gender could be established for the Rio conventions to effectively mainstream gender into relevant national policy areas and align efforts in this regard towards a synergistic approach to the development and implementation of plans of work.



42. As support to General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, which aims to assist the United Nations system to be accountable for its own commitments on gender equality (including regular monitoring of system-wide progress), a process has been informally initiated among the gender focal points of the UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the GEF to work towards a coordinated framework to promote gender equality within the environmental sector.

43. In this regard IUCN and HIVOS (the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation) supported a first workshop on a coordinated framework for gender mainstreaming of the Rio conventions and the GEF, which took place in Costa Rica in March 2011. The meeting produced a road map of coordinated action on gender among the Rio conventions.

## **B. Organizational sphere**

44. The organizational sphere addresses gender equality in staffing of the UNCCD, its institutional capacity, staff development, accountability, related equal opportunity policies, and capacity-building of Parties and other stakeholders. There are four recommended actions in this sphere:

### **1. Target 7: Establishment of structures within the UNCCD secretariat to support gender mainstreaming**

45. In order to strengthen UNCCD's gender expertise, there is an urgent need to appoint a full-time specialist on gender or a gender focal point at the level of Programme Officer to manage gender mainstreaming throughout the Convention. Even though the current gender focal point has been fostered by the unit Coordinator of the Policy for Advocacy on Global Issues (PAGI), the current situation where the unit Coordinator acts as the UNCCD gender focal point is not optimal, running the risk of addressing gender on an ad hoc basis.

46. There is a further need to create a gender task force to support the work of the gender focal point. The gender task force will comprise staff members representing each unit of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism.

47. The gender focal point will require substantial expertise in both gender and DLDD/SLM. Sufficient resources must be assigned for the establishment and operation of this position at each budget exercise during COPs. In this respect, it is important to note that donors have provided temporary support for this type of position in other Rio conventions.

48. Responsibilities of the gender focal point could include, amongst others:

- Leading the gender task force
- Guiding management and staff on how best to integrate gender in its work
- Policy development, awareness-raising and training
- Supporting the mainstreaming of gender considerations in The Strategy of the UNCCD
- Review of documents under the programmes of work, thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, including NAP pilot cases and national reports
- Collecting and disseminating gender-DLDD/SLM information and data

- Guiding and supporting national focal points and other UNCCD stakeholders on gender and DLDD/SLM
- Monitoring the implementation of gender mainstreaming within the UNCCD
- Periodic reporting on progress in the advancement of gender mainstreaming

**2. Target 8: UNCCD secretariat recruitment policy improves gender balance**

49. The recruitment and appointment of a gender specialist requires consideration to be given to geographic and gender representation. Although the secretariat must comply with United Nations staff rules and regulations, including provisions on gender balance in staffing, in practice this is not necessarily the case, resulting in a disproportionate number of male to female staff members being appointed, especially at the Professional level.

**3. Target 9: Managers and staff members are held accountable for gender mainstreaming**

50. The implementation of the PFG does not only rest with the gender focal point and the gender task force. Gender mainstreaming is the responsibility, and right, of all staff and stakeholders of the Convention. These responsibilities should be identified and defined within the context of the PFG.

51. In order to define staff responsibilities in relation to this PFG, two main activities are suggested: (i) staff training for, and evaluation through, the existing performance appraisal system, where gender is to be included in every key performance area/result and (ii) preparation of reports on the implementation of the PFG in the quarterly progress report of the secretariat work programme. The results of both activities will be compiled and submitted to a management meeting for consideration and subsequently also be submitted to the relevant body (COP and CRIC). A prior component of this proposal is a joint capacity-building programme for the secretariat and Global Mechanism staff on assessing work performance on gender.

52. The first reporting phase on these two activities will provide the baseline to measure responsibility and accountability on gender mainstreaming. Successful accountability should be accompanied by training, rewards and incentives.

**4. Target 10: Secretariat staff have the competency to mainstream gender effectively**

53. The periodic assessment of implementation of strategic and responsive gender training programmes constitute the basis upon which further development of core capacity-building needs and responsibilities of staff can be identified and included in personal career development plans.

