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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

By its decision 32/COP.14, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the fifteenth session of the COP a single document with all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the COP and to ensure that draft decisions are clearly written and properly formatted.

Accordingly, document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 includes all substantive draft decisions proposed by the secretariat that will serve as starting point for discussion and further negotiation in the Committee on Science and Technology contact group.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



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1. Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 1

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12,

Also recalling decisions 3/COP.13, 18/COP.13, 3/COP.14 and 16/COP.14,

Further recalling the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and in particular strategic objective 1 to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality,

Mindful of resolutions A/RES/76/206, A/RES/75/218 and A/RES/73/233,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its work programme for the biennium 2020–2021,

Also acknowledging that the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality¹ provides guidance for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring land degradation neutrality,

Recognizing that creating an enabling environment for land degradation neutrality is fundamental to realizing the potential contribution of land degradation neutrality to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought,

Also recognizing the importance of the effective implementation of integrated land use planning for (i) establishing the full integration of a neutrality framework for counterbalancing assessed losses with equal or greater gains; and (ii) applying the land degradation neutrality response hierarchy to measures to avoid, reduce and/or reverse land degradation,

Recalling Article 24 of the Convention stating that the Committee on Science and Technology is to provide information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Recognizing that Parties take this information and advice and use it as appropriate within their national context,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/2 and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to provide a more central role for integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management in national policy development to address desertification/land degradation and drought, help achieve land degradation neutrality, and support efforts to address the interlinked challenges underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Also encourages* Parties to foster and support countries to use integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management as a vehicle to create synergies and policy coherence among the three Rio conventions, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement, in tandem with the implementation of land degradation neutrality targets;

¹ Decision 18/COP.13.

3. *Calls upon* Parties to integrate land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation into national and subnational integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management processes;
4. *Also calls upon* Parties to further strengthen cross-sectoral governance and land use planning for transformative change in support of efforts to address desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, including:
 - (a) Strengthening integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management policy instruments, using them as a means to better coordinate different sectoral policies and institutional arrangements for enhancing land governance;
 - (b) Building capacity on the integration of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management into policy and practice through the development of planning instruments and the application of the multiple tools and approaches to support integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management processes,
 - (c) Pursuing initiatives for education and awareness-raising of what integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management tools and approaches offer for land degradation neutrality implementation;
5. *Encourages* Parties to incentivize collaboration between academic/research practitioner communities specializing in land use planning to develop new or tailor existing tools and approaches in order to:
 - (a) Facilitate the integration of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management processes into interventions designed to address desertification/land degradation and drought and contribute to the achievement of land degradation neutrality;
 - (b) Facilitate the combination of existing land use planning approaches and tools;
 - (c) Ensure the tools can cater to the specific conditions of a country's planning process;
 - (d) Facilitate the optimization of land use decisions to achieve land degradation neutrality across multiple objectives;
 - (e) Advance inclusive and gender-equitable integrated land use planning and design;
6. *Calls upon* Parties to promote national knowledge generation and sharing of approaches and tools to support integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to achieve land degradation neutrality by:
 - (a) Ensuring significantly more opportunities are made available for stakeholders to appreciate and understand the potential of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management by investing more in capacity development on the use of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management tools and approaches;
 - (b) Identifying opportunities for building evidence-based knowledge within national institutions to strongly base integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management processes on science and traditional and local knowledge;
 - (c) Facilitating cooperation among existing national integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management communities of practice to encourage knowledge-sharing on technologies and best practices;
 - (d) Encouraging the further development, modification and sharing of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management open-source tools and software code among existing national repositories and platforms;
7. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and *invites* relevant technical and scientific partners as well as development partners, acting within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, to:
 - (a) Develop guidance for projects contributing to land degradation neutrality implementation on properly documenting integrated land use planning and integrated

landscape management approaches and tools used, the outcomes, benefits of their use, and challenges and shortcomings experienced with using those tools;

(b) Promote collaboration at different levels of governance, opening up opportunities for academics, practitioners, civil society organizations and land managers to share best practices of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management that can support the achievement of land degradation neutrality targets;

(c) Promote two-way knowledge sharing among scientists, practitioners and land managers engaged in integrated land use planning processes;

(d) Ensure that the compilation and dissemination of lessons learned is fostered via the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification website knowledge management features and similar mechanisms of knowledge exchange to inform the design of future transformative projects and programmes.

2. Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 2

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11, 19/COP.12, 18/COP.13 and 18/COP.14,

Also recalling the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Further recalling decision 21/COP.12, paragraph 6 (b), which encourages the Science-Policy Interface to promote the application of resilience-based assessment frameworks as a common approach to planning, monitoring and reporting on land-based adaptation and agroecosystem resilience;

Recalling decision 17/COP.14, paragraph 1 (c), which invites Parties to consider the positive role drought-smart land management practices, ecosystem-based adaptation and restoration measures, and drought recovery activities could have in building the resilience of communities and ecosystems to drought, when pursued in the context of land degradation neutrality,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its work programme for the biennium 2020–2021,

Recalling Article 24 of the Convention stating that the Committee on Science and Technology is to provide information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to consider the roadmap for drought resilience assessment summarized in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3 as an indicative pathway for developing a new approach or reviewing an existing one to national and subnational drought resilience assessment and monitoring, taking into account national circumstances as well as the existing drought resilience indicators and assessment guidance;

2. *Also encourages* Parties to enable or enhance systematic drought impact collection and risk assessments at national, subnational and local levels using a globally standardized approach, taking into account, inter alia, the need to:

(a) Identify, define and validate drought impact metrics and establish scientific evidence-based good practice guidance to facilitate the establishment of minimum requirements for core indicators and data collection at different spatial scales and for different environmental systems and economic sectors;

(b) Describe and, to the extent possible, quantify drought impacts using a systematic approach to collecting information that has been deemed important and valuable at the national and/or subnational level;

(c) Assess direct and indirect impacts on (i) hydrological systems affecting ecological systems, agriculture, and water resource availability and the different socioeconomic sectors that depend on it, particularly energy, food, tourism and health, which are water-sensitive; and (ii) human life and properties;

(d) Give further consideration to the mitigation of complex and cascading effects of drought that occur where preventive or remedial sustainable land management actions could be taken;

(e) Analyse the extent to which sustainable land management can prevent the correlation between the occurrence of drought impacts and effects on vegetation conditions, water availability and patterns of production, nutrition, health and well-being;

(f) Take into account the gender dimension, and vulnerable populations and development;

3. *Further encourages* Parties to pursue the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management from existing communities of practice and learning networks, including the Integrated Drought Management Programme and its cooperating partners, and to monitor and assess drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems, with a particular focus on:

(a) Those areas of an ecosystem under pressure or ecosystems vulnerable to the effects of climate change and drought;

(b) The projected effects of drought on the ecosystem functions and services which enable ecosystems and populations to sustain themselves during drought;

(c) The influence of conservation measures, sustainable land management, drought-resilient water and crop management practices, and ecological rehabilitation/restoration on drought risk;

4. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and *invites* the Integrated Drought Management Programme and its cooperating partners, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties, where necessary, in (i) enhancing their capacity to collect data on resilience indicators of natural, economic, social, human, and physical capital that are necessary for resilience assessment; and (ii) systematically integrating the findings from drought resilience assessments into drought early warning systems;

5. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface and *invites* the Integrated Drought Management Programme and its cooperating partners, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to (i) work in collaboration with relevant partners responsible for established resilience frameworks towards the harmonization of drought resilience terminology and definitions; and (ii) facilitate coordination and interaction between the land restoration and drought risk management communities, notably by creating a common understanding of definitions and the cross-sectoral nature of drought risk management, sustainable land and water management, and land restoration;

6. *Encourages* Parties to seek support in the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management from existing communities of practice and learning networks.

3. Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11, 19/COP.12 and 18/COP.14,

Also recalling decisions 19/COP.13, 22/COP.13 and 20/COP.14,

Further recalling the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and in particular strategic objective 1 to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality, and strategic objective 3 to mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2020–2021,

Welcoming the completion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems,

Also welcoming the completion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group I contribution “Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis” to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Mindful of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change decisions IPCC-L-3 and IPCC-LIV-4,

Recognizing the contribution of the Science-Policy Interface to all six of its coordination activities with other scientific mechanisms and *welcoming* the positive and productive collaboration of the partner organizations involved in each,

Also recognizing the service of both current and former Science-Policy Interface members on the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the Convention,

Further recognizing the contribution of the Science-Policy Interface to the quality assurance and the scientific review of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook and the Global Land Outlook working papers,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4 and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties, when pursuing the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, to implement land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures under an integrative, resilience-based and human rights-based framework such as that provided by land degradation neutrality, with the aim of simultaneously encouraging synergies, navigating trade-offs, and ensuring environmental and social safeguards to counteract the risk of adverse effects on livelihoods, food security, water security and biodiversity conservation when deploying at-scale response options with high potential for negative trade-offs with other land use;
2. *Also encourages* Parties, taking into account that investments in land restoration can result in global benefits including in drylands, to pursue the long-term benefits (economic returns, biodiversity, ecosystem functions, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation and adaptation) through ecologically sound land restoration and the sustainable use of managed ecosystems;

3. *Urges* Parties to integrate land-based solutions which employ sustainable land and water management technologies that have been demonstrated to simultaneously address land degradation, promote climate change mitigation/adaptation, and contribute to maintaining biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods in the implementation of, inter alia, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national action programmes, voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans, and Convention on Biological Diversity National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, as appropriate;

