



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 one: proceedings****Contents**

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Opening of the session	1–11	3
A. Opening of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties	1	3
B. Election of the President	2–3	3
C. General statements	4–11	3
II. Organizational matters	12–43	3
A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies	12–13	3
B. Election of officers other than the President	14–17	5
C. Credentials of delegations	18–20	5
D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers	21	6
E. Committee on Science and Technology	22–28	6
F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	29–34	6
G. Committee of the Whole	35–38	7
H. Attendance	39–42	7
I. Documentation	43	9
III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session	44–56	9
IV. High-level opening ceremony	57–72	10
A. Heads of States and Governments Summit	57–58	10



B.	Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda.....	59–60	10
C.	Interactive dialogue 2: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption.....	61–62	11
D.	Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables	63–69	11
E.	Formal statements session	70–72	11
V.	Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties	73–79	12
A.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties.....	74	12
B.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau.....	75	12
C.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole	76	12
D.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	77	13
E.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology	78	13
F.	Resolution adopted by the Conference	79	14
VI.	Conclusion of the session.....	80–86	14
A.	Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session	80	14
B.	Closure of the session	81–86	14
 Annexes			
I.	Chairpersons’ summaries of interactive dialogues and parallel ministerial/high-level round tables.....		15
II.	Declaration of civil society organizations attending the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.....		22
III.	Report from the Green Business Forum.....		25
IV.	Declaration of the Youth Forum		28
V.	Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration.....		31
VI.	Report from the Gender Caucus.....		33
VII.	Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.....		39

I. Opening of the session

A. Opening of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

1. On 11 May 2022, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) was opened by the COP 14 President H.E. Mr. Bhupender Yadav. Pursuant to article 22 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the President of COP 14 made a statement.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1 (a))

2. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, the COP elected, by acclamation, H.E. Mr. Alain-Richard Donwahi as President of COP 15.

3. The incoming President made a statement.

C. General statements

4. Also, at the 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, made a statement on behalf of the host country.

5. At the same meeting, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made a statement.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), France (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), Pakistan (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Nicaragua (on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group), Türkiye (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)), Belarus (on behalf of Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)), the United States of America (on behalf of JUSCANZ) and Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group).

7. A statement was made by the Russian Federation.

8. A statement was also made by the Republic of Moldova.

9. Further statements were made by the World Meteorological Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the United Nations Human Rights Office, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

10. A statement was also made by the Global Green Growth Institute.

11. Furthermore, a statement was also made by a representative of civil society.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 1 (b) and (f))

12. The Conference considered agenda item 1 (b) and (f) at its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022.

13. Following a statement by the President of COP 15, the Conference adopted its agenda and the organization of work as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/1, as follows:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Credentials of delegations;
 - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers;
 - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework:
 - (a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
 - (c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
 - (d) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
3. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
4. Policy frameworks and thematic issues.
5. High-level opening ceremony:
 - (a) Heads of States and Governments Summit;
 - (b) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables:
 - (i) Round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship;
 - (ii) Round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery;
 - (iii) Round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience;
 - (c) Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda;
 - (d) Interactive dialogue 2: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption.
6. Programme and budget:
 - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
 - (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;
 - (c) Report of the Evaluation Office.

7. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
 - (c) Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Report on the session.

B. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 1 (c))

14. The Conference considered this agenda item at its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, and elected the following officers for its fifteenth session:

Vice-Presidents:

- Mr. Stephen Albert Jonathan Muwaya (Uganda)
- Mr. Abdu Gasem Alsharif (Saudi Arabia)
- Ms. Jing Zhong (China)
- Ms. Reina Sotillo (Argentina)
- Mr. Edgar Hunter (Dominica)
- Ms. Narine Hakobyan (Armenia)
- Ms. Nino Chikovani (Georgia)
- Ms. Juliane Wiesenhütter (Germany)
- Mr. Patrick Reilly (United States of America)

15. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 May 2022, the Conference appointed Ms. Narine Hakobyan (Armenia) as Rapporteur of the fifteenth session.

Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

16. At the 6th meeting, on 20 May 2022, the Conference elected Mr. Jorge Luis García Rodríguez (Mexico) as Chair of the forthcoming sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST).

Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

17. At the 6th meeting, on 20 May 2022, the Conference elected Ms. Biljana Kilibarda (Montenegro) as Chair of the forthcoming twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

C. Credentials of delegations

(Agenda item 1d)

18. At its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 13 May and 20 May 2022, the Conference considered the provisional report on credentials of delegations, as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/22, and the final report on credentials of delegations, as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/22/Rev.1, and the recommendations contained therein.

19. At its 6th meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/L.16 approving the final report on credentials.

20. The COP, on the basis of the final report of the Bureau to the COP and additional credentials provided by Guinea and India, accepted the credentials of Parties attending the session.

D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers

(Agenda item 1 e)

21. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, the Conference decided to accredit as observers the national, international, governmental and intergovernmental organizations listed in annex I, the non-governmental and civil society organizations listed in annex II and the business and industry entities listed in annex III of document ICCD/COP(15)/14 and the non-governmental and civil society organizations listed in annex I of document ICCD/COP(15)/14/Add.1.

E. Committee on Science and Technology

22. The fifteenth session of the CST was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Bongani Masuku (Eswatini). The Committee held four meetings, from 11 to 13 May 2022.

23. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1, and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in the annex of the document, as orally amended.

24. Also, at the same meeting, the Committee appointed Mr. Abdul Hamid (Bangladesh) as CST Vice-Chair in replacement of Mr. Omer Muhammad Raja (Pakistan) and Ms. Anna Luise (Italy) to serve as Rapporteur of the Committee.

25. Furthermore, at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Ms. Stella Funsani Gama (Malawi) as Facilitator of the contact group.

26. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 May 2022, the Committee appointed Mr. Julius Smith (Trinidad and Tobago) as Facilitator of the joint CRIC and CST contact group.

27. At its 4th meeting, on 13 May 2022, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming sixteenth session: Mr. Ahmed Abdelati (Egypt), Mr. Abdul Hamid (Bangladesh), Mr. Hamid Custovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr. Jeffrey Herrick (United States of America).

28. The Committee submitted six recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 3rd meeting, on 13 May 2022.

F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

29. The twentieth session of the CRIC was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Andrew Bishop (Guyana). The Committee held five meetings, from 12 to 18 May 2022.

30. At the 1st meeting, on 12 May 2022, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/1 and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in the annex of the document, as orally amended.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Julius Smith (Trinidad and Tobago) as Facilitator of the contact group.

32. Furthermore, at the same meeting, the Committee decided to establish one joint CRIC and CST contact group on matters relating to "Improving the procedures for communication

of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the COP” and appointed a Facilitator, Mr. Julius Smith from Trinidad and Tobago.

33. At its 5th meeting, on 18 May 2022, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming twenty-first and twenty-second sessions: Mr. David Payang (Cameroon), Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev (Uzbekistan), Ms. Karima Lince (Panama) and Mr. Baptiste Astrade (France).

34. The Committee submitted eight recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 5th meeting, on 18 May 2022.

G. Committee of the Whole

35. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and to allocate to the Committee the agenda items listed in paragraph 16 of the COP 15 agenda contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/1.

36. Also, at its 1st meeting, the Conference designated Mr. Francisco Jose Avila (Guatemala) as Chair of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee held five meetings, from 11 to 20 May 2022.

37. At its 1st meeting, the Committee established two contact groups: (a) a contact group on programme and budget matters, and (b) a contact group on COW matters other than the programme and budget. The Committee appointed Mr. Stéphane Pailler (France) as the Facilitator of Contact Group 1 on programme and budget matters and Mr. Ahmed Abdelati (Egypt) as the Facilitator of Contact Group 2 on COW matters other than the programme and budget.

38. The Committee submitted 19 recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 6th meeting, on 20 May 2022.

H. Attendance

39. The fifteenth session of the COP was attended by representatives of the following 133 Parties to the Convention:

Algeria	Cameroon	Equatorial Guinea
Angola	Canada	Eritrea
Argentina	Central African Republic	Eswatini
Armenia	Chad	Ethiopia
Australia	Chile	European Union
Azerbaijan	China	Fiji
Bangladesh	Comoros	Finland
Belarus	Congo	France
Belgium	Côte d’Ivoire	Gabon
Belize	Cuba	Gambia
Benin	Czechia	Georgia
Bhutan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Germany
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Djibouti	Ghana
Botswana	Dominica	Grenada
Brazil	Dominican Republic	Guatemala
Bulgaria	Ecuador	Guinea
Burkina Faso	Egypt	Guinea-Bissau
Burundi	El Salvador	Guyana
Cambodia		Haiti

