



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Conference of the Parties

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022

Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session

Addendum

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Decision 1/COP.15

Multi-year workplan for the Convention institutions (2022–2025)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 1/COP.14 and decision 10/COP.14,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(15)/6-ICCD/CRIC(20)/2 and ICCD/CRIC(20)/3,

Underlining the importance of the efficient and coordinated functioning of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies in supporting Parties in their implementation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

1. *Approves* the strategic orientation of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, as contained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2022–2025 in the annex to this decision;
2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to utilize the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2022–2025 in the annex to this decision, organizing their work in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Convention and the decisions taken at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and in line with the guidance outlined in the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to prepare a multi-year workplan for the Convention 2025–2028, utilizing the results-based management approach, to be considered at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Annex

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2022–2025

<i>2022–2025 main outcomes</i>	<i>Outcome indicators</i>	<i>Strategic objectives (SOs)^a</i>
1. Reduced desertification /land degradation and effects of drought in affected areas	Number of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) transformative projects that have been developed with support from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN)	SO 4
	Amount of funding targeted by DLDD transformative projects and programmes that have been developed with support from the UNCCD	SO 5
	Number of transformative project concepts developed with support from the UNCCD in the pipeline of the targeted donor	SO 1
	Number of hectares covered by LDN targets	
2. Improved preparedness for and resilience to the impacts of drought	Number of countries that have developed and/or implemented their drought preparedness plans	SO 3
	Extent of partnerships supporting the UNCCD drought agenda	SO 4
		SO 5
3. UNCCD implementation is responsive to the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples, women, and other people in vulnerable situations	Number of countries involved in or applying UNCCD support to integrating gender equality	SO 2
	Number of countries involved in or applying UNCCD support to integrating secure tenure	
	Number of transformative DLDD projects, developed with support from the UNCCD, that include provisions for gender equality	
	Number of transformative DLDD projects, developed with support from the UNCCD, that include provisions for secure tenure	
	Amount of funding allocated for gender equality in DLDD transformative projects and programmes that have been developed with support from the UNCCD	
	Amount of funding allocated for secure tenure in DLDD transformative projects and programmes that have been developed with support from the UNCCD	
4. Advanced global collaboration for sand and dust storms (SDS) source mitigation	Extent of measures to address SDS source mitigation carried out by the secretariat and/or the Global Mechanism (GM) with partners	SO 1
		SO 4
5. The UNCCD process contributes to, and benefits from, synergies with the other Rio conventions and related cooperation processes on climate change and biodiversity	Number of countries that leverage synergies and integrate DLDD into their national plans for addressing climate change and/or biodiversity	SO 4
	Number of scientific processes, reports and publications that contain inputs from the UNCCD	
	Extent of collaboration among the Rio convention secretariats	
6. UNCCD decision-making and implementation are guided by up-to-date scientific data and knowledge, and evidence-based analysis	Number of national reports received	All SOs
	Number of national reports that follow the recommended methodology	
	Per cent of the Science-Policy Interface work programme implemented	
	Number of UNCCD guides, reports and policy briefs	

<i>2022–2025 main outcomes</i>	<i>Outcome indicators</i>	<i>Strategic objectives (SOs)^a</i>
7. New stakeholders engage in the UNCCD process and implementation	Number of new civil society organizations applying for accreditation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) Number of briefs, publications and events targeting different stakeholder groups Extent of private sector partnerships supporting UNCCD implementation with secretariat or GM involvement	All SOs
8. The communication tools of the secretariat and the GM generate increasing interest in the UNCCD	Number of website and social media visits Number of downloads Unique visitors reached through different campaigns Amount of media attention (number of articles, journalists involved, etc.)	All SOs
9. The secretariat and the GM operate effectively	Per cent of COP decisions targeting the secretariat and/or GM implemented Number of UNCCD official meetings, including those of the Bureaux, organized timely and efficiently Per cent of staff that has participated in training	All SOs
10. The administration of the secretariat and the GM functions efficiently and in accordance with United Nations rules	Per cent of core budget spent Extent of improvements recommended by external auditors	All SOs

^a The SOs are:

1. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality
2. To improve the living conditions of affected populations
3. To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems
4. To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
5. To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level

Decision 2/COP.15

Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 3/COP.8, 1/COP.9, 1/COP.10, 1/COP.11, 3/COP.12, 13/COP.12, 7/COP.13, 8/COP.13 and 2/COP.14,

Restating the importance of capacity-building for the efficacious implementation of the Convention and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Having considered the conclusions and recommendations contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/6,

Acknowledging the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention and in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the efforts of Parties, international organizations and institutions, civil society organizations and other Convention stakeholders in support of capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue enhancing, within available resources and in keeping with its mandate, all measures to support the facilitation of capacity development for the effective implementation of the Convention, including:

(a) The wider involvement of the public at large, including the participation of Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, civil society organizations and private sector entities, and the education of students in the capacity-building process for a more effective and participatory approach;

(b) Development, as necessary, of more and improved strategies, modules and other relevant materials to support the gender-responsive and transformative implementation of the Convention through the use of the most recent and applicable data sources available;

(c) Expansion of the Capacity Building Marketplace and the exclusive e-learning platform by increasing the number of opportunities offered in other United Nations languages and through the continuous widening of their clientele;

(d) Organization of on-demand media training activities for journalists through a more structured approach to media training, focused on popularizing key United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification concepts and priorities and covering, inter alia, issues pertaining to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030);

(e) Continuation of the provision of training and further strengthening of capacity-building on drought, notably through the promotion of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Drought Toolbox and organization of training sessions on its use, as well as the development of additional tools in this field;

(f) Continuation of the provision of training and further strengthening of capacity-building activities to better address desertification and land degradation;

(g) Development of additional tools that concerned country Parties may use in furthering national capacity-building efforts to address sand and dust storms;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science–Policy Interface, within available resources and in accordance with their respective mandates, to:

(a) Continue the pursuit of partnerships, both formal and informal, by redoubling their efforts to encourage Parties, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to participate fully in the capacity-building process by being active partners, especially in the areas of training, awareness-raising, drought mitigation, the achievement of land degradation

neutrality, and the gender-responsive and transformative implementation of the Convention's objectives wherever possible, contributing to a better understanding of synergies and coherence among the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, bearing in mind their respective mandates and goals;

(b) Broaden their scope of cooperation with all relevant public and private sector entities in the development of partnerships to support the capacity-development process, including relevant regional and subregional entities;

(c) Expand and deepen the innovative approaches being taken to facilitate capacity-building and development, making innovation a central element in their efforts to realize their capacity-building mandates;

3. *Urges* Parties to make full use of the opportunities for capacity development being offered through various means by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, including the opportunities to post their own offerings on the Capacity Building Marketplace and the exclusive e-learning platform;

4. *Supports* the efforts of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism aimed at developing partnerships, including at the subregional and regional levels, to better facilitate capacity development and further advance a more participatory approach to the same, especially in the areas of:

- (a) Drought preparedness and mitigation;
- (b) Measures to achieve land degradation neutrality;
- (c) Gender-responsive and transformative implementation;
- (d) Measures to address sand and dust storms;
- (e) Development of on-the-ground training activities for journalists;

5. *Invites* Parties to continue to support and fully participate in the efforts being made by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to develop and implement, as appropriate, specific capacity-building programmes concerning:

- (a) Gender-sensitive and transformative approaches to the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Resilience to sand and dust storms;
- (c) Drought preparedness and mitigation;
- (d) Land degradation and desertification;

6. *Invites* accredited civil society organizations involved in capacity-building to make full use of the opportunities being offered through various means by the secretariat and Global Mechanism, including the opportunities to post their own offerings on the Capacity Building Marketplace and the exclusive e-learning platform;

7. *Also invites* developed country Parties and those in a position to do so, as well as technical and financial institutions, to continue to provide technical and financial support for targeted capacity development in support of the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision to future sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.

5th plenary meeting
19 May 2022

Decision 3/COP.15

Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 3/COP.12, 3/COP.13, 8/COP.12, 7/COP.13 and decision 3/COP.14,

Recognizing that Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 has generated significant momentum for the implementation of the Convention and that the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets supports countries in mobilizing funding and technical capacities

Welcoming the start of United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and newly established partnerships, and *encouraging* Parties to deepen their engagement with these and existing partnerships for the enhanced implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality,

Noting with appreciation the progress made by country Parties in voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and the support provided by the Global Mechanism, the secretariat and relevant technical and financing partners as regards the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme and the development of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes to enhance the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality, as per the results reported in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/5,

Also noting with appreciation the elements discussed in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/5 regarding a proposed way forward to support a more dynamic national enabling environment and higher efficiency and effectiveness at scale for both setting voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and supporting land degradation neutrality implementation efforts, and the related recommendations,

1. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet done so to formulate voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, as appropriate, and *also encourages* Parties which have already set targets to consider reviewing and refining them, as appropriate,
2. *Further encourages* Parties that have committed to voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to implement measures to accelerate their achievement, as appropriate, by:
 - (a) Fostering synergies among the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals, the private sector and civil society organizations, including the consideration of joint programming activities at the national and subnational level, as well as national action programmes;
 - (b) Strengthening national-level intersectoral coordination and cooperation based on, inter alia, integrated land-use planning, sustainable landscape management, respecting social and environmental safeguards, to guide the implementation of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;
 - (c) Creating an enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including through the responsible governance of land and tenure security, the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and the improved access of smallholder land users to advisory and financial services, in particular for women and vulnerable populations;
3. *Further invites* Parties, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, to enhance the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3, into their national strategies, plans and programmes and map them with those of the other two Rio conventions and other processes, including national development strategies, to increase transparency, policy coherence and synergies in their implementation;

4. *Invites* developed country Parties, and others in a position to do so, to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to available resources, to:
 - (a) Support Parties to create an enabling environment for the achievement of voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets, including the modalities for more responsible governance of land and tenure security, efforts to increase sustainable and gender-responsive approaches to land restoration, respecting social and environmental safeguards, the engagement of relevant stakeholders, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, and better access to innovative financing sources;
 - (b) Continue to develop new and strengthen existing partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and achievement of land degradation neutrality, collaborating notably with the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats, the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), the Changwon Initiative, the Ankara Initiative, the Peace Forest Initiative and other complementary initiatives, as well as with national, subregional and regional scientific bodies, to provide support to Parties;
 - (c) Promote public-private partnerships and partnerships with civil society organizations, within their respective roles, to support the implementation of the Convention and achievement of land degradation neutrality;
 - (d) Continue to contribute to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with the aim of, inter alia, highlighting the catalytic effect of land restoration on the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (e) Continue to promote synergies and knowledge-sharing among Parties on land degradation neutrality target-setting and land degradation neutrality implementation efforts;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to report, as appropriate, on the implementation of this decision at the next session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

5th plenary meeting
19 May 2022

Decision 4/COP.15

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 4/COP.14,

Noting that the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification recognizes awareness-raising as a key element that can play a central role in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recognizing the importance of promoting consistent and coordinated messages about the objective of the Convention as well as on land degradation neutrality and drought issues, including as an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/195, in which the General Assembly declared 2010–2020 the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Also recalling its resolution 64/201, in which the General Assembly designated the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as the focal point for the Decade, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, including its Department of Global Communications,

Noting the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) and *expressing* its appreciation to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, as the focal point for the Decade, for its successful outcomes,

Recognizing the additional opportunity for cooperation, coordination and synergies in the work related to ecosystem restoration among relevant United Nations entities through the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),

Welcoming the development and implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and strategic branding exercise, as reported in document ICCD/COP(14)/4,

1. *Calls for* Parties and *invites* civil society organizations, the media, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to leverage international awareness-raising opportunities, such as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and the Land for Life programme, for outreach, including to Indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth, around actions to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve a land degradation neutral and drought-resilient world on a voluntary basis;
2. *Invites* Parties to develop communication strategies for target audiences that include policymakers; institutions in charge of land-based sectors; civil society organizations; the private sector; farmers; and pastoralists, around actions to achieve a land degradation neutral and drought-resilient world;
3. *Also invites* Parties to continue to raise public awareness and promote youth engagement on Convention issues by (i) linking them to other sustainable development challenges; and (ii) underlining the pivotal role of sustainably managed land in implementing the Convention and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while addressing gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of these messages;
4. *Further invites* Parties, civil society organizations and the private sector to continue to actively support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan by providing the secretariat with success stories, people-

focused stories and photo/video footage from the field, giving a human face to the Convention and hence promoting its understanding, awareness and visibility among the public by adapting communications within local and national contexts;

5. *Invites* Parties and other United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders, which are in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions in support of the implementation of the communication plan;

6. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Continue implementing the communication plan consistent with the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(b) Ensure consistent and coherent messaging with the other Rio conventions in order to underline the importance of desertification/land degradation and drought and its links with biodiversity loss and climate change in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Engage with key audiences, such as policymakers, line ministries in charge of land-based sectors, the private sector, land owners and land managers, the farmer community and pastoralists, for the purposes of (i) increasing awareness about the objectives of the Convention; (ii) highlighting the economic and social benefits and other positive impacts of its implementation; and (iii) increasing awareness about the negative impacts of land degradation and desertification, taking into account particular national and regional conditions;