**C. Constituency sphere**

54. In enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of existing and new global, regional and national partners can be achieved by building on existing efforts, best practices and lessons learned. Partners include women's groups, academic institutions, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities/authorities, United Nations agencies, civil society and the business community.

**1. Target 11: Enable continuous, coordinated and effective input from women to decision-making under the UNCCD at the global and national levels**

55. There is a need to acknowledge women as a major group within the UNCCD in accordance, inter alia, with the mandates of the Convention and the Economic and Social Council (United Nations, ECOSOC), as well as practices emerging from the coordinated approach within the Rio conventions.

56. It is important to ensure that women's groups register at and participate in the COP sessions, starting with COP10 and its subsidiary bodies and regional meetings within the UNCCD framework. These women's groups should have access to effective tools to influence the substantive deliberations and decisions made at all these meetings.

57. Preparatory meetings and training for women, particularly indigenous dryland women leaders, should be held before each COP and all regional meetings to the extent possible.

58. The establishment of an efficient UNCCD women's caucus is an essential initial step in this direction. The caucus should enable the continuous, effective and coordinated involvement of women and women's groups in decision-making processes (global and regional), particularly during meetings of the COP.

59. Following standard practice such as with the special fund for participation of representatives of the civil society to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, participation should be gender balanced. In this regard, decision 5/COP.9 on the revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the UNCCD clearly indicates that gender balance is one of the eligibility criteria.

60. Some country Parties have supported the establishment of targeted action for women: one example is Finland's support to the Women's Development Fund (WDF) within the UNFCCC process, which may be an example for the UNCCD to follow. The pool of experts of the WDF provides up-to-date strategic gender expertise at various levels to UNFCCC Parties, its secretariat and other stakeholders, to ensure that the needs and potential contribution of women are taken into account. The UNCCD Executive Secretary could be requested, as part of the resource mobilization strategy and programme, to establish contacts with WDF donors with a view to interest them in supporting a similar fund under the UNCCD.

61. Despite the very strong mandate for ensuring women's participation in national decision-making bodies (such as the national coordinating body), the percentage of women participating remains low. It is essential that Parties fully recognize the different roles that women and men have in sustainable land and water management, and their differentiated skills and knowledge.

**2. Target 12: Build partnerships and establish networks to promote the mainstreaming of gender within the UNCCD**

62. Building partnerships between relevant organizations and national focal points is critically important for the effective mainstreaming of gender in the UNCCD.

63. Mapping relevant partners in accordance with their experience and capabilities should be done in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and to avoid overlap or duplication. Outputs could include a database of partners, objectives and mandates, fields of interest and main activities, as well as an evaluation of their relevance and potential contribution(s) to meeting the strategic and operational objectives of The Strategy.

64. Details on regional and national gender organizations and gender expertise on DLDD (policy and scientific research) should be compiled and visibly made available as an

online database within the UNCCD website. This could be a first step in bringing together national focal points and potential partners, for example, through regional workshops, awareness-raising activities and side events to determine how gender can be mainstreamed into the implementation of the Convention.

65. Based on this review of partners, the secretariat should furthermore seek to support such efforts through: (i) the provision of technical advice and science-based policy information, (ii) support for resource mobilization for the implementation of the mandates of the COP and its subsidiary bodies and (iii) knowledge management and sharing.

66. Simultaneously, the potential contributions of partners (activities, tools, methodologies) to the implementation of the PFG should be identified, particularly regarding their relevance to the UNCCD objectives. In mobilizing these contributions it is important to define roles, responsibilities, timelines and conditions for collaboration through joint activities.

67. Regarding partnership agreements between the secretariat and other partners, existing and new agreements need to be gender-screened before they enter into force, or when they are renewed, revised or concluded.

68. It is also highly recommended to explore opportunities for the strengthening of partners at the regional and/or thematic levels in order to improve information sharing and knowledge management and to develop the capacities of relevant organizations. This could include facilitating the exchange of information through, for example, information technology and communication tools.

69. The outcomes of COP16 of UNFCCC and COP 10 of CBD as they relate to gender mainstreaming provide additional coordination among the Rio conventions especially towards science-based policy development on crosscutting issues between the three conventions including in the preparations for, during and after the Rio+20 meeting of 2012.