Honduras	Montenegro	South Africa
Hungary	Morocco	South Sudan
Iceland	Mozambique	Spain
India	Namibia	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Nepal	State of Palestine
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Netherlands	Sudan
Iraq	Nicaragua	Suriname
Israel	Niger	Switzerland
Italy	Nigeria	Syrian Arab Republic
Jamaica	Norway	Thailand
Japan	Oman	Togo
Jordan	Pakistan	Trinidad and Tobago
Kenya	Panama	Tunisia
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Peru	Türkiye
Lebanon	Philippines	Uganda
Lesotho	Portugal	United Arab Emirates
Liberia	Qatar	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Libya	Republic of Korea	United Republic of Tanzania
Madagascar	Republic of Moldova	United States of America
Malawi	Russian Federation	Uzbekistan
Malaysia	Saint Lucia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Mali	Sao Tome and Principe	Viet Nam
Mauritania	Saudi Arabia	Zambia
Mauritius	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Mexico	Seychelles	
Mongolia	Sierra Leone	
	Somalia	

40. The session was also attended by observers from the following States not Party to the Convention:

Holy See

41. The following United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Environment Facility

Green Climate Fund

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organization

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

United Nations Development Programme
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 United Nations Environment Programme
 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 United Nations Office for Project Services
 United Nations Secretariat
 United Nations Volunteers
 World Bank
 World Food Programme
 World Health Organization
 World Meteorological Organization

42. The session was also attended by representatives of 33 intergovernmental organizations and 116 civil society organizations.

I. Documentation

43. The documents submitted for the consideration of the COP at its fifteenth session are listed in annex VII to the current report.

III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session

(Agenda item 1 b) and f)

44. The Conference held two open dialogue sessions under agenda item 1 (b) and (f) at its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 12 and 17 May 2022.

45. Ms. Sabina Gasimova from the International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance (IDEA) (Azerbaijan) moderated the first open dialogue session entitled: “Lands we use, lands we protect, lands we own – Opportunities and solutions to equity and equality”.

46. Presentations under Session I “Honoring the memory of land heroes” were made by Mr. Patrice Burger (Centre d’Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI), France), Ms. Nahid Naghizadeh (Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA), Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Dharmendeer Nadimetla (Gram Bharati Samiti (Society for Rural Development) (GBS), India).

47. Presentations under Session II “Lands we use, lands we protect, lands we own – Opportunities and solutions to equity and equality” were made by Mr. Ismaël Allahi Bizo (Association des jeunes pour l’Environnement et l’Education Civique (AJEEC), Niger) representing African civil society organizations (CSOs), Mr. Hemantha Whitanage (Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka) representing Asian CSOs, Ms. Ruth Spencer (Zero Waste, Antigua and Barbuda) on behalf of CSOs from Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Beth Roberts (Landesa, United States of America) representing CSOs of the West European and Others Group, and Mr. Oscar Soria (Avaaz) representing international non-governmental organizations.

48. In the ensuing discussion, the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Argentina, Ecuador, India and a representative of the International Labour Organization.

49. H.E. Mr. Alain-Richard Donwahi (President of COP 15) and H.E. Ms. Reina Sotillo (COP 15 Vice-President) moderated the second open dialogue session entitled: “Agroecological approaches and regenerative agricultural practices as a solution to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification/land degradation, and drought issues”.

50. Presentations were made by following panellists: Mr. Alpha Kane (from the non-governmental organization Enda Tiers Monde, Senegal), Mr. Pablo Andrés Motta Delgado (from Misión Verde Amazonia, Colombia), Ms. Nahideh Naghizadeh (from Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment, Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Tom Derr (from EcoAgriculture, United States). Ms. Yousra Abourabi from Agrisud made a synthesis of the interventions.

51. Statements were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Argentina, the United States of America, the Dominican Republic, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Argentina and India.

52. A statement was made by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

53. Statements were also made by representatives of CSOs: Action pour le Developpement du Sahel, Both ENDS (Netherlands) and the College of Agronomic Engineering of Santiago del Estero (Argentina).

54. The panellists addressed the comments and questions raised.

55. The COP 15 Vice-President made a statement.

56. The declaration of CSOs attending COP 15 is included in annex II.

IV. High-level opening ceremony

(Agenda item 5)

A. Heads of States and Governments Summit

57. On the invitation of H.E. Mr Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d’Ivoire, a Heads of States and Governments Summit was held on 9 May 2022.