(d) Explore the development of communication products and activities linked to initiatives such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and, as appropriate, the Group of 20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats, which communicate the benefits and positive impacts of achieving land degradation neutrality, as appropriate;

(e) Enhance media engagement and develop partnerships with media and other relevant organizations to expand outreach to non-English speaking audiences—and achieve broader geographic reach and information dissemination;

(f) Raise the profile of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification outreach programmes and products, such as the Land for Life programme, the Land Ambassadors programme and the Rio Conventions Pavilion, in partnership and cooperation with the other Rio conventions and relevant stakeholders;

(g) Maximize the traditional and social media outreach potential by developing new multimedia content based on sources such as the Global Land Outlook series and other major scientific assessments, the Science-Policy Interface, the performance review and assessment of implementation reports submitted to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, as well as success stories and stories featuring the views and perspectives of beneficiaries of the Convention's work;

(h) Continue building communications capacity for staff of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to strengthen support for communications activities;

(i) Provide key messages to national focal points and science and technology correspondents to support United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification advocacy efforts in order to bring Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 to the forefront of policy platforms addressing the implementation of other Sustainable Development Goals;

(j) Continue improving and enhancing the online communications tools, including the website and library services, with a focus on the provision of knowledge and data tools that are relevant for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat, where appropriate, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022*

Decision 5/COP.15

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 5/COP.9, 5/COP.10, 5/COP.11, 5/COP.12, 5/COP.13 and 5/COP.14,

Welcoming the celebration of the open dialogue sessions organized by the civil society organizations as part of the official agenda of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Also welcoming the organization of the youth and gender caucus meetings organized on the sidelines of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, giving an opportunity to those that are more affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to provide inputs to the decision-making process,

1. *Encourages* those countries with no or few civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote the involvement of their organizations in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process at the international level to ensure more balanced participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, particularly civil society organizations working with people in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, people living in rural areas, women, youth, and persons with disabilities;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the key stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples, local community organizations, youth, farmers organizations, pastoral organizations, women's organizations, persons with disabilities, local governments and parliamentarians;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to improve access to information on the accreditation process for civil society organizations;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to develop a youth engagement strategy and the modalities for its implementation to ensure stronger, effective and meaningful participation of youth in the meetings and processes of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the renewal of the membership of the Civil Society Organization Panel until the next Conference of the Parties starting immediately after fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with previous decisions;
6. *Encourages* developed country Parties, international and financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions, in a position to do so, to consider contributing substantially and promptly to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as in the work undertaken by the Civil Society Organization Panel;
7. *Requests* the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report on its activities to the Conference of the Parties at its next session;
8. *Also requests* the secretariat to report at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Decision 6/COP.15

Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 17 and 20 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 5/COP.11, 6/COP.12, 6/COP.13 and 6/COP.14,

Stressing the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Convention and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Noting the outcomes of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, and the information provided in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/5 related to the initiatives undertaken by the Global Mechanism,

1. *Takes note* of the initiatives undertaken by the Global Mechanism and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification business engagement strategy and the private sector engagement strategy 2021–2030 when engaging in partnerships with the private sector;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism within their mandate and subject to the availability of resources to:

(a) Engage with companies that are working in the food-feed-fibre sector that have potential to make positive contributions to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought;

(b) Continue promoting, together with other partners, decent land-based jobs for youth and land-based youth entrepreneurship;

(c) Facilitate, in collaboration with the relevant partners and representatives of the private sector, the organization of the seventh Sustainable Land Management Business Forum on the sidelines of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Continue engaging with the private sector on the introduction of sustainable land use and value chain development, including for the promotion of sustainable sourcing practices;

(e) Facilitate, in collaboration with partners, the development of the Business for Land initiative, bringing visibility to the commitments made by participating companies towards the objectives of the Convention and ensuring that the initiative is self-sustained in the future;

3. *Invites* Parties, business and industry entities to support the Business for Land initiative and present specific commitments to ensure the achievement of land degradation neutrality, on a voluntary basis;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to report at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the measures taken to facilitate and encourage the participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Decision 7/COP.15

Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 7/COP.13 and decision 7/COP.14,

Acknowledging the importance of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention,

Noting that the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will reach its midpoint in 2024,

Also noting decision x/COP.15, by which the Conference of the Parties decided to hold the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2024,

Recognizing the need to reserve adequate time for the implementation of the upcoming recommendations of the midterm evaluation in order to benefit from them in the best possible manner before 2030,

Welcoming the further elements and priorities provided by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for the provisionally adopted modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/2,

1. *Decides* to start the midterm evaluation process immediately after the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to considering the resulting findings and recommendations at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2024;
2. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, as contained in annex I to this decision;
3. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental working group to oversee the midterm evaluation process, in line with the terms of reference contained in annex II to this decision;
4. *Invites* the intergovernmental working group to consider and further detail the terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, as well as the organization and schedule of its own work, at its first meeting;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and, as feasible, the Global Mechanism to support the midterm evaluation process and the work of the intergovernmental working group by providing the needed information, managing the experts carrying out the independent assessment, facilitating communication among the members and observers of the intergovernmental working group, and organizing their meetings;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat to regularly update the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made in the midterm evaluation process;
7. *Further requests* the intergovernmental working group to present its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Annex I

Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

I. Objectives of the midterm evaluation

1. The purpose of the midterm evaluation is to assess the progress made in implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and achieving its five strategic objectives. It will determine whether the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework is working as intended, whether its implementation is meeting the stated aims, and whether/how it is contributing to broader global priorities of sustainable development. The evaluation will inform Parties and other key stakeholders about the successes and challenges in the implementation and, through a participatory process, result in recommendations to further improve performance for the remaining period of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

2. The main audience of the midterm evaluation are Parties to the Convention, both as participants in the Conference of the Parties (COP) and as countries implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, as well as United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) institutions and bodies. The evaluation will also provide valuable information to the scientific community involved in the UNCCD process at different levels, implementation partners and other interested stakeholders.

II. Evaluation scope and criteria

3. The midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework will cover five interrelated components:

- (a) Continued relevance of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
- (b) Progress made in achieving the five strategic objectives;
- (c) Consideration of efforts to meet the aims and assignments that were set in the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
- (d) Efficiency of the reporting and review process concerning the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework; and
- (e) Sustainability of the achievements.

4. In addition, as a cross-cutting issue, the midterm evaluation will consider how gender-responsive policies and measures are taken into account in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and in the reporting and review process.

5. The evaluation will be built on the standard evaluation criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,¹ which comprise relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. As this is a midterm evaluation and thus focuses on further improvement to the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in the second half of its term, the ‘impact’ criterion will take the form of “progress to impact”. The evaluation approach is outlined below.

A. Relevance and coherence

6. The midterm evaluation will assess the extent to which the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework continues to be suited to the changing priorities and approaches in global cooperation on sustainable development, most notably those concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Framework Convention on

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>.

Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will examine the responsiveness of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and to the intergovernmental efforts addressing the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. It will also consider the alignment of the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework with the policies and strategies of major multilateral partners and the donor community in general.

B. Effectiveness and progress to impact

7. The midterm evaluation will assess the progress made toward the strategic objectives, building on the indicators that are being used for each objective and taking into account the expected impact that is stated in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Of particular importance will be the linkage with SDG target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality (LDN).

8. With regard to the aims contained in the three fields² specified in the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, the midterm evaluation will seek to identify successes for potential replication and shortcomings as lessons learned, which may be used to improve the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

9. In addition, the midterm evaluation will assess the effectiveness of action taken by Convention institutions and bodies, as well as other relevant stakeholders, as feasible, to support Parties in implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, based on the tasks specified for each of them therein. This assessment will focus on the effectiveness of promoting LDN and planning for drought preparedness at country level.

C. Efficiency

10. Closely interlinked with the assessment of the effectiveness of action taken by Convention institutions and bodies, the midterm evaluation will briefly consider the efficiency of the UNCCD national reporting and review process.

D. Sustainability

11. The midterm evaluation will include a brief examination of the financial, social, environmental and institutional capacities of the systems that are needed to sustain, over time, the results achieved so far.

E. Cross-cutting issue: Gender

12. In addition to the above criteria, the midterm evaluation will consider how gender-responsive policies and measures are taken into account in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and in the reporting and review process.

13. Building on the evaluation criteria outlined above, the evaluation will be based on a number of evaluation questions that will be defined at the beginning of the evaluation.

III. Modalities and organization of work

14. The evaluation will be supervised by an intergovernmental working group, consisting of members that will be proposed by each regional group and nominated by the COP, as well as observers that include representatives of the Science-Policy Interface, selected partner organizations and civil society organizations. The secretariat will support the work of the intergovernmental working group.

² The three fields are financial and non-financial resources, policy and planning, and actions on the ground.

15. The evaluation will be based on factual findings considered through a participatory process and eventually submitted to the COP for a decision on the way forward. The corresponding elements of the evaluation process will be as follows:

(a) An independent assessment, to be supervised by the intergovernmental working group and carried out by external evaluation experts using the evaluation criteria. The external expertise to be used should observe geographical and gender balance. The assessment will present findings on the evaluation components (continued relevance of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework; progress toward the strategic objectives; the implementation framework; the reporting and review process; sustainability of the results; and gender aspects) based on sound, verified evidence and objective analysis, and be clearly documented in the assessment report. The assessment will also present conclusions and provisional recommendations for possible future action to further enhance the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

(b) A participatory consultation on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment, to be conducted during an intersessional meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention; and

(c) A COP decision, which will present Parties' agreement on the action to be taken to further enhance the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

16. With regard to the background material to be used for the midterm evaluation, the national reports submitted by Parties in 2018 and 2022–2023 will provide the key data for assessing the progress made toward achieving the strategic objectives and for considering the aims of the implementation framework.

Annex II

Terms of reference of the intergovernmental working group to oversee the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework midterm evaluation process

1. At its fourteenth session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to include in the preparations of the midterm evaluation the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to oversee the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework midterm evaluation process (IWG-MTE). The terms of reference, including the purpose, composition and main working modalities of the IWG-MTE, are presented below.

I. Purpose of the intergovernmental working group

2. The IWG-MTE is established to oversee the evaluation process. Building on the midterm evaluation terms of reference, as agreed by the COP at its fifteenth session, the IWG-MTE will:

(a) Agree on a detailed plan and schedule for the midterm evaluation process, including the preparation of the independent assessment, a consultative process and the preparation of a report for the COP, as well as its own organization of work and schedule;

(b) Ensure that the first main component of the evaluation, the independent assessment, is responsive to the objectives and criteria of the evaluation and conducted according to high evaluation standards, and that the external evaluation experts preparing that assessment observe geographical and gender balance;

(c) Prepare, with the support of the secretariat, a draft report including the findings of the independent assessment, conclusions and recommendations, as well as preliminary observations of the group;

(d) Advise the secretariat on the organization of the participatory consultation on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment, to be conducted during an intersessional meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC);

(e) Prepare a report on the findings and recommendations of the midterm evaluation and submit it for the consideration of the COP at its sixteenth session.

II. Composition of the intergovernmental working group

3. The IWG-MTE will consist of three representatives per region,³ to be nominated by each region. The group will be supported by seven observers: two members of the Science-Policy Interface, one representative each from three major international organizations and two representatives from civil society. The COP Bureau, at the proposal of the secretariat, will nominate the observers.

4. The secretariat and, where feasible, the Global Mechanism will support the work of IWG-MTE and service its meetings.

III. Main working modalities of the intergovernmental working group

5. Unless otherwise agreed by the IWG-MTE, and depending on the availability of resources, the group will have three in-person meetings: one at the beginning of its work, another one immediately after the intersessional CRIC session, and one at the end of its work to finalize its report.

³ Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; Central and Eastern Europe; and Western European and Other Countries.

In addition, the group will meet online, either in full or in smaller subgroups, and it will also actively communicate through email exchanges. The secretariat will facilitate the meetings of and communication among the group members and observers.