4. *Also urges* Parties to develop and implement integrated response options by deploying a portfolio of scientifically proven land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation options and sustainable land management approaches and technologies designed to enhance carbon sinks in all types of managed terrestrial ecosystems through, inter alia;

- (a) Improved cropland management and integrated water management;
- (b) Improved livestock management and grazing land management;
- (c) Reduced deforestation and forest degradation;
- (d) Improved forestland management and agroforestry;
- (e) Improved protected area policies;
- (f) Increased food productivity;
- (g) Agricultural diversification;
- (h) Increased organic carbon content of soils;
- (i) Reduced erosion, salinization and compaction of soils;

5. *Further urges* Parties to develop and implement, on an urgent basis, integrated response options aimed at decoupling terrestrial natural resource use and environmental impacts on land from economic growth through awareness campaigns and demand and supply management that can promote sustainable value chain practices that lead to a lower environmental footprint through, inter alia:

- (a) Shifts towards less resource-intensive, healthy and sustainable diets (primarily plant-based);
- (b) Reduced post-harvest losses;
- (c) Reduced food waste (consumer or retailer);
- (d) Sustainable sourcing (with corresponding food labelling, standards and certification programmes);
- (e) Enhanced urban-rural integrated food systems designed to improve local and regional supply chains;
- (f) Improved food processing and retailing;
- (g) Improved energy use in food systems;
- (h) Development of regulations on speculation in food systems;
- (i) Subsidy reform and promotion of an enabling trade system;
- (j) Livelihood diversification;

6. *Encourages* Parties, when incorporating land-based approaches into climate change adaptation policies, to pursue transformational rather than incremental adaptation policies that are designed to integrate and sustain human and natural systems impacted by climate change and which combine land management-based response options;

7. *Also encourages* Parties to enhance the effectiveness of decision-making and governance through the involvement of local stakeholders (particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, the young, the elderly and the poor) in the selection, evaluation, implementation and monitoring of policy instruments for land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation;

8. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to collaborate with relevant intergovernmental, scientific and technical partners to explore options for the development of a technical guide series on:

(a) Integrated land management response options for forest, grassland/savanna and wetland/peatland ecosystems;

(b) Integrated demand and supply management response options;

taking into account national contexts and the interaction among land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat to collaborate with relevant constituted bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as relevant scientific and technical partners to produce a supplement to the national adaptation plan technical guidelines on promoting synergy between efforts addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, the achievement of land degradation neutrality and the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;

10. *Further requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science-Policy Interface, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Explore the feasibility of developing sustainable land and water use and management standards and sustainability certification procedures for those who produce and source products derived from land-based natural capital;

(b) Develop guidance for Parties on the design of policy portfolios that make ecological restoration more attractive and people more resilient by expanding financial inclusion, social protection and adaptive safety nets and contingent finance and reserve funds to support land users, especially women, youth, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups, to reduce the additional burden caused by the added cost of land degradation driven by climate change;

11. *Invites* the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative and other technical and scientific partners to collaborate with the secretariat, where possible, on the development of mapping methodologies to distinguish climate change impacts from land management impacts in order to identify and map, at the global, national and local scales, areas which are vulnerable to land degradation due to climate change as well as areas showing signs of improvement due to restoration so that timely preventative initiatives can be implemented and returns on investments can be assessed;

12. *Also invites* the World Meteorological Organization, where possible, to consider,

(a) How, in the context of the Global Multi-hazard Alert System, authoritative and early warnings of weather, water, ocean and climate hazards produced by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services might be enhanced to improve forecasting and monitoring capacity for extreme weather events influenced by the interaction of climate change, land-use change and land degradation in order to facilitate adaptation to climate change-driven droughts and floods;

(b) Incorporating climate interactions with land in the future development of climate services-related projects, with the aim of supporting national and local efforts to enable effective adaptation and mitigation responses that help address desertification/land degradation and drought through the Climate Coordination Panel and the Global Framework for Climate Services;

13. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science-Policy Interface and *invites* other relevant agencies/bodies of multilateral environmental agreements, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to explore options for targeted capacity-building and development and knowledge and technology transfer to support approaches to the implementation of the Convention that can simultaneously address desertification/land degradation and drought, support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and contribute to maintaining biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods;

14. *Also requests* the secretariat to collaborate with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Bonn Challenge and the task force of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as relevant scientific and technical partners to produce:

(a) An interactive report on the total global ambition for land restoration, including all measures to avoid, reduce and/or reverse land degradation, aggregated from the array of area-based commitments (quantifiable in hectares and spatially explicit with a clear reference year, or in a percentage that is translatable into hectares) countries have made under different conventions, goals and targets;

(b) A technical note on the methodology employed for aggregating these commitments in a database, taking into consideration coherence and overlap as well as data disaggregation needs;

(c) A proposal for an approach to make a database to develop the interactive report into the future, including recommendations designed to improve its utility.

4. Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11, 19/COP.12, 19/COP.13 and 19/COP.14 on the mandate and working modalities of the Science-Policy Interface,

Also recalling decisions 20/COP.12, 20/COP.13, and 19/COP.14, as well as decisions 23/COP.14 and 25/COP.14, on the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and related tools,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by Parties for the activities of the Science-Policy Interface;

Also noting the work done by the secretariat on developing and maintaining the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification knowledge-sharing services, which provide easy access to scientific and technical knowledge through, inter alia, the knowledge tools developed by the Science-Policy Interface, the Drought Toolbox and the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox;

Further noting the report titled Coherence and Alignment among Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction, and Nature-based Solutions of the United Nations University, and the valuable insights provided therein;

Acknowledging the continuing efforts by the secretariat and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of sustainable land management best practices and developing tools relevant for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders;

Welcoming the renewed partnership between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies aimed at implementing the renewed World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies strategy (WOCAT 2020+) in line with the knowledge needs of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders;

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat, after consulting with those intergovernmental scientific bodies and panels cooperating with the Science-Policy Interface, to develop a gender policy and implementation plan for the Science-Policy Interface whereby gender is mainstreamed into its processes, procedures and outputs and gender parity is progressively achieved;
2. *Also requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat to revise the Science-Policy Interface terms of reference and selection criteria to be consistent with the gender policy and implementation plan described in paragraph 1 above;
3. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue fostering partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders and invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, with a view to strengthening collaboration;
4. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and current and past Science-Policy Interface members to continue to increase awareness of the work of the Science-Policy Interface;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to mobilize resources for the effective functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;
6. *Decides* that any scientific output prepared under the supervision of the Science-Policy Interface should undergo an international, independent review process; and that any output published under the name of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

should be reviewed, as of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology prior to publication;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue the expansion and further enhancement of the knowledge hub, as an integral part of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification website under the new Knowledge and Data section, to address the needs and priorities of country Parties to help disseminate relevant knowledge to all stakeholders;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue the development of the Drought Toolbox, the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and other knowledge tools, in collaboration with partners, in order to ensure synergies and effectiveness of these knowledge tools in addressing the needs of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders;

9. *Further requests* the secretariat to continue developing joint actions with the secretariats of other Rio conventions and relevant institutions and stakeholders to ensure that the multiple co-benefits achieved by projects related to ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management are taken into consideration;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to conduct, subject to the availability of resources, a coherence and alignment assessment of the expanding number of approaches that may contribute to the sustainable management of land and water resources which, while not being formally recognized under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification or other intergovernmental processes, may contribute to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders globally;

12. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* experts nominated by country Parties and other stakeholders, in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, to continue to share relevant knowledge and information on desertification/land degradation and drought and sustainable land management through knowledge tools;

13. *Also encourages* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on sustainable land management;

14. *Also invites* developed country Parties and other countries in a position to do so to support the activities of the Science-Policy Interface;

15. *Further invites* Parties and financial and technical institutions to support the maintenance, expansion and further enhancement and development of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification knowledge tools, including the Drought Toolbox and Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox;

16. *Requests* the secretariat to report at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology on (a) the implementation of this decision; and (b) measures taken to facilitate (i) the interfacing of science and policy; and (ii) the sharing of knowledge.

5. Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2022–2023

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12,

Also recalling decision 19/COP.13 on improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface and decisions 22/COP.13 and 20/COP.14 on cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2020–2021,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2022–2023 as contained in the annex to this decision,² and decides on priorities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2023, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(b) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2023, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(c) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the biennium 2022–2023, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

² Referring to tables 1 and 2 in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6. Tables are to be inserted in the annex at the Conference of the Parties.

6. Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 23 and 24 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 13/COP.8 and 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operations of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Further recalling decision 19/COP.12 on improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology, particularly paragraph 4 on the organization of its future sessions,

Recalling decision 19/COP.13 on improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface, particularly paragraph 1, which extends the mandate of the Science-Policy Interface up to end of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, at which time another review of the Science-Policy Interface will be presented,

Bearing in mind the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Having reviewed the proposed work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2022–2023, as contained in the annex to decision XX³/COP.15,

1. *Decides* that the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should focus on, inter alia, the review of the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface, including its overall achievements since the last review completed at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, in order to decide on the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;
2. *Also decides* that the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should be organized in such a way as to facilitate a thematic dialogue between the Parties and the Science-Policy Interface regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs and enable the formulation of concise policy-relevant recommendations;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation, including a set of clear and concise recommendations and a separate document with draft decisions for consideration by Parties in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

³ Final decision reference will be inserted in the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, Part II.