### **3. Target 13: UNCCD PFG is linked to similar activities within the United Nations system**

70. There are a number of existing system-wide United Nations mandates on mainstreaming gender, which provide guidance to the UNCCD. These should be complied with where required and considered for use where compliance is not mandatory.

71. The UNCCD could considerably enhance the Convention's effectiveness by drawing on the experience and processes of similar conventions and United Nations bodies that have already sought to mainstream gender. Information on best practices and lessons learned on gender mainstreaming can also improve this effectiveness through the recognition of: (i) the ongoing gender mainstreaming efforts through the One UN process, and in particular through UN Women, connecting with the Interagency Task Force on Gender; (ii) by including gender as a concrete operational issue within the agenda of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG); and (iii) through the implementation of the recommendations of the *Global Drylands: a UN system-wide response report*.

**4. Target 14: Parties recognize the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women as fundamental assets in combating DLDD**

72. Implementation of the Convention would benefit from using the traditional knowledge of women as outlined in article 16 (g) of the Convention, and particularly that of indigenous women. Research suggests<sup>3</sup> that in today's traditional societies (hunter-gatherers, subsistence horticulturalists, nomadic pastoralists), including drylands, women draw upon their specialized practices and knowledge to manage biodiversity-based products for food, medicine, clothing and artefacts.

73. In this regard the UNCCD secretariat could develop policy papers, conduct regional awareness-raising campaigns, and produce promotional information kits.

**5. Target 15: Parties and stakeholders effectively mainstream gender in national and regional implementation of the Convention**

74. The development of a training protocol for Parties and stakeholders has to go hand in hand with the activities that are foreseen for implementation under Subprogramme 4 Capacity-building and Subprogramme 1 Advocacy, awareness-raising and education of The Strategy. In consultation with Parties and stakeholders, the main needs in relation to gender and DLDD/SLM should be identified and addressed with concrete action plans.

75. Innovative ways for training and transferring information needs to be put in place, for example the use of a web-based capacity-building database/clearing house/market place.

76. A proposal to conduct a set of regional capacity-building activities, "Training of Trainers" could be pursued. Such training will provide a panel of experts to support Parties at the national level in gender mainstreaming within NAP implementation, as well as in the associated implementation of initiatives and other community level actions.

**D. Delivery sphere**

77. This sphere describes the ways in which gender is addressed in the development of NAPs, reporting systems, indicators and communications. Three target recommendations emerged as relevant to this sphere.

**1. Target 16: Gender mainstreamed in NAP alignment process (SRAPs and RAPs)**

78. By mainstreaming gender in the NAPs, gender could be added to national development initiatives on DLDD/SLM, significantly enhancing implementation of in-country and regional level initiatives, projects and programmes.

79. Since the first help guide for the national reports was prepared by the secretariat, a number of questions explicitly referring to the role of women and gender have been suggested for use in the national review process (non-obligatory), including: (i) extent of involvement of youth and women as actors in defining national priorities, (ii) gender balance in the NAP steering committee, national coordination bodies and the national NGO coordinating body, (iii) realization of gender awareness training for the NAP steering committee and coordination bodies, (iv) implementation of Government gender policy, (v) approaches used for women's participation in the NAP process, and (vi) measures still required for addressing existing gaps in relation to gender mainstreaming in the NAP.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CBD/WG8J/3/INF/6 30 September 2003; The World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development. *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*, 2009.

80. An analysis of the existing NAPs shows important dissimilarities among countries. While some NAP processes (for example, South Africa, India, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Kenya) have gone to great lengths in their efforts to mainstream gender, the majority of the NAPs still do not take into account gender and women's concerns or needs.

81. Guidelines and technical support could be provided to Parties to rectify this situation. An exchange of experience on know-how among the Parties that have successfully mastered gender mainstreaming could be one suggestion to pursue.

82. Aligning NAPs to The Strategy must include gender mainstreaming: the encouragement of gender balance in planning and reporting processes could measure gender related performance and impacts.