Decision 8/COP.15

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 8/COP.14,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Convention benefits from strong and effective collaborations to leverage synergies with relevant organizations and international instruments including, inter alia, the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Group of 20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement,

Reaffirming the usefulness of the three land-based progress indicators as set out in decision 9/COP.12 for monitoring and reporting under the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are coherent with the progress indicators/metrics adopted in decision 22/COP.11,

Welcoming the progress to enhance existing and establish new partnerships as well as the renewed efforts to coordinate activities with the other Rio conventions through the Joint Liaison Group to support the implementation of the Convention's objectives,

Noting that the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative was established in response to decision 9/COP.13, and *acknowledging with appreciation* the important contribution of the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to the development of data quality standards, education programmes and practical tools for the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of land degradation neutrality,

1. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate, to engage at the national level to explore complementarities in the implementation of and reporting on the three Rio conventions;
2. *Also invites* Parties to explore complementarities between land degradation neutrality targets, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, as well as national targets under the Sendai Framework, and related planning, programming, reporting and monitoring in order to achieve the Convention's objectives;
3. *Further invites* Parties to explore ways to integrate satellite data information into their capacity development efforts and data analytic tools for evidence-based decision-making to support land degradation neutrality implementation through integrated land use planning informed, as appropriate, by the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative and its partners and other relevant stakeholders;
4. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Parties in a position to do so, international financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to contribute, financially or in-kind, to global partnerships, alliances and coalitions on Earth observations, particularly, the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative, and engage in regional and bilateral cooperation to address desertification/land degradation and drought;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to:
 - (a) Continue to enhance existing and seek new partnerships that enhance the implementation of the Convention, address desertification/land degradation and drought, and help achieve voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets;
 - (b) Continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners to provide practical tools, technical guidance and capacity-building related to

the implementation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification objectives and policy frameworks, and thematic priorities as defined by the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Develop, in partnership with relevant organizations and networks, stakeholder engagement plans, including awareness-raising strategies, for youth, civil society organizations, the media and the private sector;

6. *Invites* Parties to explore complementarities within relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, within their respective mandates and goals, in the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the national level, including, as appropriate, in the implementation of sustainable land management, ecosystem-based approaches or nature-based solutions;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Decision 9/COP.15

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 5, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 9/COP.14,

Welcoming the continuous support for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation provided through the Global Environment Facility,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/4;
2. *Welcomes* a (i) strong eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility; (ii) a robust increase to land degradation focal area resources; and *calls for* (iii) a continuous focus on land-based actions through Global Environment Facility Impact/Integrated Programs; and (iv) opportunities to enhance synergies among all focal areas bearing in mind the importance of the land degradation focal area as integral to those areas; (v) consideration of individuals and communities in situations of vulnerability across all sectors;
3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming land degradation focal area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;
4. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner;
5. *Recommends* the Global Environment Facility to promote, as appropriate, the use of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database into the Global Environment Facility projects and programmes to support knowledge-sharing and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;
6. *Notes with appreciation* the Global Environment Facility's engagement to initiate and support the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and *requests* continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;
7. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to support the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative;
8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to further align the land degradation focal area strategy implementation with the Convention goals to enable countries to address their desertification/land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands;
9. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building;
10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought in order to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought;
11. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by

encouraging collaboration amongst the national focal points to the Global Environment Facility, as well as the different Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting
19 May 2022

Decision 10/COP.15

Programme and budget for the triennium 2022–2024

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its amendments,⁴

Also recalling decision 1/COP.14,

Further recalling decision 9/COP.9 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011, paragraphs 13 and 14,

Recalling decision 1/COP.ES-2,

Welcoming with appreciation the offer of Saudi Arabia to organize the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2024, and *noting* that this three-year timeline between the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, differs from the usual two-year period,

Having considered the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the programme and budget,⁵

I. Programme budget for the triennium 2022–2024

1. *Approves* the following amendment to the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat:⁶

Replace Rule 2 with the following:

The financial period shall be a biennium, of which the first calendar year shall be an even-numbered year, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

2. *Also approves*, on an exceptional basis, the programme budget for the triennium 2022–2024 in the amount of EUR 24,646,354, for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for its triennial voluntary contribution to the core budget of EUR 1,533,876 and its special contribution of EUR 1,533,876 (Bonn Fund) as host Government to the secretariat;

4. *Approves* the staffing table for the programme budget, as contained in table 2 below;

5. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 12 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure in the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

6. *Recalling* decision 1/COP.ES-2, *confirms* the authorization to the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw upon the available unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods an amount up to EUR 121,411 to offset contributions in 2022, provided that the use of the balance does not reduce the working capital reserve, and that any such utilization be distributed to programmes and the Global Mechanism proportionate to the approved budget;

7. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2022, 2023 and 2024, contained in the annex to this decision;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare options, as appropriate, for ensuring the application of the most recent scale of assessment of the United Nations, as may be adopted by the General Assembly, in line with paragraphs 12 A. of the financial rules of the

⁴ Decision 2/COP.1, annex; decision 10/COP.13; and decision 10/COP.14.

⁵ Documents ICCD/COP(15)/5; ICCD/COP(15)/6-ICCD/CRIC(20)/2; ICCD/CRIC(20)/3; ICCD/COP(15)/7; ICCD/COP(15)/8; ICCD/COP(15)/9; and ICCD/COP(15)/10.

⁶ Decision 2/COP.1, Annex

Conference of the Parties, as modified by decision 10/COP.14, for consideration by Parties at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note paragraph 14 (a) of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and to promptly pay their contributions to the core budget;

10. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on any such transfers;

11. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to establish lower-level positions, in addition to the approved staffing table as set out in table 2 below within a budget for staff costs not to exceed EUR 16,419,249, to pay particular attention to strengthening the Committee on Science and Technology staffing structure in order to adequately support Parties' policy-relevant scientific efforts in achieving the aims of the Convention; and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further analyze the organizational structure and staffing to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of the approved work programme, looking notably at the impact of the Science-Policy Interface, and *also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on the outcomes of the analysis;

13. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the triennium;

14. *Approves* a contingency budget as set out in table 3 below, amounting to EUR 2,104,660 for conference servicing, to be added to the programme budget for the triennium 2022–2024 in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget;

15. *Decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for the purpose expressed in paragraph 14 does not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing;

16. *Takes note of* the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 1,518,560, as set out in table 4 below, in the event that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, Germany;

17. *Also takes note of* the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 688,170, as set out in table 5 below, in the event that the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is held in Bonn, Germany;

18. *Further takes note*, with profound alarm, of the unfunded liability in the form of an estimated USD 29.5 million in after-service health insurance obligations, which poses an existential threat to the viability of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to provide further information and possible options to the Parties of a predictable timeline to fully fund the after-service health insurance liability, taking into account the annual finance and interest costs of after-service health insurance;

19. *Takes note of* the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 6 below, and *invites* Parties to make contributions to this Fund;

20. *Encourages* developed country Parties, and other Parties in a position to do so, to facilitate engagement by the secretariat with potential alternative donors to the Special Trust Fund, including private bodies, to assist in funding the participation of developing country Parties in sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to continue to monitor the availability of voluntary contributions to the Special Trust Fund;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach;

23. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2025–⁷ in line with decision X/COP.15^(a) (on the multi-year workplan), presenting two budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (b) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs or savings related to them;

II. Financial performance of the Convention trust funds

24. *Takes note* of the audited financial statements for the secretariat and Global Mechanism for 2019 and 2020, and of the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2020–2021, and the status of contributions as at 30 April 2022;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform Parties on the latest audit reports as soon as they are available and to implement recommendations therein, as appropriate;

26. *Notes with appreciation* that the secretariat has established a section on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification website to publish up-to-date information relevant to the management and administration of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, including audit reports, applicable financial reports and other relevant budgetary and financial information, and *encourages* the Executive Secretary to upscale transparency and accountability;

27. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to draw upon available unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods to:

(a) Set aside funds for after-service health insurance, not exceeding the amount of EUR 500,000;

(b) Support the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, including temporary support staff, in an amount not exceeding EUR 1,050,000, on an exceptional basis;

(c) Provide partial funding for the financial needs assessment to be conducted by the Global Mechanism and submitted to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, in an amount not exceeding EUR 150,000, also on an exceptional basis;

28. *Expresses appreciation* to Parties that have paid their contributions to the core budget in a timely manner;

29. *Calls upon* Parties that have not paid their contributions to the core budget to do so without delay, bearing in mind that contributions are expected on or before 1 January of each year, and *requests* the secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions to the core budget as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;

30. *Urges* Parties that have not yet paid their contributions to the core budget for 2022 and prior years to do so without delay or conditionalities, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to publish and keep up-to-date the information on the status of contributions to the Convention Trust Funds, and to keep the members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties updated, so that they can provide information on unpaid contributions and their consequences at the regional meetings;

31. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue engaging Parties with outstanding contributions from past years with a view to the Parties entering into a voluntary plan to pay

⁷ The final decision reference will be inserted in the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, Part II.

the outstanding contribution and to continue to report on the implementation of any arrangements regarding outstanding contributions;

32. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods that have been received during the triennium 2022–2024;

33. *Expresses appreciation* for the contributions received from Parties to the Supplementary Fund, the Special Fund and the extrabudgetary funds of the Global Mechanism;

III. Evaluation reports

34. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the independent evaluations and assessments summarized in document ICCD/COP(15)/11, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to use these recommendations in planning and conducting their work;

35. *Takes note* of the proposed 2022–2024 workplan of the Evaluation Office, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on the outcomes of the evaluations that will be conducted during this triennium and on the action taken to meet the pending recommendations of earlier evaluations, as appropriate.

Table 1
Resource requirements by subprogramme
(Euros)

	2022	2023	2024	Total proposed budget
<i>I. Secretariat programmes</i>				
A. Executive Office	716 024	716 024	716 024	2 148 072
B. Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs	426 808	426 807	426 807	1 280 422
C. Communications	561 295	561 295	561 295	1 683 885
D. External Relations, Policy and Advocacy	1 091 937	1 091 937	1 091 937	3 275 811
E. Science, Technology and Innovation	1 602 685	1 602 685	1 602 685	4 808 055
F. Administrative Services	1 024 110	1 024 110	1 024 110	3 072 330
<i>II. Global Mechanism</i>				
G. Global Mechanism	1 847 452	1 847 453	1 847 453	5 542 358
Subtotal (A-G)	7 270 311	7 270 311	7 270 311	21 810 933
III. Programme support costs (13%)	945 141	945 140	945 140	2 835 421
IV. Working capital reserve	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (I-IV)	8 215 452	8 215 451	8 215 451	24 646 354
Income				
Contributions from the host Government	511 292	511,292	511,292	1 533 876
Indicative contributions	7 582 749	7,704,159	7,704,159	22 991 067
Unspent balance or contributions from prior financial periods (up to)	121 411	-	-	121 411
Total income	8 215 452	8,215,451	8,215,451	24,646,354

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Approved budget 2020–2021			Approved budget 2022–2024		
	Secretariat	Global Mechanism	Total	Secretariat	Global Mechanism	Total
Professional category and above						
USG	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-2	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-1	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
P-5	7.00	1.00	8.00	7.00	1.00	8.00
P-4	7.00	2.00	9.00	7.00	2.00	9.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	8.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
P-2	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	3.00
Subtotal Professional category and above	21.00	10.00	31.00	21.00	10.00	31.00
Subtotal General Services category	10.00	4.00	14.00	10.00	4.00	14.00
TOTAL	31.00	14.00	45.00	31.00	14.00	45.00

Table 3
Contingency budget for conference servicing (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2022–2024</i>
United Nations meetings services	1 862 530
Programme support costs	242 130
TOTAL	2 104 660

Table 4
Resource requirements for hosting the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2022–2024</i>
Incremental costs	1 222 060
Contingencies	121 800
Subtotal	1 343 860
Programme support costs	174 700
TOTAL	1 518 560

Table 5
Resource requirements for hosting the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2022–2024</i>
Incremental costs	548 100
Contingencies	60 900
Subtotal	609 000
Programme support costs	79 170
TOTAL	688 170

Table 6
Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the triennium 2022–2024 (euros)

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	900 000
Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties	1 300 000
TOTAL	2 200 000

6th plenary meeting
 20 May 2022

Annex I

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2022

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2022</i>	<i>2022 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Afghanistan	0.007	0.007	517
Albania	0.008	0.008	591
Algeria	0.138	0.135	10,201
Andorra	0.005	0.005	370
Angola	0.010	0.010	739
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	148
Argentina	0.915	0.892	67,640
Armenia	0.007	0.007	517
Australia	2.210	2.155	163,372
Austria	0.677	0.660	50,046
Azerbaijan	0.049	0.048	3,622
Bahamas	0.018	0.018	1,331
Bahrain	0.050	0.049	3,696
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	739
Barbados	0.007	0.007	517
Belarus	0.049	0.048	3,622
Belgium	0.821	0.800	60,691
Belize	0.001	0.001	76
Benin	0.003	0.003	222
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	76
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	0.016	1,183
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.012	887
Botswana	0.014	0.014	1,035
Brazil	2.948	2.874	217,927
Brunei Darussalam	0.025	0.024	1,848
Bulgaria	0.046	0.045	3,400
Burkina Faso	0.003	0.003	222
Burundi	0.001	0.001	76
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	76
Cambodia	0.006	0.006	444
Cameroon	0.013	0.013	961
Canada	2.734	2.665	202,108
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	76
Chad	0.004	0.004	296
Chile	0.407	0.397	30,087
China	12.005	11.704	887,455
Colombia	0.288	0.281	21,290
Comoros	0.001	0.001	76
Congo	0.006	0.006	444
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	76

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2022</i>	<i>2022 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Costa Rica	0.062	0.060	4,583
Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	0.013	961
Croatia	0.077	0.075	5,692
Cuba	0.080	0.078	5,914
Cyprus	0.036	0.035	2,661
Czechia	0.311	0.303	22,990
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.006	444
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	739
Denmark	0.554	0.540	40,954
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	76
Dominica	0.001	0.001	76
Dominican Republic	0.053	0.052	3,918
Ecuador	0.080	0.078	5,914
Egypt	0.186	0.181	13,750
El Salvador	0.012	0.012	887
Equatorial Guinea	0.016	0.016	1,183
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	76
Estonia	0.039	0.038	2,883
Eswatini	0.002	0.002	148
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	739
European Union	2.500	2.500	189,569
Fiji	0.003	0.003	222
Finland	0.421	0.410	31,122
France	4.427	4.316	327,260
Gabon	0.015	0.015	1,109
Gambia	0.001	0.001	76
Georgia	0.008	0.008	591
Germany	6.090	5.937	450,196
Ghana	0.015	0.015	1,109
Greece	0.366	0.357	27,056
Grenada	0.001	0.001	76
Guatemala	0.036	0.035	2,661
Guinea	0.003	0.003	222
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	76
Guyana	0.002	0.002	148
Haiti	0.003	0.003	222
Honduras	0.009	0.009	665
Hungary	0.206	0.201	15,228
Iceland	0.028	0.027	2,070
India	0.834	0.813	61,652
Indonesia	0.543	0.529	40,141
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	0.388	29,422
Iraq	0.129	0.126	9,536
Ireland	0.371	0.362	27,426