58. On 10 May 2022, the Conference held two interactive dialogue sessions, three parallel ministerial/high-level round tables, and one formal statements session under this agenda item.

B. Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda

59. Interactive dialogue 1 was chaired by H.E. Mr. Alfred Prospere, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development of Saint Lucia.

60. Presentations were made by Ms. Tarja Halonen (former President of Finland and UNCCD Ambassador), Mr. Mamadou Touré (Minister for the Promotion of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Service of Côte d’Ivoire), Ms. Esha Mitra (Global Focal Point of the Youth Caucus for Desertification and Drought from the International Forestry Students Association), Ms. Patricia Kombo (UNCCD Youth Land Hero) and Mr. Diabate Ibrahima (President of the Youth National Council of Côte d’Ivoire).

C. Interactive dialogue 2: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption

61. Interactive dialogue 2 was chaired by H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change of Malawi.

62. Presentations were made by Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer (Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission), Ms. Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo (Deputy Director-General, FAO), Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis (Head of the Secretariat for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns/One Planet network, United Nations Environment Programme), Ms. Jyotsna Puri (Associate Vice-President, International Fund for Agricultural Development) and Mr. Florent Clair (Head of Partnerships for Sustainability, UPL).

D. Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables

1. Round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship

63. Round table 1 was co-chaired by H.E. Prof. Foday M. Jaward (Minister of Environment of Sierra Leone) and Ms. Anne Lugon-Moulin (Ambassador of Switzerland to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone).

64. The keynote speaker Mr. Alexander Müller (Founder and Managing Director of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability) made a presentation.

2. Round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery

65. Round table 2 was co-chaired by Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador) and Mr. Megh Nath Kafle (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment of Nepal).

66. The keynote speaker Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez (Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility) made a presentation.

3. Round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience

67. Round table 2 was co-chaired by Mr. Philippe Lacoste (Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France) and Ms. Makhoto Magdeline Soty (Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa).

68. Presentations were made by the keynote speakers Ms. Patricia Espinosa (Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC) and Mr. Tony Simons (Executive Director of the Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)).

69. The Chairpersons' summary reports of the two interactive dialogues and three parallel ministerial/high-level round tables are included in annex I.

E. Formal statements session

70. On 10 May, during the formal statements session, statements were made by: H.E. Mr. Milciades Concepción, Minister of Environment of Panama, H.E. Ms. Reina Sotillo, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina (on behalf of Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)), H.E. Mr. Malcolm Stufkens, Vice-Minister of Environment of Honduras, H.E. Mr. Mohamed M. Farrara Lashtar, Minister of State and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Ms. Salome Hallfreðsdóttir, Head of the Icelandic Delegation, and Ms. Lucianara Andrade Fonseca, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (on behalf of Brazil).

71. A statement was made by Mr. Robert Guei, Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

72. A statement was also made by Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka from Welfare Togo on behalf of CSOs.

V. Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties

73. At its 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 13, 19 and 20 May 2022, the Conference adopted 37 decisions and one resolution.

A. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties

74. At the recommendation of the President of its fifteenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

28/COP.15 High-level opening ceremony

29/COP.15 Land, Life and Legacy Declaration

B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau

75. At the recommendation of the Bureau of the COP at its fifteenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

36/COP.15 Credentials of delegations

C. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

76. At the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

1/COP.15 Multi-year workplan for the Convention institutions (2022–2025)

4/COP.15 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan

5/COP.15 Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

6/COP.15 Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

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

8/COP.15 Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

10/COP.15 Programme and budget for the triennium 2022-2024

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

23/COP.15 Policy advocacy on drought

24/COP.15 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender

- 25/COP.15 Abidjan Declaration on Gender and Report from the Gender Caucus¹
- 26/COP.15 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms
- 27/COP.15 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure
- 30/COP.15 Declaration of civil society organizations attending the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 31/COP.15 Report from the Green Business Forum²
- 32/COP.15 Declaration of the Youth Forum³
- 33/COP.15 Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 34/COP.15 Dates and venues of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties
- 35/COP.15 Designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

D. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

77. At the recommendation of the CRIC, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 2/COP.15 Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention
- 3/COP.15 Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality
- 9/COP.15 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility
- 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
- 12/COP.15 Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its nineteenth session
- 13/COP.15 Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention
- 14/COP.15 Programme of work for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 15/COP.15 Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

E. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

78. At the recommendation of the CST, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 16/COP.15 Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 1
- 17/COP.15 Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 2
- 18/COP.15 Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024

¹ Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration can be found in annex V. The Report from the Gender Caucus can be found in annex VI.