**2. Target 17: Gender is included in the performance and impact indicators**

83. Despite the adoption of the new indicator-based reporting system, PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system), its significance for the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data and gender-based analysis has not been fully utilized and the system needs to address these as a matter of urgency.

84. The integration of gender-sensitive performance and impact indicators into the PRAIS could overcome the current scarcity of gender-disaggregated data.

85. During COP.9, Parties decided to provisionally accept two mandatory and nine optional indicators to assess the impact of the Convention. If gender perspectives are properly mainstreamed it would be possible to collect and disseminate (through reporting processes) gender-disaggregated data on, inter alia, poverty, water availability and malnutrition.

**3. Target 18: Gender-sensitive communication involves key constituencies**

86. The secretariat should ensure that gender, as a crosscutting issue, is fully integrated in the implementation of the UNCCD comprehensive communication strategy.

87. The secretariat should ensure gender aspects are fully integrated into its information materials, including those on: (i) the relevance of SLM and DLDD to livelihoods, culture, traditional knowledge, health and food security, (ii) the link between DLDD/SLM and the provision of basic human rights, such as access to water and food security, and (iii) any other awareness-raising materials targeted to specific events such as World Day to Combat Desertification.

88. The development of training modules and guidelines on DLDD/SLM must integrate a gender component.

89. In the efforts of seeking partnership with Governments, including local administrations, language-specific organizations such as the Francophone (French), the State of the Arab League (Arabic), the CPLP (Community of Countries of Portuguese Language), CSOs, and private sector, the secretariat should envisage the dissemination of outreach materials in local and indigenous languages for community awareness.

90. To enhance dissemination to relevant organizations it would be useful to identify multilateral, regional or national organizations that can act as repository for relevant gender material.

**4. Target 19: Understanding of DLDD/SLM is developed among gender and women's organizations**

91. It is necessary to develop and implement an awareness-raising campaign that will allow participating organizations to identify opportunities to fully participate in the

processes and implementation of the Convention and furthermore provide access to do so. These processes should be linked with the ongoing communication strategy and the development of policy frameworks on thematic and emerging issues.

## **VI. Recommendations**

**92.** The COP may wish to consider a decision approving the draft advocacy policy framework as contained in the present document, fully integrating gender in the implementation of The Strategy, and request the secretariat to report at CRIC meetings on its subsequent implementation.

**93.** Parties may wish to acknowledge that gender mainstreaming within the UNCCD, as indicated in this draft advocacy policy framework, provides the elements necessary for the implementation of decision 8/COP.9, inter alia, by the creation of a panel of experts on gender and support through the establishment of a post for a gender specialist in the secretariat.

**94.** Through such acknowledgement the implementation of decision 5/COP.9 regarding gender is also strengthened, as the same decision mandates the secretariat to revise the procedures for the participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the UNCCD. This mandate is in line with the revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in the COP and other UNCCD bodies as contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/4/Add.1 and its corrigendum, and the eligibility criteria contained therein.

**95.** The COP may also wish to highlight the importance of integrating the UNCCD advocacy policy on gender with the efforts of mainstreaming gender within environmental and poverty eradication policies. Other such global agreements and forums that are also applicable to the UNCCD include chapter 24 of Agenda 21 on global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development; the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002; the United Nations Millennium Declaration 2000; and the requirements and agreements set out in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Other mandates within the United Nations system calling for gender equality include the substantive sessions of ECOSOC, 2004 and 2005, the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1, paragraphs 58, 59 and 116); and Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/31 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

**96.** UNCCD country Parties may call upon donor countries, GEF, GM and regional development banks and other financial institutions to assist the Convention and its secretariat in the provisioning of additional, adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the advocacy policy framework with its respective 19 targets and options for implementation as set out in the following table.