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2022</i>	<i>2022 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Israel	0.490	0.478	36,223
Italy	3.307	3.224	244,466
Jamaica	0.008	0.008	591
Japan	8.564	8.349	633,083
Jordan	0.021	0.020	1,552
Kazakhstan	0.178	0.174	13,158
Kenya	0.024	0.023	1,774
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	76
Kuwait	0.252	0.246	18,629
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.002	148
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.005	0.005	370
Latvia	0.047	0.046	3,474
Lebanon	0.047	0.046	3,474
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	76
Liberia	0.001	0.001	76
Libya	0.030	0.029	2,218
Liechtenstein	0.009	0.009	665
Lithuania	0.071	0.069	5,249
Luxembourg	0.067	0.065	4,953
Madagascar	0.004	0.004	296
Malawi	0.002	0.002	148
Malaysia	0.341	0.332	25,208
Maldives	0.004	0.004	296
Mali	0.004	0.004	296
Malta	0.017	0.017	1,257
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	76
Mauritania	0.002	0.002	148
Mauritius	0.011	0.011	813
Mexico	1.292	1.260	95,509
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	76
Monaco	0.011	0.011	813
Mongolia	0.005	0.005	370
Montenegro	0.004	0.004	296
Morocco	0.055	0.054	4,066
Mozambique	0.004	0.004	296
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	739
Namibia	0.009	0.009	665
Nauru	0.001	0.001	76
Nepal	0.007	0.007	517
Netherlands	1.356	1.322	100,241
New Zealand	0.291	0.284	21,512
Nicaragua	0.005	0.005	370
Niger	0.002	0.002	148
Nigeria	0.250	0.244	18,481
Niue	0.001	0.001	76

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2022</i>	<i>2022 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
North Macedonia	0.007	0.007	517
Norway	0.754	0.735	55,739
Oman	0.115	0.112	8,501
Pakistan	0.115	0.112	8,501
Palau	0.001	0.001	76
Panama	0.045	0.044	3,327
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.010	739
Paraguay	0.016	0.016	1,183
Peru	0.152	0.148	11,236
Philippines	0.205	0.200	15,154
Poland	0.802	0.782	59,287
Portugal	0.350	0.341	25,873
Qatar	0.282	0.275	20,846
Republic of Korea	2.267	2.210	167,585
Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.003	222
Romania	0.198	0.193	14,637
Russian Federation	2.405	2.345	177,787
Rwanda	0.003	0.003	222
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	76
Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	76
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	76
Samoa	0.001	0.001	76
San Marino	0.002	0.002	148
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	76
Saudi Arabia	1.172	1.143	86,639
Senegal	0.007	0.007	517
Serbia	0.028	0.027	2,070
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	148
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	76
Singapore	0.485	0.473	35,853
Slovakia	0.153	0.149	11,310
Slovenia	0.076	0.074	5,618
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	76
Somalia	0.001	0.001	76
South Africa	0.272	0.265	20,107
South Sudan	0.006	0.006	444
Spain	2.146	2.092	158,640
Sri Lanka	0.044	0.043	3,253
State of Palestine	0.008	0.008	591
Sudan	0.010	0.010	739
Suriname	0.005	0.005	370
Sweden	0.906	0.883	66,975
Switzerland	1.151	1.122	85,086
Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	0.011	813
Tajikistan	0.004	0.004	296

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2022</i>	<i>2022 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Thailand	0.307	0.299	22,695
Timor-Leste	0.002	0.002	148
Togo	0.002	0.002	148
Tonga	0.001	0.001	76
Trinidad and Tobago	0.040	0.039	2,957
Tunisia	0.025	0.024	1,848
Türkiye	1.371	1.337	101,349
Turkmenistan	0.033	0.032	2,439
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	76
Uganda	0.008	0.008	591
Ukraine	0.057	0.056	4,214
United Arab Emirates	0.616	0.601	45,537
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island	4.567	4.452	337,610
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	739
United States of America	22.000	21.448	1,626,323
Uruguay	0.087	0.085	6,431
Uzbekistan	0.032	0.031	2,366
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	76
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.728	0.710	53,816
Viet Nam	0.077	0.075	5,692
Yemen	0.010	0.010	739
Zambia	0.009	0.009	665
Zimbabwe	0.005	0.005	370
Total	102.510	100.000	7,582,749

^a Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 31 December 2021.

^b In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/271.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Annex II

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2023 and 2024

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2023 and 2024</i>	<i>2023 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2024 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Afghanistan	0.006	0.006	451	451
Albania	0.008	0.008	601	601
Algeria	0.109	0.106	8,186	8,186
Andorra	0.005	0.005	376	376
Angola	0.010	0.010	751	751
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	150	150
Argentina	0.719	0.701	54,001	54,001
Armenia	0.007	0.007	526	526
Australia	2.111	2.058	158,547	158,547
Austria	0.679	0.662	50,996	50,996
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.029	2,253	2,253
Bahamas	0.019	0.019	1,427	1,427
Bahrain	0.054	0.053	4,056	4,056
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	751	751
Barbados	0.008	0.008	601	601
Belarus	0.041	0.040	3,079	3,079
Belgium	0.828	0.807	62,187	62,187
Belize	0.001	0.001	77	77
Benin	0.005	0.005	376	376
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	77	77
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.019	1,427	1,427
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.012	901	901
Botswana	0.015	0.015	1,127	1,127
Brazil	2.013	1.962	151,187	151,187
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.020	1,577	1,577
Bulgaria	0.056	0.055	4,206	4,206
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.004	300	300
Burundi	0.001	0.001	77	77
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	77	77
Cambodia	0.007	0.007	526	526
Cameroon	0.013	0.013	976	976
Canada	2.628	2.562	197,377	197,377
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	77	77
Chad	0.003	0.003	225	225
Chile	0.420	0.409	31,544	31,544
China	15.254	14.871	1,145,655	1,145,655
Colombia	0.246	0.240	18,476	18,476
Comoros	0.001	0.001	77	77
Congo	0.005	0.005	376	376

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2023 and 2024</i>	<i>2023 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2024 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	77	77
Costa Rica	0.069	0.067	5,182	5,182
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.021	1,652	1,652
Croatia	0.091	0.089	6,835	6,835
Cuba	0.095	0.093	7,135	7,135
Cyprus	0.036	0.035	2,704	2,704
Czechia	0.340	0.331	25,536	25,536
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.005	376	376
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	751	751
Denmark	0.553	0.539	41,533	41,533
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	77	77
Dominica	0.001	0.001	77	77
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.065	5,032	5,032
Ecuador	0.077	0.075	5,783	5,783
Egypt	0.139	0.136	10,440	10,440
El Salvador	0.013	0.013	976	976
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.012	901	901
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	77	77
Estonia	0.044	0.043	3,305	3,305
Eswatini	0.002	0.002	150	150
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	751	751
European Union	2.500	2.500	192,604	192,604
Fiji	0.004	0.004	300	300
Finland	0.417	0.407	31,319	31,319
France	4.318	4.209	324,304	324,304
Gabon	0.013	0.013	976	976
Gambia	0.001	0.001	77	77
Georgia	0.008	0.008	601	601
Germany	6.111	5.957	458,968	458,968
Ghana	0.024	0.023	1,803	1,803
Greece	0.325	0.317	24,409	24,409
Grenada	0.001	0.001	77	77
Guatemala	0.041	0.040	3,079	3,079
Guinea	0.003	0.003	225	225
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	77	77
Guyana	0.004	0.004	300	300
Haiti	0.006	0.006	451	451
Honduras	0.009	0.009	676	676
Hungary	0.228	0.222	17,124	17,124
Iceland	0.036	0.035	2,704	2,704
India	1.044	1.018	78,410	78,410
Indonesia	0.549	0.535	41,233	41,233
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.362	27,864	27,864
Iraq	0.128	0.125	9,613	9,613

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2023 and 2024</i>	<i>2023 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2024 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Ireland	0.439	0.428	32,971	32,971
Israel	0.561	0.547	42,134	42,134
Italy	3.189	3.109	239,511	239,511
Jamaica	0.008	0.008	601	601
Japan	8.033	7.831	603,320	603,320
Jordan	0.022	0.021	1,652	1,652
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.130	9,989	9,989
Kenya	0.030	0.029	2,253	2,253
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	77	77
Kuwait	0.234	0.228	17,575	17,575
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.002	150	150
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007	0.007	526	526
Latvia	0.050	0.049	3,755	3,755
Lebanon	0.036	0.035	2,704	2,704
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	77	77
Liberia	0.001	0.001	77	77
Libya	0.018	0.018	1,352	1,352
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.010	751	751
Lithuania	0.077	0.075	5,783	5,783
Luxembourg	0.068	0.066	5,107	5,107
Madagascar	0.004	0.004	300	300
Malawi	0.002	0.002	150	150
Malaysia	0.348	0.339	26,137	26,137
Maldives	0.004	0.004	300	300
Mali	0.005	0.005	376	376
Malta	0.019	0.019	1,427	1,427
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	77	77
Mauritania	0.002	0.002	150	150
Mauritius	0.019	0.019	1,427	1,427
Mexico	1.221	1.190	91,703	91,703
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	77	77
Monaco	0.011	0.011	826	826
Mongolia	0.004	0.004	300	300
Montenegro	0.004	0.004	300	300
Morocco	0.055	0.054	4,131	4,131
Mozambique	0.004	0.004	300	300
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	751	751
Namibia	0.009	0.009	676	676
Nauru	0.001	0.001	77	77
Nepal	0.010	0.010	751	751
Netherlands	1.377	1.342	103,420	103,420
New Zealand	0.309	0.301	23,208	23,208
Nicaragua	0.005	0.005	376	376
Niger	0.003	0.003	225	225
Nigeria	0.182	0.177	13,669	13,669

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2023 and 2024</i>	<i>2023 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2024 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Niue	0.001	0.001	77	77
North Macedonia	0.007	0.007	526	526
Norway	0.679	0.662	50,996	50,996
Oman	0.111	0.108	8,337	8,337
Pakistan	0.114	0.111	8,562	8,562
Palau	0.001	0.001	77	77
Panama	0.090	0.088	6,759	6,759
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.010	751	751
Paraguay	0.026	0.025	1,953	1,953
Peru	0.163	0.159	12,242	12,242
Philippines	0.212	0.207	15,922	15,922
Poland	0.837	0.816	62,863	62,863
Portugal	0.353	0.344	26,512	26,512
Qatar	0.269	0.262	20,203	20,203
Republic of Korea	2.574	2.509	193,321	193,321
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.005	376	376
Romania	0.312	0.304	23,433	23,433
Russian Federation	1.866	1.819	140,146	140,146
Rwanda	0.003	0.003	225	225
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.002	150	150
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	150	150
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	77	77
Samoa	0.001	0.001	77	77
San Marino	0.002	0.002	150	150
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	77	77
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.154	88,925	88,925
Senegal	0.007	0.007	526	526
Serbia	0.032	0.031	2,403	2,403
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	150	150
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	77	77
Singapore	0.504	0.491	37,853	37,853
Slovakia	0.155	0.151	11,641	11,641
Slovenia	0.079	0.077	5,933	5,933
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	77	77
Somalia	0.001	0.001	77	77
South Africa	0.244	0.238	18,326	18,326
South Sudan	0.002	0.002	150	150
Spain	2.134	2.080	160,275	160,275
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.044	3,380	3,380
State of Palestine	0.011	0.011	826	826
Sudan	0.010	0.010	751	751
Suriname	0.003	0.003	225	225
Sweden	0.871	0.849	65,417	65,417
Switzerland	1.134	1.105	85,169	85,169
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.009	676	676

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2023 and 2024</i>	<i>2023 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2024 indicative contributions (euros)</i>
Tajikistan	0.003	0.003	225	225
Thailand	0.368	0.359	27,639	27,639
Timor-Leste	0.001	0.001	77	77
Togo	0.002	0.002	150	150
Tonga	0.001	0.001	77	77
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.036	2,779	2,779
Tunisia	0.019	0.019	1,427	1,427
Türkiye	0.845	0.824	63,464	63,464
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.033	2,554	2,554
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	77	77
Uganda	0.010	0.010	751	751
Ukraine	0.056	0.055	4,206	4,206
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.619	47,692	47,692
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island	4.375	4.265	328,585	328,585
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	751	751
United States of America	22.000	21.447	1,652,315	1,652,315
Uruguay	0.092	0.090	6,910	6,910
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.026	2,028	2,028
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	77	77
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.171	13,143	13,143
Viet Nam	0.093	0.091	6,985	6,985
Yemen	0.008	0.008	601	601
Zambia	0.008	0.008	601	601
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.007	526	526
Total	102.513	100.000	7,704,159	7,704,159

^a Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 31 December 2021.