² The report from the Green Business Forum can be found in annex III.

³ The Declaration of the Youth Forum can be found in annex IV.

- 19/COP.15 Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub
- 20/COP.15 Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies
- 21/COP.15 Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

F. Resolution adopted by the Conference

79. At its 6th meeting, on 20 May 2022, the Conference adopted the following resolution at the recommendation of Mali:

- 1/COP.15 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire

VI. Conclusion of the session

A. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session

(Agenda item 8)

80. At its 6th meeting, on 20 May 2022, the Conference adopted the draft report on its fifteenth session (document ICCD/COP(15)/L.6) and authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

B. Closure of the session

81. Also at the 6th meeting, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, made a statement.

82. At the same meeting, H.E. Mr. Patrick Achi, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, made a statement on behalf of the host country.

83. Statements were made by representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), France (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Mongolia (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Ecuador (on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group), Türkiye (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)), Georgia (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)) and the United States of America.

84. Further statements were made by representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and FAO.

85. A statement was also made by a representative of civil society.

86. H.E. Mr. Alain-Richard Donwahi, the President of COP 15, made concluding remarks and declared closed the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Annex I

Chairpersons' summaries of interactive dialogues and parallel ministerial/high-level round tables

[English only]

Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping the sustainable land agenda

Chair: H.E. Mr. Alfred Prospere, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, Saint Lucia

Speakers:

- Ms. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Ambassador
- Mr. Mamadou Touré, Ministry for the Promotion of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Service, Côte d'Ivoire
- Ms. Esha Mitra, Global Focal Point of the Youth Caucus for Desertification and Drought (International Forestry Students' Association)
- Ms. Patricia Kombo, UNCCD Youth Land Hero
- Mr. Diabaté Ibrahim – President of the Youth National Council of Côte d'Ivoire

1. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, the panel explored, in dialogue with Ministers, the role of youth in shaping the sustainable land agenda. The Chair opened the first interactive dialogue by sharing insights from youth involvement in land restoration in Saint Lucia, highlighting the need to place young people at the forefront at local and national levels, create green jobs and encourage collective and meaningful participation.

2. H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland and UNCCD Land Ambassador, highlighted the pioneering role of youth in sustainable behaviour and consumption in her country. She called for giving young people more space in decision-making, as their innovative ideas must be turned into action. In this respect, she highlighted how to strengthen intergenerational dialogues and explained that discussion is an important stepping stone for knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and mutual learning.

3. Ms. Esha Mitra, Global Focal Point for the Youth Caucus on Land and Desertification, recalled solutions owned and implemented by youth, highlighting the current generation of youth as “the generation able to make the difference”. She called upon Parties and donor institutions to provide financial support and capacity-building, stressing that all regions and countries were equally important. She also stressed that, in order to change the status quo to a more desirable sustainable reality, youth must be enabled and be given the tools and mechanisms to share youth-led innovative and sustainable solutions. Young people must be recognised and their meaningful engagement must be ensured at all levels.

4. Ms. Patricia Kombo, UNCCD Land Hero, highlighted the importance of young people being able to access the land, stating “I cannot restore land if it belongs to my parents”. She called for financial support, access to knowledge, land tenure rights, and more attention to land-based and green jobs as career options. She stressed that, to transform food systems, young people must be at the centre of efforts. This is also valid for indigenous communities and young people with disabilities. She also stressed that youth need long-term commitment, and meaningful and equal partnerships with leaders and decision makers, the United Nations and other organizations. Land restoration and combating land degradation are not ‘single events’ where youth might happen to be invited but an everyday activity that is ‘a way of life’. The needs, aspirations, ideas and hopes of youth require permanent and serious engagement and exchange with all stakeholders, from global to local level.

5. Mr. Mamadou Touré, Ministry for the Promotion of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Service, Côte d'Ivoire, reflected on his personal experience of transitioning from a youth activist to a Minister. He highlighted that, in Africa, about 75 per cent of the population is below the age of 35, with 12 million young people entering the labour market each year. In this respect, land offers tremendous opportunities for employment that engages youth. He presented some solutions identified by his country, such as the establishment of schools specialized in innovative agricultural techniques, internships and training to engage young people, and guaranteed funds to increase access to finance for young people.