## VII. Implementing actions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification advocacy policy framework on gender

*Policy sphere*

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
1. Gender and DLDD/SLM are strategic priorities of the Convention	• Conduct gender analysis on current policy documents prepared by the secretariat	• Gender considerations are fully integrated into The Strategy based on the midterm evaluation	UNCCD/secretariat Country Parties CSOs
	• Integration of gender in document to be prepared for the 10-year strategic plan midterm evaluation		
	• Decision at COP 10 to integrate gender into The Strategy		
	• Development of PFG into an official UNCCD document	• Decision at COP 10 on the PFG	PAGI
	• Seek GPF endorsement from Parties	• No. of publications produced • UNCCD and United Nations system informed about the process of gender mainstreaming	GFP ARCE Unit
	• Communication of existing efforts / policies towards the promotion of gender equality within the UNCCD and the United Nations		
2. High-level commitment for gender and DLDD/SLM within the secretariat secured	• Inclusion of gender on the agenda of senior management meetings	• No. of senior management updated on PFG	GFP ES
	• Raise awareness of senior management on gender-DLDD/SLM issues	• Executive Secretary communicates to the United Nations Secretariat staff the commitment of senior management on gender equality	
	• Conduct gender training targeted to senior management	• UNCCD recognized as a gender-sensitive institution	IUCN support PAGI
	• Assess the PFG gender event organized during the General Assembly		
3. On-going commitments from donors to support gender and DLDD/SLM	• Development of a funding proposal	• Budget allocated to gender mainstreaming	GM GEF UN Regional Commissions Resource Mobilization Officer ES GFP
		• Percentage of DLDD/SLM-gender initiatives with assigned resources	



Policy sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build awareness of gender and DLDD/SLM links among UNCCD donors</li> <li>• Harmonize gender planning with GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies</li> <li>• Establishment of a special women's fund to implement activities at the national level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on gender and DLDD/SLM linkages disseminated to United Nations donors</li> <li>• Agreements with donors made, including mobilizing and allocating resources to strengthen gender mainstreaming</li> <li>• Capitalize on the gender aspects of the implementation of <i>Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response report (2011)</i></li> <li>• No. of initiatives funded for UNCCD and UNCCD Parties by GEF that includes gender considerations</li> <li>• Amount of funds leverage</li> </ul>	<p>GFP Resource Mobilization Officer GM PAGI</p> <p>FCMI Task Force GEF</p> <p>GM PAGI/MMM/ES GM/Donors/ secretariat RCF/RCUs PAGI</p>
4. System in place for gender-screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of guidelines</li> <li>• Screening system in place for policies, initiatives, projects and communication materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of documents revised</li> </ul>	<p>FCMI RCF KMST PAGI</p>
5. Active involvement of women in decision-making and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a system to support the Parties to send women names to the rosters "One Woman One Country, Campaign"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of women in roster of experts</li> </ul>	<p>COP and CRIC Bureaus Regional Units EDM KMST</p>
6. Rio conventions have a shared roadmap to promote gender equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNCCD participation at the Harmonization workshop (IUCN March 2011)</li> <li>• UNCCD supports the roadmap</li> <li>• Coordinated action on gender during Rio+20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of activities conducted between the Rio conventions</li> <li>• Synergies identified in respective workplans</li> </ul>	<p>IUCN UNCCD CBD UNFCCC UN Women</p>

Organizational sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
7. Establishment of a structure within the UNCCD secretariat to support gender mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget decision at COP 10 for the post of GFP of the Convention</li> <li>GFP appointed at the Programme Officer level</li> <li>Adequate resources guaranteed for the establishment and operation of this position</li> <li>Create a gender task force (GTF)</li> <li>Appoint a staff member from each Unit to the GTF</li> <li>Train task force members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full time gender specialist (focal point, GFP) appointed</li> <li>Adequate resources earmarked/assigned</li> <li>Gender task force created to support the work of the GFP</li> <li>Representation of staff members of each Unit in the GTF</li> <li>GTF members trained on gender mainstreaming</li> <li>All Units have incorporated gender in their work plans</li> </ul>	<p>ES Management team</p> <p>GFP UNCCD secretariat GM All Units</p>
8. UNCCD secretariat recruitments advance gender balance, particularly for management level positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the official United Nations rules through internal meetings (i.e. Unit meetings, Management meetings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of women among at Professional level</li> <li>Percentage of women in the Management Team</li> </ul>	<p>Chief of Administration and Finance</p>
9. Managers and staff members held accountable for gender mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of staff through the existing Performance Assessment System (PSA)</li> <li>Incorporate PGF in the secretariat's quarter progress monitoring report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff is assessed for their performance with regards to gender mainstreaming</li> <li>Annual report of the secretariat to COPs and /or CRIC</li> </ul>	<p>All Units</p> <p>ES</p>
10. Secretariat staff have the competency to mainstream gender effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training needs of the secretariat identified and addressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of staff trained</li> <li>Staff are able to mainstream gender considerations into their daily work (percentage increase in references made to gender in Convention documents)</li> </ul>	<p>GFP in collaboration with IUCN</p>