^b In accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/238.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Decision 11/COP.15

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 22/COP.11, 7/COP.13, 15/COP.13 and 11/COP.14,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(20)/8, ICCD/CRIC(20)/9, as well as documents ICCD/CRIC(20)/10 and ICCD/CRIC(20)/INF.1,

Recognizing that, in line with the Group on Earth Observations data sharing principles, the societal benefits arising from Earth observations can only be fully achieved through the sharing of data, information, knowledge, products and services,

Acknowledging with appreciation the continued efforts by Conservation International in enhancing Trends.Earth to support national reporting under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Acknowledging the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy on data titled "Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere",

Recognizing the need for periodic scientific review and updating of the Good Practice Guidance documents to inform reporting, brought about by the continuous advances made in science and the developing capacities of Parties to monitor the Convention,

1. *Endorses* the guidelines for the technical review of national reports contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/INF.1;
2. *Requests* that the secretariat arrange future sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to be organized to maximize the participation of the science and technology correspondents in the regional meetings and the work of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention within the time frame in which the science and technology correspondents are present;
3. *Urges* Parties to:
 - (a) Use the spatial tools provided in the performance review and assessment of implementation system platform to delineate hotspots of land degradation and brightspots of land improvement, as well as the location and extent of their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation actions, thereby ensuring that they are quantifiable, spatially explicit and time-bound, in line with levels of national ambition;
 - (b) Share national data through the performance review and assessment of implementation system platform with as few restrictions as possible on its use in order to maximize the potential of reported data to inform decision-making on land;
 - (c) Engage in the technical review of national reports undertaken prior to the submission of national reports in order to ensure that comparable, robust and credible data will be submitted through the upgraded performance review and assessment of implementation system platform to the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Encourages* Parties to use their own national data for tracking progress in the implementation of the Convention;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
 - (a) Support Parties in reviewing and refining their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and in delineating their location and extent in order to ensure that they are quantifiable, spatially explicit and time-bound, in line with levels of national ambition;

(b) Continue collaborating with Conservation International and its partners for the further development of Trends.Earth in line with new guidance and new indicators and to support the preparation and analysis of data for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national reporting in a format that can be automatically transferred to the performance review and assessment of implementation system;

(c) Ensure that the performance review and assessment of implementation system remains current and relevant to Parties and is sustainable in the longer term;

(d) Continue efforts towards upgrading its in-house data management system while pursuing data-centred partnerships to enable a data-driven transformation as envisioned by the United Nations Secretary-General in the Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere;

(e) Continue efforts and collaborate towards further supporting the development of national capacity to monitor and report on the implementation of the Convention;

(f) Continue efforts to establish partnerships that would assist Parties in, inter alia, using data-driven tools for informed decision-making using the performance review and assessment of implementation system database as the foundation for this long-term objective;

6. *Invites* Conservation International to continue enhancing Trends.Earth, not only for its usefulness in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 reporting, but also as a fully integrated framework that may enable users to evaluate and prioritize the implementation of activities to (i) avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and achieve land degradation neutrality targets; (ii) forecast the costs and benefits of these actions; and (iii) evaluate potential trade-offs of alternative land management approaches;

Methodological updates for strategic objectives 1 to 5:

7. *Endorses* version 2 of the Good Practice Guidance for Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 15.3.1 and the Good Practice Guidance for National Reporting on Strategic Objective 3, published in 2021 and summarized in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(20)/8, as methodological documents of reference for national reporting;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, following the practical ‘learning-by-doing’ approach of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to periodically review and update, within available resources, the Good Practice Guidance documents informing United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting;

9. *Endorses* the updated monitoring framework for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting and *provisionally adopts* the following new indicators:

(a) Trends in the proportion of the population exposed to land degradation disaggregated by sex;

(b) As optional for reporting: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type;

10. *Also provisionally adopts* the following new optional indicators relating to strategic objective 5:

(a) International and domestic private resources;

(b) Technology transfer; and

(c) Future support for activities related to the implementation of the Convention;

11. *Encourages Parties to:*

(a) Follow the guidance contained in the Good Practice Guidance for Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 15.3.1 and the Good Practice Guidance for National Reporting on Strategic Objective 3 for the preparation of their national reports;

(b) Report during the 2022 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process on the newly proposed indicators for strategic objectives 2, and optionally on strategic objectives 4 and 5;

(c) Recalculate, as needed, previously submitted baseline estimates of the indicators in order to capitalize on scientific and technical advances in the quality of underlying datasets and indicator derivation methodologies, and ensure comparability between baselines and future reporting data;

(d) Make use of the updated implementation framework and provide, among other good practices, information on the gender dimension of projects or activities implemented at national level;

(e) Provide United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-relevant information and good practices to the designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database, where appropriate;

12. *Invites* the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to encourage the Earth observations community to develop multi-decadal high-resolution (10–30m) interoperable data products for the land surface dating back to the year 2000 as a contribution to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 reporting;

13. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on the progress made in implementing this decision.

5th plenary meeting

19 May 2022

Decision 12/COP.15

Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its nineteenth session

A. Update on the implementation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the cross-sectoral role of land and Sustainable Development Goal 15,

Welcoming with appreciation the support provided by the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and relevant partners to effectively assist countries in their voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting processes and related implementation efforts, as well as knowledge-sharing, including through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and capacity-building efforts;

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial resources mobilized to date in order to support Parties' work on voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and related implementation efforts, including numerous bilateral and multilateral initiatives and relevant financing windows, as well as the support provided by the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and technical partners to facilitate access to these financial resources,

Stressing the importance of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts as a key contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to achieving increased coherence and greater synergies with other relevant ongoing processes,

Highlighting the importance of mainstreaming large-scale land restoration and science-based monitoring as implementation efforts in terms of realizing voluntary land degradation neutrality targets as well as increasing capacity-building support at both national and regional level, particularly relating to the development of national land degradation neutrality monitoring and decision-support systems that use the best available data, including access to high-resolution data on land degradation neutrality indicators,

Noting the need to strengthen the capacity of the Global Mechanism and to increase the resources available in order to meet the steady demand for voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting or refinement and support the development of a pipeline of transformative projects and programmes to help country Parties access relevant financing sources and provide related capacity-building and knowledge-sharing support,

1. *Requests* the Global Mechanism and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with relevant financial and technical partners in a position to do so, to:

(a) Continue supporting voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting processes and encourage country Parties to review and refine their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and promote their adoption at a high political level;

(b) Further develop training and capacity-building support at both national and regional level, particularly related to (i) land degradation neutrality assessment, data collection, monitoring and national reporting; and (ii) the development of national land degradation neutrality monitoring and decision-support systems that use the best available data, building on relevant existing platforms and initiatives such as Trends.Earth, the performance review and assessment of implementation system and the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative;

(c) Assist country Parties in developing the necessary tools to translate the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets into concrete actions, increasing efficiency in the deployment of existing financial resources, building greater synergy with relevant

processes, identifying innovative resources for implementation, and promoting the development of large-scale national, multi-country and subregional transformative projects and programmes thus ensuring a geographical balance;

(d) Provide further support to country Parties to improve and accelerate the preparation and development of gender-responsive, viable transformative projects and programmes that jointly address desertification/land degradation and drought and increase knowledge-sharing among countries and partners;

2. *Invites* developed country Parties, and all other Parties and partners in position to do so, to increase financial and technical resources specifically dedicated to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in order to bridge the current financing gap and scale up Convention implementation activities related to desertification/land degradation and drought;

B. Update on the operationalization of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund

Acknowledging the information contained in document ICCD/CRIC(19)/3,

Welcoming the update on activities related to the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and *noting with appreciation* the progress made by the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and its Technical Assistance Facility in mobilizing blended public and private resources that promote sustainable land use and land restoration,

Acknowledging the pivotal role that the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund could play in achieving the strategic objectives of the Convention and serving as a successful, replicable model of collaboration between the public and private sector,

Stressing the importance of the environmental and social standards developed and applied by the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and highlighting the need to further facilitate this process to minimize risk and increase the positive impact of private sector investment on sustainable land management,

Highlighting the importance of monitoring the expected impacts of Land Degradation Neutrality Fund investments for other relevant environmental and social indicators, relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, food security, poverty eradication and gender,

1. *Encourages* the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund to facilitate a larger and more regionally and subregionally balanced project portfolio and an accelerated geographical expansion of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund to include more projects in dryland areas located in developing countries;

2. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to continue to engage with national focal points and facilitate information-sharing and awareness-raising on the operational modalities, requirements and achievements of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

3. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism to facilitate capacity-building for the public and private sector and other interested stakeholders on accessing the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

4. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to support country Parties through virtual workshops and, subject to the availability of financial resources, in-person capacity building and training events, to access various innovative and private sources of financing, including, but not limited to, the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

5. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to collaborate with the Technical Assistance Facility of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund to provide technical pre-investment support to country project developers, in collaboration with partners, to ensure that projects are increasingly feeding into the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund project pipeline;

6. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism to report, during Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention sessions held in conjunction with sessions of the

Conference of the Parties, on the activities of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and the application of social and environmental standards and indicators, as applicable;

C. Update on the implementation of the Drought Initiative and related implementation efforts

1. Drought Initiative

Noting with appreciation the work of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in terms of the support provided to country Parties with regard to the implementation of the Drought Initiative and in particular the support provided for developing national drought plans,

Welcoming the information contained in document ICCD/CRIC(19)/5,

Also welcoming the upgrade and expansion of the Drought Toolbox and the e-learning courses provided via e-learning platforms,

Taking note of the need for Parties to enhance data availability to support and guide decision makers to improve their policies in order to better address desertification/land degradation and drought,

Also taking note of the importance of sharing best practices on mitigating the impacts of drought through the exchange of experiences, case studies, evidence and lessons learned among regions and Parties,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification institutions and bodies, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Continue to review existing global and regional challenges associated with drought and to consider geographical balances in terms of the planning and implementation of regional and national drought projects, especially in the context of the ongoing Global Environment Facility-supported project titled Enabling Activities for Implementing Drought Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(b) Support country Parties in translating national drought plans or other policy instruments related to drought into concrete projects on the ground;

(c) Consider (i) the transboundary nature of drought; and (ii) improving communication and enhancing the engagement with regional and sub-regional institutions to address issues relating to drought and sand and dust storms;

(d) Support Parties by developing further regional and subregional projects to address the issues of drought and sand and dust storms, given the frequent interconnectedness of these two phenomena;

(e) Facilitate (i) the development of research programmes on drought, and sand and dust storms with the active participation of local and vulnerable communities; and (ii) the sharing of knowledge and information on data (high-resolution satellite data and indicators) in the context of the ongoing development of national drought plans;

(f) Continue to provide training and further strengthen capacity-building activities;

(g) Encourage the strengthening of the existing work, as well as the stepping up of international partnerships to this end; reinforce the work done under the Drought Initiative and policy instruments; and strengthen synergies among the three Rio conventions;

(h) Adopt an integrated approach, linking drought management with humanitarian and development efforts, notably with regard to early warning systems, preparedness, response, resilience-building and sustainable recovery;

(i) Ensure that drought issues are integrated into the land degradation neutrality implementation process;

2. *Urges* Parties to:

(a) Integrate national drought plans, or other policy instruments related to drought into overall national frameworks in order to improve drought indicators and help build the preparedness, response and resilience of land users and communities as they work towards a post-COVID-19 recovery;

(b) Consider gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of youth and children in the further implementation of the priority action areas identified in their national drought plans or other policy instruments related to drought;

2. Gender

Noting that desertification/land degradation and drought has disproportionate impacts on women and that the COVID-19 pandemic is further exacerbating inequalities, especially among women and other vulnerable groups,

Recognizing the importance of gender equality in combatting desertification/land degradation and drought and *emphasizing* that women and girls need to be included and participate in the development and implementation of policies, projects and programmes to address desertification/land degradation and drought,

Acknowledging that awareness-raising and capacity-building on gender and the full integration of gender into the Convention is a cross-cutting issue that involves, inter alia, gender-responsive decision-making, the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, and the promotion of gender-responsive sustainable land management best practices,

Welcoming the efforts of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to enhance the gender-responsiveness of the Convention and its implementation, including the first Gender Caucus at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the success of the Gender Caucus in promoting gender issues in decisions as well as mainstreaming gender concerns into concept notes of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue their efforts to:

(a) Effectively integrate gender equality into the structure and function of the Convention and its bodies;

(b) Assist Parties by providing guidance through virtual workshops and, subject to the availability of financial resources, in-person capacity-building on mainstreaming gender equality to address all aspects of desertification/land degradation and drought and enhance progress towards achieving voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets;

3. Land tenure

Acknowledging that national circumstances related to land tenure vary and are reflected in different cultural legislative and policy frameworks, and that such differences should be considered in all activities related to the implementation of decision 26/COP.14,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the technical guide to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality,

1. *Urges* Parties to implement the recommendations contained in decision 26/COP.14 for improved land governance towards achieving land degradation neutrality and the objectives of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including fostering legal and political environments that promote women’s and vulnerable populations’ equitable access to and control over land and resources, including secure and non-discriminatory land tenure,

2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to assist Parties at their request with the effective implementation of the technical guide and the voluntary guidelines mentioned above with the aim of mainstreaming and incentivising land tenure in decisions

made on investments as well as in the design and implementation of projects and programmes to (i) address desertification/land degradation and drought; and (ii) help achieve voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets, including by:

(a) Enhancing existing partnerships and exploring new ones, especially those working with vulnerable groups, to address the diversity of land tenure challenges, including policy and legal reviews;

(b) Exploring mechanisms for financial and technical assistance for planning and administrative infrastructure that enhance tenure security, especially for the vulnerable and marginalized;

(c) Increasing awareness-raising and training efforts, including through effective multi-stakeholder platforms;

(d) Aligning the national land degradation neutrality plans, projects and programmes with the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security and social and environmental best practices as applicable;

(e) Facilitating international and regional knowledge exchanges, including technology transfer, data- and information-sharing on case studies and best practices;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-first session on the progress made in implementing this decision.

