

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE
Union-Discipline-Travail



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



15th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Summit of Heads of State and Government

Abidjan, 09 May 2022



The Abidjan Call

We, the Heads of State and Government;

Deeply concerned about the recurrence and severity of drought episodes, land degradation and their negative environmental, social and economic impacts corroding the pillars of our sustainable development;

Noting the threat that drought and land degradation pose to our livelihood and well-being;

Aware of the need to take appropriate measures to address these impacts and to keep a healthy and productive land;

Mindful of the benefits derived from avoiding, reducing land degradation and its restoration and the priority status it deserves in our development policies; (EU)

Noting the special role that women and the youth as well as the private sector and civil society can play in achieving these policy goals and recognizing the need to address gender inequality that still plays a significant role in land-degradation related issues; (EU)

Noting also the importance of public-private partnership to addressing the impacts of drought, desertification and land degradation;

Aware that land restoration constitutes a profitable economic activity that can generate multiple benefits;

Recalling that in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Agenda for Sustainable agenda whose SDG target 15.3 calls on countries to 'combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world'⁴⁷ by 2030;

Noting the importance of sustaining the momentum created around the SDGs and that Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a strong vehicle for sustainable land management.

Recalling that the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept encourages adoption of a broad range of measures to avoid or reduce land degradation through appropriate planning, regulation and sustainable land management practices, combined with actions to reverse past degradation, through land restoration and rehabilitation, to achieve a state of no net loss of healthy and productive land;

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of countries, including the strong links between agriculture and land degradation, the impact of drought and the significant needs in terms of adaptation to climate change and in particular the adaptation of its agro-sylvo-pastoral systems whose productivity is strongly affected by climate change;

Taking into account efforts made by Governments and the private sector to combat desertification and land degradation as well as progress achieved through major partnerships such as the Great Green Wall of the Sahel and Sahara Initiative;

Taking into account efforts made by Governments and the private sector to combat desertification and land degradation as well as progress achieved through major partnerships such as the Great Green Wall of the Sahel and Sahara Initiative, the Middle East Green Initiative launched by Saudi Arabia in 2021 and the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats Launched by the G20 during the Saudi presidency of the G20 in 2020 (Saudi Arabia)

Recognizing the potential economic, environmental and social benefits that the Abidjan Legacy Programme model can bring for countries of similar socio-ecological features;

Emphasizing the strategic importance of addressing drought and implementing large-scale land restoration on the agenda of COP15;

Taking note of the “Abidjan Legacy Program” launched by HEM Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, with the objective to deploy, on a large scale, management strategies tailored towards each agro-ecological zones of the country with the view to support sustainably the agricultural sector, the backbone of Côte d’Ivoire’s economy;

Expressing our deep gratitude to the Government of Côte d’Ivoire for hosting the present Summit:

1. **We reaffirm** our continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially its SDG15.3 aimed toward achieving Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030.
2. **We urge** to place soil and land in the centre of spatial planning policies aiming healthy ecosystems and the global food security.
3. **We commit** to continue giving the highest priority to the issue of drought and desertification.
4. **We reaffirm our commitment** to combat desertification, halt biodiversity loss and mitigate climate change in an integrated manner and therefor comply with the objectives of the tree Rio Conventions.
5. **We call upon** land and nature-based solutions as key role in promoting approaches of highly efficient, cost-effective and nature friendly towards a green recovery.
6. **We reaffirm** our resolve avoiding and reducing land degradation and to developing and implementing appropriate sustainable land management and land restoration policies and encourage development partners to provide assistance, as appropriate.
7. **We commit** to addressing the issue of gender equality and the full participation of women and the youth in the development and implementation of our drought and land restoration policies.
8. **We commit** to reassessing and reinforcing the sustainability and resilience of our commodity value to respond to the challenges and the need for a sustainable transition of commodity value chains and call on other country parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to do the same.
9. **We welcome** the Abidjan Legacy Program launched by HEM Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, with the objective of maintaining conditions for sustaining Côte d’Ivoire’s agricultural base economy.
10. **We note that** the “Abidjan Legacy Program” is a sustainable land management model that aims at boosting long-term environmental sustainability across major value chains while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving communities’ resilience to climate change and invite parties to the UNCCD to draw inspiration from it.
11. **We welcome** the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use adopted at the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework convention on

Climate Change Convention and commit to its full and effective implementation and call other signatories to do the same.

12. **We urge** the development partners to align their interventions, combine their efforts and initiatives and engage more forcefully in responding to the impacts of drought, invest in large scale land restoration and provide sustained and multifaceted support to the developing countries towards achieving their Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets, which can contribute to the creation of jobs, wealth, and prosperity.
13. **We call upon** our partners, in particular the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank Group, the European Union, the African Development Bank Group, as well as other interested entities, such as the bilateral donors, the private sector, the foundations, and Civil Society Organizations, to support the Great Green Wall Initiative of the Sahara and the Sahel, the Abidjan Legacy Program and similar integrated programs. We are committed to establishing and strengthening the conditions for the implementation of these initiatives.
14. **We mandate** the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to bring the Abidjan Call to the attention of the General Debate of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its Seventy-seventh session and also to the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Egypt, in November 2022.