Constituency sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
11. Enable continuous, coordinated and effective input from women to decision-making under the UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of women as a major group under the UNCCD and effective communication; related operational action concerning modalities for registering to CCD conferences and events, and other formalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women considered in by the UNCCD secretariat by COP 10</li> <li>A COP decision adopted, recognizing a major group for women</li> </ul>	ES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of a UNCCD women's caucus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's caucus functioning and being provided adequate facilities within the CCD process</li> <li>Points raised by the women's caucus are reflected in the decisions and recommendations of the COP and its subsidiary bodies</li> </ul>	GFP RCU/RCF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold preparatory meetings and training for women, particularly indigenous women leaders, before to each COPs and CRICs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of women participating in COP and CRIC</li> <li>Impact of the training in quality of participation of women during COP and CRIC</li> </ul>	GFP RCU/RCF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish special fund for promoting women participation (Women Delegate Fund) in decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial increase in the number of women in the delegations</li> <li>50% of contact group Chairs are women</li> <li>Gender text is incorporated by women delegates in decision-making bodies</li> </ul>	E S/GFP Resource mobilization officer CRIC Bureau/Chair Parties UNCCD secretariat/Parties
12. Build partnerships and establish networks to promote the mainstreaming of gender within DLDD/SLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify networks working on gender and DLDD/SLM/environment (including academia, ILC's, NGO's, network of women ministers of environment, other United Nations agencies (WIPO, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNEP and its Regional Offices, etc.); IGOs (IUCN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of strategic partners engaged</li> <li>No. of collaborative projects with specific partners</li> </ul>	UNCCD secretariat GFP PAGI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify how existing networks and partners can contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD PFG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of collaborative projects</li> </ul>	UNCCD GFP PAGI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review new and existing partnership agreements in order to mainstream gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of partnership agreements that mainstream gender</li> <li>No. of Memorandums of Understanding screened</li> </ul>	UNCCD GFP GM

Constituency sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of database of relevant gender organizations at both regional and national levels and ensure information is available to Parties and partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database in place and disseminated to Parties</li> <li>• No. of organizations in database</li> </ul>	<p>UNCCD secretariat GFP KMST GM</p>
13. Link the UNCCD GPF with other similar activities in United Nations system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build partnerships with gender focal points in other United Nations agencies</li> <li>• Connect with the One UN/UN Women process</li> <li>• Connect with the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Gender</li> <li>• Include gender in the agenda of the Joint Liaison Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of activities and initiatives carried out with United Nations agencies</li> <li>• UNCCD GPF taken into consideration within the One UN/UN Women process</li> <li>• Participation of the UNCCD gender focal point in the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Gender</li> <li>• Gender included in the agenda of the Joint Liaison Group</li> </ul>	<p>GFP GFP UN Women UNCCD secretariat UN Women ES GFP PAGI</p>
14. Parties recognize the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women as fundamental assets in combating DLDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender focal point develops a policy paper on the subject in cooperation with CBD and IUCN</li> <li>• Executive Secretary proposes that Parties deliberate on “the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women as fundamental assets”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of references in COP and Subsidiary Bodies that include reference to traditional and indigenous knowledge of women</li> </ul>	<p>GFP CBD IUCN ES CST COP</p>
15. Increased women representation in national coordinating bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat advises Parties to promote gender equality in national coordinating bodies</li> <li>• More women at local level participating in decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of women in coordinating bodies</li> <li>• No. of women in coordinating bodies and making decisions at local levels</li> </ul>	<p>Parties in consultation with UNCCD secretariat Parties/UNCCD/ IUCN/Development partners</p>
16. Parties and stakeholders effectively mainstream gender in national and regional implementation of the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified and address with Parties and stakeholders what are the main needs in relation to gender and DLDD/SLM</li> <li>• Ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated in the activities to be conducted under Sub-programme 4 Capacity-building (The Strategy)</li> <li>• Design and conduct regional “Training of Trainers”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender manuals and training are part of the web-based capacity-building database/clearing house/market place</li> <li>• Gender is an integral part of the Global Programme on capacity-building on DLDD/SLM</li> <li>• No. of experts available in the regions</li> <li>• No. of countries that are receiving support from the panel of experts on gender</li> </ul>	<p>GFP Secretariat in collaboration with IUCN UNDP FAO</p>