6. Mr. Diabaté Ibrahim, National Youth Council, Côte d'Ivoire, made a call to Parties to “do everything possible” to support the Declaration of the Youth Forum. “Youth have the feeling that the planet has been abandoned,” he added, summarizing the mood of his generation. On behalf of the Youth Forum, he called on Parties to incorporate sustainable development into education and integrate sustainable agriculture. He also pled for funding for innovative projects for young people, the facilitation of young people’s access to land resources, the continuation of support for the development of green enterprises, and increases in support to ensure greater participation from young people at the next Conference of the Parties.

7. During an interactive discussion, Parties welcomed youth leadership and the need for young people to be engaged in the work of the Convention. One participant said that young people are the “ultimate recipient of our agreements” and should be active stakeholders in the process. The Youth Forums organized in Ordos and New Delhi were great precedents in this respect. Support for the youth land restoration movement needs to be encouraged and further promoted, whereby the climate youth movement could serve as an inspiring model.

Interactive dialogue: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption

Chair: H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi

Speakers:

- Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission
- Ms. Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Head, Secretariat for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns/One Planet Network, United Nations Environment Programme
- Ms. Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Mr. Florent Clair, Head of Partnerships for Sustainability (P4S), UPL

1. With a range of different backgrounds and experiences, interactive dialogue 2 highlighted the risks that global megatrends are posing to food systems and economic development globally. Speakers highlighted the accelerating loss of land productivity due to declining soil health. An assessment underlined that, for 30 countries, at least 50 per cent of croplands in drylands is in either the high or very high impact classes of potential climate change-driven land degradation. This raises questions regarding the viability of key global value chains in current geographical locations, pointing to the criticality of diversification.

2. The fruitful discussion highlighted the threats climate change, land degradation and production and consumption trends are posing to countries. The dialogue discussed ways to build resilience into environmental, consumption and production systems on the basis of global megatrends. Developing increased foresight and investing in the protection, sustainable management and restoration of land could help economic systems and Parties to build a just and sustainable economic transition that can withstand the impacts of climate change and, at the same time, further human development.

3. Speakers also highlighted the need to address current consumption patterns that remain unsustainable and the fact that emerging technologies are unlikely to meet the growing demand for food globally. With regard to this, speakers highlighted that localization and the increased resilience of food production will be essential to mitigate global risks through climate change and land degradation.

4. The need to accelerate nature-based solutions was underlined by many as the key to creating a sustainable and viable future, which will require new adapted solutions and financial instruments that are future-proof, including through the monetization of environmental services and increased incentives for regenerative production systems.

5. This dialogue session provided critical insights on the importance of ensuring good foresight in terms of production and clearly linking those to sustainable land management to ensure the availability of food. The transformation of supply chains and the creation of new sustainable markets could provide economic opportunities beyond current economic models. Ensuring synergies and stronger collaboration with the private sector will be key to tapping into these opportunities.

Ministerial round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship

- Chair: H.E. Prof. Foday M. Jaward, Minister of Environment, Sierra Leone
- Co-Chair: Ms. Anne Lugon-Moulin, Ambassador of Switzerland to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- Keynote: Mr. Alexander Müller, Founder and Managing Director of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability

1. Approximately 90 people attended round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship. The discussions were enriched by a total of 18 interventions from Parties, regional and international organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples, and development partners.

2. The Chair, H.E. Prof. Foday M. Jaward, Minister of Environment of Sierra Leone, welcomed the distinguished representatives and opened the round-table discussion. He highlighted the importance of secure land tenure rights to encourage sustainable land investments and good land stewardship. The Chair enriched the discussion with experiences from Sierra Leone, noting that the land tenure systems in the country are both statutory and customary, operating at the government and province level, respectively. Improving gender equality in land access and rights is important to the Government of Sierra Leone, and the Chair highlighted that achieving gender parity in land acquisition can attract private and international investments and establish sustainable land tenure and stewardship, which are critical to economic growth.