*5th plenary meeting
19 May 2022*

Decision 13/COP.15

Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 2/COP.13, 3/COP.13, 3/COP.14 and 13/COP.14 and their elements related to the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting process, as well as decisions 3/COP.14 and 16/COP.14 and their elements related to land-use planning,

Also recalling decisions 14/COP.13, 13/COP.14 and 2/COP.14 and their elements related to exploring and mobilizing innovative financing and support of the preparation of transformative projects and programmes,

Recognizing that Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 has created strong momentum for the implementation of the Convention and that the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets supports countries in achieving synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, contributing to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), and mobilizing funding in this regard,

Noting the elements contained in documents ICCD/CRIC(19)/6 and ICCD/CRIC(20)/5 and their recommendations,

1. *Invites* Parties who wish to do so to refine their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets by ensuring that land degradation neutrality targets are specific, time-bound, policy-coherent, quantitative, spatially explicit, gender-responsive and adequately integrated into planning frameworks;
2. *Also invites* the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative and its partners to support Parties in this effort by facilitating the use of Earth observation data and tools;
3. *Further invites* Parties participating in the Drought Initiative to translate the recommendations in their national drought plans and other policy instruments related to drought into concrete action on the ground;
4. *Welcomes* efforts by Parties to strengthen intersectoral collaboration at (sub)national, national and regional levels to ensure that the impacts/effects of desertification/land degradation and drought are prioritized in national development plans and other relevant sectoral plans (such as finance and planning, biodiversity, climate change, agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure development and disaster risk reduction, among other things) and to strengthen internal coordination with national focal points responsible for endorsing projects (such as finance and planning officials, Global Environment Facility operational focal points, Green Climate Fund national designated authorities as well as focal points for bilateral funding);
5. *Invites* developed countries and other Parties in a position to do so to provide substantial financial and non-financial resources to affected country Parties in order to strengthen the Convention implementation activities related to desertification/land degradation and drought, including capacity-building and the facilitation of technology transfer;
6. *Requests* the Global Mechanism and the secretariat, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with relevant financial and technical partners in position to do so, to:
 - (a) Develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention, building on national reporting and on a voluntary targeting-setting exercise;

(b) Develop a time-bound strategy to increase fund mobilization based on this needs assessment to support the Parties in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

(c) Support the process of setting and/or refining voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, streamlining it with other Convention and associated processes, and integrating these targets into (sub)national integrated land-use planning frameworks in those country Parties that may wish to engage in this process;

(d) Support country Parties in creating an enabling environment at the national level to facilitate the Convention reporting process, the implementation of national drought plans or other policies related to drought, and the mainstreaming of land degradation neutrality in integrated land-use planning frameworks and national development plans;

(e) Develop the capacity of country Parties to improve intersectoral coordination with relevant sectors, policies and plans, such as those relating to finance and planning, biodiversity, climate change, agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure development and disaster risk management, among other things;

(f) Strengthen partnerships to accelerate the development of a geographically balanced project preparation pipeline, through a partnership model, to facilitate gender-responsive, large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes and flagship initiatives that support work on sustainable land management and drought resilience;

(g) Continue to support countries in promoting a paradigm shift in the way drought is managed and forge specific partnerships to mobilize technical and financial support for transformative projects and programmes on drought;

7. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, within its mandate and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with relevant financial and technical partners in a position to do so, to accelerate efforts to support private sector engagement and promote innovation through:

(a) Developing guidelines, standards and norms to support the private sector in integrating sustainable land use in their investment decisions;

(b) Identifying and promoting impact investment opportunities in sustainable land management with the private sector, including collaboration with the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

(c) Assessing the need with a view to developing and testing dedicated models for technology transfer through partnerships, including in the area of productive capacity for sustainable land management;

(d) Evaluating and, as appropriate, testing innovative drought financing models and instruments;

(e) Exploring pilot projects to evaluate the viability of innovative financing mechanisms;

8. *Further requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report to future sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention.

5th plenary meeting

19 May 2022

Decision 14/COP.15

Programme of work for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 22 and 23 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of engaging development partners, such as United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and other groups, as appropriate, in the interactive sessions of the intersessional session,

Recognizing that regional meetings play an important role in reviewing progress and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for the Parties to review and discuss:

(a) Inputs from regional meetings in preparation for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

(b) Implementation of the Convention using the progress indicators contained in the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and new indicators tested in the 2022 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process;

(c) Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts;

(d) Financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;

(e) Procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(f) Exchange of information through interactive dialogues on actions on the ground related to the implementation of sustainable land management practices, restoration and rehabilitation practices that assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services, the promotion of alternative livelihoods, and the establishment of systems for sharing information and knowledge on best practices and approaches to drought management;

(g) Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: sand and dust storms, land tenure, gender, and drought, and other policy frameworks identified by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations languages, at least six weeks prior to the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the items contained in paragraph 1 above, as well as any additional items necessitated by decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.

5th plenary meeting

19 May 2022

Decision 15/COP.15

Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and 2 (c) of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. Accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Uzbekistan to host the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and to meet the additional costs;
2. Decides that the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention shall be held in Uzbekistan in 2023;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Uzbekistan to prepare for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with the Government of Uzbekistan.

5th plenary meeting

19 May 2022

Decision 16/COP.15

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 neutrality⁸ 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, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality,

1. *Encourages* Parties to provide a more central role for integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management beginning with an assessment of land capability and suitability in national, subnational and local 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 integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management as an enabler of synergies, complementarities and policy coherence among the three Rio conventions, in tandem with the implementation of land

⁸ Decision 18/COP.13.

degradation neutrality targets, considering the potential of land degradation neutrality for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

3. *Further encourages* Parties to integrate land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation into national and subnational integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management processes;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of respecting land tenure in the development and implementation of land use planning approaches and tools;

5. *Encourages* 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, as appropriate, 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 policies and 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;

6. *Also 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;

7. *Calls upon* Parties to promote 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 relevance 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;

8. *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 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.

3rd plenary meeting
13 May 2022

Decision 17/COP.15

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, where appropriate, 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) Conduct assessment of implementation effectiveness and efficiency, for instance via cost-benefit analysis;

(c) 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;

(d) 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;

(e) Give priority to the mitigation of complex and cascading effects of drought that occur where preventive or remedial sustainable land management and water resources management actions could be taken;

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

(g) 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 drought and climate change;

(b) The potential and projected effects of drought on the ecosystem functions and services which enable ecosystems and populations to build resilience against drought;

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

4. *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:

(a) Enhancing their capacity to collect, analyse and interpret data on resilience indicators;

(b) Systematically integrating the findings from drought resilience assessments into drought early warning systems and into drought resilience planning;

(c) Working in collaboration with relevant partners responsible for established resilience frameworks towards the harmonization of drought resilience terminology and definitions;

(d) Facilitating 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;

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

*3rd plenary meeting
13 May 2022*

Decision 18/COP.15

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024

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 triennium 2022–2024 as contained in the annex to this decision, and decides on priorities;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (b) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (c) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the triennium 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024

Table 1

Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
<p>1. Provision of science-based evidence on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions.</p>	<p>A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which provides (a) a typology of sustainable land use systems, including their capacity to enhance ecosystem goods and services, to be less vulnerable to system volatility and shocks while addressing social inequities; (b) an analysis of the potential of sustainable land use systems to reconcile different United Nations goals and targets that compete for land resources; and (c) an assessment of the contextual applicability of these land use options across the globe, including barriers and opportunities as well as the possibility for broader diffusion.</p> <p>Provision of scientific assistance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of integrated land use planning, sustainable land management and land restoration.</p>
<p>2. Provision of science-based evidence on the historical regional and global aridity trends and future projections that may contribute to expanding drylands and affected populations and the adaptation approaches that reduce risks to environmental, social and economic systems.</p>	<p>A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which provides (a) science-based evidence on the existing approaches for the quantification and assessment of hydro-climate aridity; (b) the determination of its regional and global changes and future projections; (c) the resulting historical changes and future projections in impact risk, including from extreme heat events, drought and dust storms as well as higher risk of desertification, water scarcity, soil erosion, vegetation loss, wildfire damage and food supply disruptions; and (d) an evaluation of adaptation approaches that can reduce associated risk.</p> <p>Provision of scientific assistance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of initiatives focused on building resilience to the effects of drought.</p>

Table 2

Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. As the most important objective, assume a primary role in the quality assurance of a possible third edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO3) and review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other evidence-based communications.	<p>The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will be a member of the Global Land Outlook (GLO) steering committee, contribute to and undertake a scientific review of a possible GLO3 and all related documents, approve the final versions prior to publication, and be invited to review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) evidence-based communications.</p>
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) within the framework of its rolling work programme up to 2030 and in accordance with the procedures established in the memorandum of cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat	<p>The SPI will follow up on two thematic assessments and one technical paper prioritized in the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health (nexus assessment); (b) A thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (transformative change assessment); and (c) A technical paper on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. <p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports. The SPI will also conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 16) if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p>
3. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its Sixth Assessment Report.	<p>The SPI will conduct, for presentation at CST 16, an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and (b) The Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on mitigation of climate change.
4. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) within the framework of its work programme.	<p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of the proposed second edition of the Status of the World’s Soil Resources report.</p> <p>The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS, including any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of past global symposia on soil organic carbon, soil erosion, soil biodiversity and soil salinity.</p> <p>The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposia relevant to the UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition, the Global Symposium on Soil and Water and the Global Symposium on Soil Sealing and Urban Soils.</p>

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
<p>5. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP) within the framework of its work programme.</p>	<p>The SPI will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the UNEP-IRP. The UNEP-IRP 2022–2025 work programme focused on current trends and future prospects for global resource use and sustainable resource management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The rapid study and assessment: Defining Sustainable Levels of Resource Use (Science-Based Targets); and (b) The Global Resources Outlook 2023 report. <p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports. The SPI will also conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at CST 16 if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p>
<p>6. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which aims to achieve globally comparable monitoring of land governance by 2030.</p>	<p>The SPI will provide inputs to GLII and UNCCD efforts to ensure harmonization of land governance indicators and land degradation indicators, as relevant to both GLII and the UNCCD.</p>
<p>7. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, on scientific issues related to drought.</p>	<p>The SPI will collaborate with the IDMP on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the IDMP, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The harmonization of drought resilience terminology and definitions; (b) The enhancement of methodological approaches to monitoring and assessing drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems; and (c) The systematic integration of the findings from drought resilience assessments into drought early warning systems.

Decision 19/COP.15

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;

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 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 promote published and new Science-Policy Interface technical reports and science-policy briefs through its website and to promote new reports on

social media, in order to result in the widest possible dissemination to relevant managers and policymakers;

6. *Also requests* Science-Policy Interface members to work with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Communications unit to create and post a three to five minute video summary of each report in addition to, as appropriate, inter alia, podcasts and pre-recorded interviews;

7. *Further requests* the secretariat to increase awareness of Science-Policy Interface products within other entities working on related issues;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to mobilize resources for the effective functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;

9. *Decides* that (a) 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; (b) the technical report prepared by the Science-Policy Interface (i) should be submitted to Parties for comments to be considered by the Science-Policy Interface prior to publication; but (ii) should not be negotiated;

10. *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;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to (a) 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; and (b) conduct an assessment of the use and effectiveness of the tools and, based on the results, where possible explore opportunities to improve their efficacy;

12. *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 sustainable land management approaches and technologies are taken into consideration;

13. *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;

14. *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;

15. *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, drought, sand and dust storms, and sustainable land management through knowledge tools;

16. *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;

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

18. *Also 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;

19. *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.

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022

Decision 20/COP.15

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” and Working Group II contribution “Climate Change 2022: Impact Adaptation and Vulnerability” 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 to carefully read and, as appropriate, disseminate the final report of the Science Policy Interface on policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies.
2. *Also encourages* Parties to consider the adoption of sustainable land management approaches and technologies, including those that have been demonstrated to simultaneously address land degradation, promote climate change mitigation/adaptation, and contribute to conservation and sustainable use of 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;

3. *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 integrated land management response options for ecosystems in drylands, taking into account national contexts and the interaction among land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change;

4. *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;

5. *Further requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science-Policy Interface, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to develop guidelines for Parties on the design of policy options that make ecological restoration attractive in terms of 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 and human induced activities and processes;

6. *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 methodologies to identify and map, at the global, national and local scales, areas which are likely to be more and less vulnerable to land degradation under various climate change scenarios, 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;

7. *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;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science-Policy Interface and *invites* the designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Database, as well as 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, sand and dust storms, support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat to collaborate with appropriate secretariats and other initiatives, as well as relevant scientific and technical partners, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, 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.