Constituency sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
17. Gender mainstreamed in NAP alignment process (SRAPs and RAPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure participatory approach</li> <li>• Involve women’s organizations in the process</li> <li>• Development of guidelines to mainstream gender in NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs</li> <li>• Validation through a COP11 decision</li> <li>• Establish a special gender reporting system</li> <li>• Establish and develop regulations on special gender reporting</li> <li>• Conduct gender training targeted to NFPs</li> <li>• To ensure the aligned NAP includes a special budget for gender mainstreaming</li> <li>• System in place to support the mainstreaming of gender in national development initiatives in DLDD/SLM</li> <li>• Panel of Experts on Gender available to support the Parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of countries which incorporated gender in the NAP alignment</li> <li>• Guidelines become a policy document of the Convention and used by Parties</li> <li>• Reporting system on gender available</li> <li>• No. of Parties using the reporting system</li> <li>• No. of reports complying with regulations</li> <li>• No. of NFPs that integrate gender in their work</li> <li>• No. of participants in the training</li> <li>• Special budget for gender mainstreaming allocate for activities to combat desertification</li> <li>• Gender-budgeting is visible in the aligned NAP</li> <li>• No. of Parties reporting on successful gender mainstreaming in national development initiatives</li> <li>• No. of Panel of Experts on Gender mobilized</li> </ul>	<p>Parties UNCCD FCMI/RCU IUCN or other key stakeholders (CBD) Women’s Caucus at COPs, CST and CRIC</p> <p>Parties/UNCCD/ IUCN CRIC</p> <p>UNCCD IUCN CBD</p> <p>Parties CRIC GM</p> <p>Parties/RCF</p>
18. Gender is included in the performance and impact indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in PRAIS guidelines and system so as to include gender indicators and related information (additional information, SFA, best practices)</li> <li>• Identify experts on both gender and DLDD/SLM that can provide inputs to the process of refinement and methodological development of impact indicators</li> <li>• Ensure that data is provided, collected and analysed taking into consideration gender aspects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRAIS includes gender-sensitive indicators</li> <li>• A CST 10 recommendation/ COP 10 decision to consider gender in the refinement of the set of impact indicators</li> <li>• All country Parties provide gender-disaggregated information in the National Reports</li> </ul>	<p>CRIC FCMI</p> <p>KMST Parties CST</p> <p>Parties</p>

Constituency sphere

Target	Actions/steps	Indicators	Responsible
19. Gender-sensitive communication involve key constituencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and dissemination of outreach materials/tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on gender easily accessible through web site, radio, social media</li> <li>• No. of languages into which the materials are translated</li> </ul>	ARCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct awareness-raising campaigns jointly with CSOs in developed countries on the role of women in drylands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media coverage of the campaign</li> </ul>	ARCE CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce information on best practices to promote experience-sharing on DLDD among affected developing countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of best practice materials</li> </ul>	ARCE
20. Build understanding of SLM and DLDD issues among gender and women's organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate Land Day material, and other relevant publications to women /gender organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials produced on the linkages of DLDD/SLM and gender shared with women's organizations and gender experts</li> </ul>	ARCE FCMI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide gender experts /organizations with information on the importance of DLDD/SLM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of women's organizations and gender experts updated in the importance of gender in DLDD/SLM</li> </ul>	UNCCD secretariat