3. Mr. Alexander Müller, Founder and Managing Director of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability, delivered an inspirational keynote speech. He reminded participants that by adopting decision 26/COP.14 on land tenure, Parties have made a landmark decision. He stressed the importance of land governance in achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and leaving no one behind. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), negotiated under the aegis of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012, are a set of internationally agreed principles and best practices helping to build synergies and avoid conflicts in land use. Some countries are leading the way in the implementation of the VGGT, and Mr. Müller reminded participants that the VGGT should be implemented at the local level. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the first of the three Rio conventions to make a strong link between people, their rights and sustainable land management. Progressing the exchange of experiences and synergies between the conventions is needed to build the necessary interlinkages to realize rights, rewards and responsibilities that work for both people and the planet.

4. The Co-Chair, Ms. Anne Lugon-Moulin, Ambassador of Switzerland to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, began the discussions by stating that the future of land stewardship relies on both national engagement and also on global commitment. She gave several examples from Switzerland's development cooperation in successful tenure projects to strengthen the rights of tenure of smallholders and pastoralists in many countries through cooperation and emphasized that local context matters.

5. Interventions by the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ms. Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo, and the Chairperson of the CFS, Mr. Gabriel Ferrero, reminded participants that the VGGT have been negotiated by country Parties under the CFS and provide a rights-based approach to address the governance of tenure. For 10 years, dedicated programmes to support the implementation of the VGGT have developed capacities in countries and communities, changing the mindset on land tenure. Multi-stakeholder processes are at the heart of this process and create a space for all partners to come together, particularly the most vulnerable.

6. The United Nations Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, further energized the discussions, emphasizing the need to constitutionalize the right to land, especially for women. He questioned the tendency to talk about land as an economic asset to exploit. He mentioned the circular economy as an innovative approach to enable land degradation neutrality (LDN), which was also reiterated by some country Parties.

7. Many country Parties shared their experiences and the challenges they face in strengthening land tenure rights. The countries called upon the UNCCD secretariat and the FAO to share best practices and lessons learned to develop innovative approaches to address land tenure at the national and local level. Countries further called for integrated action and cooperation on land tenure within and across regions in order to combat desertification/land degradation and drought.

8. Parties and the civil society organizations (CSOs) welcomed the work done by the secretariat and the FAO to produce a technical guide to integrate the VGGT into the implementation of the Convention and LDN and applauded its participatory approach with inputs from all key stakeholders, including Parties and CSOs. The importance of translating this technical guide into other languages was emphasized as a means to ensure the meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in implementation, particularly of women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and local communities.

9. One of the key messages highlighted in the discussions was that women are exponentially affected by insecure and unequal access and rights to land. Parties recognized the importance of integrating gender perspectives into land tenure and encouraged the UNCCD secretariat to provide further tools and information for this integration. Some countries also noted that there is a link between land and human rights, and this notion was echoed by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

10. The notion of land tenure being an important enabler for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought was reiterated by Parties at this round table. Parties recognized that there is a need for integrated action and coordination at all levels, from local to national, regional and global. The country Parties called for fostering cooperation and collaboration to address the challenges faced in strengthening land tenure and requested financial and technical support to implement this matter at the national level, particularly for developing countries. National and local initiatives and mechanisms for strengthening land tenure in the context of the Convention should be promoted, and it was noted that the participation of local actors is an accelerator for sustainable land management and action on the ground.

Ministerial round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery

- Chair: Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

- Co-Chair: Mr. Megh Nath Kafle, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal
- Keynote: Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility

1. Over 100 people attended round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery. The discussions were enriched by 20 interventions from ministers and deputy ministers, and principals of international organizations, including an opening statement by the minister of the host country of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, Côte d'Ivoire.

2. The Chair, H.E. Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, welcomed the distinguished representatives and opened the round-table discussion. He referenced the second edition of Global Land Outlook and noted that land restoration is a flexible and cost-effective solution for countries and communities that can be tailored to their diverse needs and contexts. In Ecuador, public policy and transformative initiatives to improve ecological sustainability focus on synergies and alignment between United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and nationally determined contributions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

3. Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, delivered an inspirational keynote speech. He stressed that regional cooperation and collaboration mechanisms to share knowledge and information are critical to attract land restoration investments, as are cross-sectoral and integrated approaches to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

4. The Co-Chair, Mr. Megh Nath Kafle, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal, began the discussions by stating that land restoration is about creating livelihood opportunities and increasing community resilience. Nepal faces multiple challenges, including deforestation, land degradation, landslides, soil erosion, invasive species, and the melting of glaciers. Impacts have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and helped prioritize nature- and community-based solutions.