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022

Decision 21/COP.15

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 triennium 2022–2024, as contained in the annex to decision 18/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* that the secretariat arrange future sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to be organized to maximize participation of the science and technology correspondents in the regional meetings and the work of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention within the timeframe in which the science and technology correspondents are present;
4. *Also 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.

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022

Decision 22/COP.15

The positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification recognizes that desertification/land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems and forced migration and displacement, among other things,

Noting that the co-signers of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration recognize that desertification/land degradation and drought is one of the drivers/structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin and that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was mentioned among the international instruments upon which the Compact rests,

Recalling decision 19/COP.13 and decision 22/COP.14,

Acknowledging that all forms of migration and displacement forced by desertification/land degradation and drought are factors to be considered when strengthening urban–rural linkages, as appropriate;

Recognizing that the degradation of all ecosystems, such as peatlands, grasslands and savannas, which are fundamental for food and freshwater security, especially for Indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and women and any other vulnerable people whose livelihoods depend on these ecosystems, may contribute to forced migration and displacement;

Welcoming the Trust Fund for the International Fund for Agricultural Development Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme to implement the Sustainability, Stability and Security Initiative established within the Rural Resilience Programme at the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

Also welcoming the continued collaboration with the International Organization for Migration,

Further welcoming the support by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for initiatives aimed at addressing desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration,

Welcoming the studies on Central Asia and the Western Balkans prepared by the secretariat upon the request of the concerned Parties and the partnership between the secretariat and UN-Habitat established to produce a technical guide on urban–rural linkages and land,

1. *Invites* Parties, to:

(a) Promote sustainable territorial development, including multi-level governance and planning mechanisms, as appropriate, to strengthen urban–rural linkages, address desertification/land degradation and drought, including sand and dust storms, and create social and economic opportunities that reduce forced migration and displacement and increase rural resilience and livelihood stability;

(b) Review development policies, including on integrated land-use planning, land tenure, agricultural practices, water management, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and land restoration, respecting social and environmental safeguards;

(c) Implement land and ecosystem restoration as an essential part of land-use planning at national and subnational level by enhancing understanding of how changing

rural–urban interactions affect the livelihoods of low-income and vulnerable people in both urban and rural contexts;

(d) Support the implementation of the Sustainability, Stability and Security Initiative in Africa, and similar initiatives in other regions, which contribute to employment creation for people in vulnerable situations in rural areas by restoring degraded land and supporting the empowerment of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, people with disabilities and youth by facilitating access to secure land tenure;

2. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Continue supporting resource mobilization for the Sustainability, Stability and Security Initiative along with developing other projects and initiatives that prioritize decent work, including green jobs, and livelihoods for people in vulnerable situations, including those living in rural areas, Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and people with disabilities;

(b) Assess and make recommendations about the feasibility of facilitating resource mobilization to leverage diaspora or new private sources of investments for desertification/land degradation and drought projects and programmes;

(c) Continue supporting the development of new initiatives, subject to the availability of resources, for the sustainable management and restoration of all degraded lands, such as peatlands, grasslands and savannas, to safeguard these threatened ecosystems and to ensure food and freshwater security for people in vulnerable situations;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Assist Parties, upon request, to strengthen urban–rural linkages through territorial governance systems by utilizing principles and guidance from existing frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and urban–rural linkages guiding principles, as a way to scale up land restoration activities to achieve voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and enhance the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Continue to support regional and international cooperation and initiatives that aim to promote sustainable land and water management as a means to help mitigate the drivers that cause migration and displacement;

(c) Continue to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information to foster a better understanding of urban-rural linkages, with a special focus on achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing the multiple drivers of forced migration and displacement;

(d) Share and support the scaling up of good practices identified at the local and subnational levels, which pursue sustainable land management and land restoration in the urban-rural interface, such as peri-urban green belts, urban agriculture, urban forestry, and soil desalting, with a view to encouraging the adoption of similar practices, if necessary, and promote training and capacity-building;

(e) Present for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties a report on progress made in implementing this decision.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 23/COP.15

Policy advocacy on drought

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the objective of the Convention in article 2, which is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling that the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification recognizes that drought, land degradation and desertification are challenges of a global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

Noting the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Special Report on Drought 2021 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land 2019, both of which assessed information on the change in the frequency and intensity of drought in some regions and the role of land-based interventions to mitigate and adapt to drought,

Recognizing that droughts are becoming more common, intense, severe and extended, with dire impacts on livelihoods, ecosystems and economies,

Recalling decision 7/COP. 13, decision 29/COP. 13 and decision 23/COP.14,

Deeply concerned about the combined, devastating impacts of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the most vulnerable communities,

Noting with appreciation the active involvement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and numerous other partners in the measures to address drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Commending the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and their partners on the results achieved in implementing the Drought Initiative,

Welcoming with appreciation the report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as contained in document ICCD/COP/15/20,

1. *Invites* Parties to increase their commitment to pursue effective policies and partnerships on drought, with relevant sectors and stakeholders, particularly Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, to enhance the implementation of a wider holistic and integrated approach for improved resilience of communities and ecosystems;
2. *Also invites* Parties, with the assistance of regional institutions, as relevant, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to support and increase the utilization of information from monitoring, early warning and action systems for decision-making at national, subnational and local levels to enhance the drought resilience of ecosystems, societies and economies;
3. *Further invites* the secretariat to support, upon request, the affected country Parties to enhance their capacity to assess the effectiveness of strategic actions addressing drought, subject to the availability of resources;
4. *Encourages* Parties, regional organizations and other stakeholders working on drought to share their knowledge of and experiences with relevant, innovative and transformative tools for inclusion in the Drought Toolbox, and *requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with partner organizations, to further update and enhance the functionality of the Drought Toolbox, as well as continue related capacity-building;

5. *Invites* all Parties, multilateral and bilateral partners, and international financing mechanisms to scale up and facilitate effective financing for the implementation of drought risk reduction and resilience-building measures at all levels;
6. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in collaboration with partners and regional institutions, to continue to assist Parties in preparing and implementing gender-responsive national drought plans or other policy instruments related to drought and promoting regional collaboration on drought policies and strategies as a cost-effective means to support national action;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with relevant partners and processes, to identify activities to foster high-level global awareness of, and commitment to, enhancing drought resilience, which could include the participation in or co-organization of a ten-year follow-up to the 2013 High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to encourage, support and facilitate communities of learning and practice to pursue co-learning and collaboration for drought risk reduction and resilience capacity-building issues;
9. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to connect, strengthen, enhance as well as forge new strategic partnerships at all levels, across sectors and with different public, private and civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
10. *Invites* the secretariat to continue consulting with its partners on the potential aims, specific areas and added value of enhancing current coordination and collaboration platforms, with a focus on clarifying the mandate of each partner in order to enhance global-level drought monitoring and assessment, and for increased reach and effectiveness in building capacities for drought risk reduction and resilience-building;
11. *Also invites* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue exploring the requirements and potential modalities for strengthening and, as appropriate, the creation of new networks of institutions and experts for capacity-building and knowledge exchange on drought;
12. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, and building on the report requested in paragraph 5 of decision 23/COP.14, to provide additional technical knowledge and support for the development of national capacities and to examine and identify at global level the financing needs and opportunities for drought risk reduction and resilience-building activities in relation to those already existing, including partnerships with the private sector;
13. Building upon the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought conducted over the biennium 2020–2021, *decides* to establish a new Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought during the triennium 2022–2024, subject to the availability of resources, tasked with identifying and evaluating all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management;
14. *Also decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought will have the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Review and analyse all the reports which came out of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, as well as other relevant documents and Conference of the Parties decisions related to drought;
 - (b) Identify and evaluate all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management;
 - (c) Prepare justifications and outline possible elements, processes, institutional arrangements and mechanisms for establishment for each policy option;

15. *Further decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought for the triennium 2022–2024 will be composed as follows:
- (a) Three representatives from the Regional Implementation Annex I;
 - (b) Three representatives from the Regional Implementation Annex II;
 - (c) Three representatives from the Regional Implementation Annex III;
 - (d) Three representatives from the Regional Implementation Annex IV;
 - (e) Three representatives from the Regional Implementation Annex V;
 - (f) Three representatives from the European Union and its Member States;
 - (g) Three representatives from JUSCANZ;
 - (h) Two representatives from civil society organizations (as observers);
 - (i) Two representatives from international organizations that work on drought;
 - (j) Two independent experts;
16. *Requests* the secretariat to launch a call for membership to enable the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought to commence its work no later than three months after the adoption of this decision and *urges* the regions to make nominations in a timely fashion to allow this schedule to be followed;
17. *Also requests* the secretariat to support and facilitate the effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, subject to the availability of resources;
18. *Decides* that the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, will nominate the representatives mentioned in subparagraphs 14 (h)–(j) above;
19. *Also decides* that the composition of the group will encourage gender balance and membership with specific policy knowledge and adequate experience;
20. *Encourages* the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought to conduct its proceedings both through in-person meetings and virtual engagement, as necessary;
21. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought to prepare a progress report for consultation with Parties at the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
22. *Also requests* that the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought prepare a final report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session, including its findings.
23. *Further requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at future sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 24/COP.15

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.12, 9/COP.10, 9/COP.11, 30/COP.13 and 24/COP.14,

Reaffirming that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly persons with disabilities and people that are poor or live in vulnerable situations, will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and to the achievement of the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality,

Recognizing that women play an essential role in collectively managing land more sustainably, reducing biodiversity loss and mitigating and adapting to the effects of drought,

Reaffirming that securing women's tenure rights and women's access to and rights to land and other natural resources will be critical for the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals (in particular Sustainable Development Goals 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); 1 (No poverty); 5 (Gender equality); and 2 (Zero hunger)) and for the effective implementation of the Convention considering the Technical Guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Neutrality,

Reiterating our strong commitment to the effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan,

Also reiterating the importance for Parties to create an enabling environment, especially at the national level, to make the implementation of the Convention gender-responsive and transformative,

Welcoming with appreciation the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, particularly in support of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, while also recognizing the need to strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations,

Also welcoming with appreciation the convening of the Gender Caucus, under the presidency of the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, and having considered the summary of its recommendations prepared by the secretariat,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)17 and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Approves* the proposed road map to guide and accelerate the implementation of the Gender Action Plan through gender-responsive and transformative approaches;
2. *Encourages* Parties, in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, to pay special attention to intersectionality (including but not limited to age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, nationality) when planning, designing and implementing policy and programming related to desertification/land degradation and drought;
3. *Also encourages* Parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, reports on the implementation of key national-level activities contained in the road map and *requests* the secretariat to compile such information on a regular basis;
4. *Welcomes* the Terms of Reference of the Gender Caucus presented during its proceedings;
5. *Strongly encourages* Parties to increase the representation of women in their delegations attending the Conference of Parties and *invites* Parties to facilitate the meaningful participation of women, women's organizations and people in vulnerable situations in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification processes at all levels of decision-making;

6. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with constituted bodies under the Convention, to monitor the level of gender parity across the Convention and report its findings to sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat to consult with women's organizations and organizations that provide funding for women's participation in global treaty processes with a view to extending these funds to also cover official United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification meetings;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat to facilitate, on an annual basis, the convening of the Gender Caucus in conjunction with sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and/or the Conference of the Parties, as well as on an ad hoc basis, with a view to guiding and supporting Parties to enhance the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its road map;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating and coordinating with relevant international organizations, including the other Rio conventions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and other United Nations entities, to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its road map, especially in the areas of policy, advocacy and research;
10. *Invites* the secretariat and technical and financial partners to support Parties, upon request, in designing and implementing the Gender Action Plan at the national level to facilitate its appropriation by stakeholders, subject to the availability of financial resources;
11. *Encourages* the secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to continue collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies to enhance the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its road map, including to generate gender-disaggregated data, to inform gender-responsive policy design for achieving land degradation neutrality;
12. *Requests* the secretariat to synthesize and analyse information on gender matters included in national reports submitted by Parties as part of the reporting process for consideration at the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
13. *Also requests* the secretariat to report on the progress made in implementing this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

*6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022*

Decision 25/COP.15

Abidjan Declaration on Gender and Report from the Gender Caucus

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note of the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration,*
2. *Also takes note of the report from the Gender Caucus and its recommendations for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,*
3. *Decides to include the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration as an annex to the final report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session Part I: proceedings,*
4. *Also decides to include the report from the Gender Caucus as an annex to the final report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session Part I: proceedings.*

*6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022*

Decision 26/COP.15

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 25/COP.14, 22/COP.14 and 31/COP.13,

Also recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 and 4/10, and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 70/195, 71/219, 72/225, 73/237, 74/226, 75/222 and 76/211,

Reiterating that the global frequency, intensity and duration of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes that can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought, biodiversity loss and climate change,

Urging a proactive approach to enhance cooperation and coordination at global, regional and subregional levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms while promoting and supporting initiatives to streamline comprehensive sand and dust storms preparedness that reduces the risks and boosts the resilience of affected and vulnerable communities and ecosystems,

Acknowledging with appreciation the progress made so far under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to address sand and dust storms in terms of resilience, preparedness, early warning and capacity-building,

1. *Welcomes* the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks and the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, and *invites* Parties to make use of the Compendium and the Toolbox to strengthen their preparedness for sand and dust storms;
2. *Requests* Parties affected by sand and dust storms to enhance the integration and coherence of sand and dust storms impact mitigation measures, including those addressing anthropogenic sources, in related policy areas at national and subnational levels with a view to advancing integrated land-use planning and landscape management;
3. *Also requests* Parties to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional initiatives that contribute to addressing sand and dust storms linked to desertification/land degradation and drought, taking note of the regional and subregional nature of their impacts, while paying particular attention to involving Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other people in vulnerable situations;
4. *Invites* the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to financial resources, and financial partners to provide, upon request, support to Parties to design and implement national plans and policies in order to cope with sand and dust storms linked to desertification/land degradation and drought;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within the scope and mandate of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with partners, to:
 - (a) Develop a voluntary policy guideline, in consultation with countries affected by sand and dust storms, to assist in the integration of sand and dust storms management into key policy areas;
 - (b) Continue developing the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, including the global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map and other geographic information system platforms, data and tools, as feasible, and supporting the capacity of country Parties to use them, in particular to improve knowledge of effects related to desertification/land degradation and drought;

(c) Compile an inventory of existing sand and dust storms-related tools and technologies beyond the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and make this information available to Parties;

(d) Facilitate, as appropriate, the organization of a science–policy dialogue on sand and dust storms as a contribution to developing further guidance and policies to address sand and dust storms;

(e) Participate actively in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address sand and dust storms source mitigation, including in the work of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms on developing a global implementation initiative on sand and dust storms to address anthropogenic sand and dust storms sources and data/information gaps;

6. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, within its scope and mandate, to support the development of transformative projects and programmes and financing options related to anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms as well as its members and other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates and resources, to continue their collaboration to assist affected Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms including early warning, risk assessment and anthropogenic source mitigation;

8. *Also invites* technical and financial institutions and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide support for countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets related to combating sand and dust storms linked to desertification/land degradation and drought;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Present a report on the implementation efforts relevant to this decision at the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

(b) Present a report on policy issues relevant to this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 27/COP.15

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 16/COP.14 and decision 26/COP.14,

Acknowledging that decision 26/COP.14 on land tenure is a landmark decision for the Convention,

Recognizing United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/206, which recalls the invitation to Parties to the Convention to legally recognize rights to equal use and ownership of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security, taking into account national context,

Commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security,

Taking note of the technical guide on the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality;

Acknowledging that further work needs to be carried out, whether within policy or programming efforts, to integrate land tenure into the implementation of the Convention, such as land degradation neutrality target-setting efforts and land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes,

Recalling that the Gender Action Plan outlines the strengthening of women's land rights and access to resources as a priority for action,

Noting the work of the Science-Policy Interface on the interlinkages between land tenure, land degradation neutrality and integrated land-use planning, particularly its report titled "The Contribution of Integrated Land Use Planning and Integrated Landscape Management to Implementing Land Degradation Neutrality: Entry Points and Support Tools",

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)19 and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to continue integrating land tenure, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security principles and the recommendations outlined in decision 26/COP.14, in the implementation of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality;
2. *Also encourages* Parties to refer to the technical guide on the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality and undertake appropriate measures outlined in the pathways therein to address legitimate land tenure rights in the context of national plans, legal frameworks, strategies and action programmes to enhance the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Invites* Parties to review their plans and activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and to proactively collect data on legitimate land tenure rights in priority areas of voluntary land degradation neutrality plans;
4. *Encourages* Parties to host inclusive and participatory national level dialogues on the implementation of decision 26/COP.14, building on all forms of available knowledge, including data generated by people in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including

Indigenous peoples and local communities, those living in rural areas, women, youth, and persons with disabilities;

5. *Also encourages* Parties to partner with civil society organizations and all relevant actors to strengthen their engagement with vulnerable populations, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, those living in rural areas, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, to support the implementation of decision 26/COP.14;

6. *Invites* Parties, civil society organizations and other United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders, where appropriate, to raise awareness on the importance of responsible land governance for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, building on the awareness-raising options paper titled “Land rights matter for people and the planet”;

7. *Also invites* developed country Parties, other Parties in a position to do so, relevant United Nations entities, international financial organizations, and private sector institutions to consider providing financial and technical support to design and implement land administration systems to improve the responsible governance of tenure in accordance with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security principles;

8. *Further invites* Parties to explore ways to integrate land tenure information into their capacity development efforts and data analytic tools for evidence-based decision-making to support land degradation neutrality implementation through integrated land-use planning, informed as appropriate by the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Committee on World Food Security and other relevant stakeholders;

9. *Invites* the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to financial resources, and financial partners to provide, upon request, support to Parties in order to implement a land tenure strategy and action plan;

10. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to available resources, to continue their efforts to integrate land tenure into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality initiatives, and specifically to:

(a) Further develop specific guidance and exchange lessons learned, through national consultations in selected countries across regions, to assist Parties on the ways and means to integrate land tenure into land degradation neutrality, such as targets, plans, projects and programmes on desertification/land degradation and drought;

(b) Identify financing opportunities to strengthen land governance and build a business case for responsible and sustainable public and private investments in land tenure within the context of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought, in collaboration with relevant partners and financing institutions, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and social and environmental safeguards, and particularly taking into consideration the perspectives of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and communicate these financing opportunities to Parties;

(c) Implement awareness-raising actions on responsible land governance for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, and engage with Parties, civil society organizations, other United Nations organizations and other key partners, where appropriate, to have the widest reach among all stakeholders from global to local level, and particularly among people in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, those living in rural areas, women, youth, and persons with disabilities;

(d) Continue exploring existing global indicators and data sets relevant to land governance and, when appropriate, engage with relevant partners and institutions to pilot options to integrate potential indicators in future United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting processes, with a view to avoiding duplication of reporting efforts and ensuring the widest reach among different national contexts;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to:

- (a) Present a report on the implementation efforts relevant to this decision at the 21st session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Present a report on policy issues relevant to this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 28/COP.15

High-level opening ceremony

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcomes the organization of interactive dialogues and parallel ministerial/high-level round tables on 10 May;

1. *Takes note* of the Chairpersons' summaries with appreciation and gratitude;
2. *Decides* to include the Chairpersons' summaries as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 29/COP.15

Land, Life and Legacy Declaration

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the “Land, Life and Legacy Declaration” with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the “Land, Life and Legacy Declaration” as an annex to this decision.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Annex

Land, Life and Legacy Declaration

We, the Ministers and Representatives gathered for the high-level segment at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held from 9–10 May 2022 in Abidjan, at the invitation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire,

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its hospitality and to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat for the organization of the session,

Acknowledging that land and soil are the foundation of livelihoods, human health and prosperity, and that they are often the most important assets held by countries and communities,

Reconfirming that desertification/land degradation and drought are major environmental, social, and economic challenges to global development and welfare, primarily impacting individuals and communities in situations of vulnerability,

Deeply concerned about the increased frequency and duration of droughts, floods, wildfires, and sand and dust storms that are exacerbated by land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss, and that have dire consequences for human health and environmental sustainability,^{9 10}

Welcoming the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in November 2022, and the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be hosted by the Peoples' Republic of China, and *requesting* all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Noting the high-level dialogue on desertification/land degradation and drought hosted by the President of the 75th session of the General Assembly in New York on 15 June 2021, and *also noting with appreciation* that the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists,

Taking note of the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and *recognizing* that sustainable land management approaches and technologies are also central to tackling the climate crisis,

Noting the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the momentum of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and *also noting* the Group of 20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation by achieving, on a voluntary basis, a 50 per cent reduction of degraded land by 2040,¹¹

Welcoming the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility,

Taking note with appreciation of the Abidjan Call from the Heads of State Summit and the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration, held on 9 May 2022,

1. *Invite* Parties to pursue a systemic approach to land conservation and restoration as well as to the sustainable land management of all types of degraded ecosystems, recognizing that a significant portion of all land is degraded,¹² and thus *encourage* Parties to avoid,

⁹ <<https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>>.

¹⁰ <<https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>>.

¹¹ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/G20_Riyadh_Summit_Leaders_Declaration_EN_0.pdf>.

¹² <<https://www.fao.org/land-water/solaw2021/en/>>.

reduce, and reverse land degradation by accelerating the implementation of existing national commitments to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, taking into account the connectivity of ecosystems;

2. *Also invite* Parties to strive for more effective partnerships, financing, and cooperation at all levels, among the Rio conventions and other relevant mechanisms and processes, including exploring ways to catalyse more synergies at the national level between the individual action plans of the Rio conventions;
3. *Further invite* development partners, international financial institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders to boost investments and technological and technical support, as appropriate, for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;
4. *Welcome* the second edition of the Global Land Outlook which demonstrates that the mismanagement of land resources – soil, water, and biodiversity – represents a threat to humanity and the planet, and that sustainable land management and land restoration are a proven and cost-effective strategy that offers multiple pathways towards an inclusive, sustainable recovery, and resilient economies, societies, and ecosystems;
5. *Urge* Parties to take a proactive, comprehensive, and holistic approach towards sand and dust storms source mitigation and drought impact mitigation, adaptation and resilience, including through responsive policy frameworks that incorporate early warning systems and timely interventions, scientific collaboration, and multi-stakeholder partnerships which should be sustained with adequate levels of finance;
6. *Acknowledge* the new strategy of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility on land degradation, and recognize the importance of providing guidance to facilitate the successful implementation of the three integrated programmes of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, focusing particularly on desertification/land degradation, and drought;
7. *Call upon* all Parties and stakeholders to move towards more sustainable food systems;
8. *Stress* the importance of promoting secure tenure rights and access to land for all, in particular groups in vulnerable situations, as well as the need to further mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls into the development of desertification/land degradation and drought-related policies and activities within the national context;
9. *Reaffirm* the contribution of sustainable land management and land restoration to improving the living conditions of affected communities, and as a means of preventing forced migration and displacement;
10. *Confirm* that young people are an important positive force leading the next generation to create more sustainable urban and rural environments, and *commit* to partnering with young people to create meaningful and dignified employment opportunities, especially in rural areas;
11. *Invite* Parties to promote the involvement of all sectors of society, in particular civil society organizations and Indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as subnational and local governments, in their initiatives to achieve land degradation neutrality, harnessing their knowledge, innovation and practices;
12. *Also invite* Parties to join the multi-partner Abidjan Legacy Programme as a model for increasing sustainability and ambitions, while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change.

Decision 30/COP.15

Declaration of civil society organizations attending the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration made by the representative of the civil society organizations attending the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the discussions held during the two Open Dialogue Sessions with the civil society organizations on 12 May 2022 and 17 May 2022,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Declaration;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 31/COP.15

Report from the Green Business Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* contributions of the Green Business Forum and *takes note* of its report with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the report from the Green Business Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 32/COP.15

Declaration of the Youth Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the Youth Forum, which took place from 8–9 May 2022 as a way to foster the involvement of future generations in the implementation of the Convention;
2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Youth Forum with appreciation;
3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Youth Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Decision 33/COP.15

Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5, 29/COP.6, 30/COP.7, 27/COP.8, 35/COP.9, 38/COP.10, 39/COP.11, 34/COP.12, 35/COP.13 and 32/COP.14 on its programme of work,

Taking into consideration the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its sixteenth session and, if necessary, its seventeenth session:

(a) 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

(i) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(ii) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan;

(iii) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(iv) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(c) Policy frameworks and thematic issues;

(d) Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026;

(e) Procedural matters:

(i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and business engagement strategy;

2. *Also decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including ministers, civil society organizations, the business community, the scientific community and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare an annotated provisional agenda, in agreement with the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session, taking into consideration provisions contained in the relevant decisions taken during that conference;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

5. *Further requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties one document for each governing body (Conference of the Parties, Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, Committee on Science and Technology) with all respective draft decisions

prepared for Parties' consideration and further adoption and to ensure that the draft decisions are clearly written and properly formatted.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 34/COP.15

Dates and venues of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling rule 3 of the rules of procedure,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

I. Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Saudi Arabia to host the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and to meet the additional costs;
2. *Decides* that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Saudi Arabia in 2024;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Saudi Arabia to prepare for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with the Government of Saudi Arabia;

II. Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

4. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Mongolia to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties and to meet the additional costs;
5. *Decides* that the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Mongolia in 2026;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Mongolia to prepare for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with the Government of Mongolia.

6th plenary meeting

20 May 2022

Decision 35/COP.15

Designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/220 of 20 December 2017 on institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention, on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

Decides to approve the continuation, for a further five-year period, of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2026.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Decision 36/COP.15

Credentials of delegations

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/22/Rev.1 on the credentials of delegations and the recommendation contained therein,

Decides to approve the report.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022

Resolution 1/COP.15

Expression of gratitude to the Government and People of Côte d'Ivoire

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Abidjan, from 9 to 20 May 2022, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for having made it possible for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Abidjan and for the excellent facilities placed at its disposal;
2. *Requests* the Government to convey to the people of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire the profound gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

6th plenary meeting
20 May 2022