5. Throughout the round-table discussion, several common challenges were highlighted in addition to promising restoration initiatives. The key message emanating from the discussions was that addressing desertification and land degradation is a global responsibility, and that partnerships and coordinated action are required at all levels, from local to national, regional to global.

6. Interventions by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, and the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Ms. Usha Rao-Monari, further energized the discussions. Ms. Mrema stressed the importance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to design national and regional projects and programmes that integrate land, climate and biodiversity priorities. Ms. Rao-Monari emphasized three critical elements for scaling up land restoration: (i) capacity-building; (ii) data and science-based evidence; and (iii) environmental finance.

7. Ministers, deputies and heads of delegations emphasized that restoration is a tool for economic and post-pandemic recovery, particularly for rural and marginalized communities. Activities undertaken include natural ecosystem regeneration, water harvesting and groundwater recharge, the strengthening of agricultural supply chains, and other measures to replenish natural capital. They highlighted the commitments made at UNFCCC COP 26 and how it is now time to turn the commitment into action.

8. Several interventions stressed that the UNCCD needs equal treatment with its sister conventions. Without addressing land health and productivity, we cannot achieve the goals of the Rio conventions and all the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. We can no longer separate environmental and economic troubles from social problems. A holistic and integrated approach is the most promising way of delivering livelihood benefits while at the same time ensuring the full range of the ecosystem services we need to survive.

9. Many speakers highlighted a wide range of projects and programmes in their respective countries, such as sustainable land management, watershed management, and sand and dust storm source mitigation initiatives, as well as projects designed to create green jobs and avoid forced migration. They emphasized the role of forests and trees and the need to establish a concrete action strategy linking the three Rio conventions to harness ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions.

10. Most countries reaffirmed their commitments to their LDN targets and recognized that implementation of those targets on the ground has great potential for creating transformational change. Many acknowledged that some of the more successful restoration efforts are being led by local communities and municipalities, including indigenous peoples, and that community engagement cannot ignore property rights and tenure security.

11. Many countries welcomed the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and committed to adopting an integrated, best-practice approach to land restoration based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge that offers hope to vulnerable communities. There was a strong feeling in the round table that we all need to act together and engage together with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

12. The Chair closed with a brief summary of the discussion and reflected on the interventions expressing the need for the UNCCD to raise its profile vis-à-vis the other Rio conventions and relevant processes contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted that human health and the health of the land are indivisible, and that restoring land and soil is a key pathway to addressing multiple intertwined crises.

Ministerial round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience

- Chair: Philippe Lacoste, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- Co-Chair: Ms. Makhotso Magdeline Soty, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa
- Keynotes:
- Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Mr. Tony Simons, Executive Director, Center for International Forestry Research–International Council for Research in Agroforestry

1. Approximately 120 people attended round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience. The discussions were enriched by a total of 28 interventions from Parties, regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations.

2. The Chair stated that drought affects all nations with severe consequences for the most vulnerable. He mentioned that no country is immune to drought and that developed countries also feel the effects. France, for example, declared a state of drought emergency in March 2022. He also pointed out that the discussions at COP 15 should give a new boost to global drought mitigation efforts. He stressed the importance of addressing the drivers of drought and noted the need for more coordination, communication and cooperation to avoid siloed approaches.

3. In her intervention, Ms. Espinosa stressed the value of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity for the UNFCCC, emphasizing that all three Rio conventions share one agenda: sustainable development. Addressing the question “how do we get from disaster to resilience?”, she raised her concern that nations are now rapidly returning to the pre-COVID-19 era, relying on traditional energy sources. She said that more can be done to support national adaptation plans and that implementation will be the focus of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC later this year. It will put great emphasis on adaptation measures to support countries in coping with climate change in a more sustainable manner. She stressed the need for the three Rio conventions to work together and harness synergies to enhance implementation on the ground.

4. In his keynote, Mr. Tony Simons underscored the importance of vegetation. He provided striking examples from different regions. He reminded countries to “walk the talk” and that we need to turn our commitments and plans to action for a drought-resilient world. He credited the UNCCD secretariat for introducing an action-oriented agenda on drought preparedness and resilience. He also stressed the need to not only mobilize natural capital but also political capital, and the need for interconnected and integrated approaches.

5. Many countries highlighted that droughts make no distinction between poor and rich, and that no continent is spared, stressing that droughts are becoming more common, intense, severe and extended in space and time, with dire impacts on agriculture, food security, migration and livestock. The role of the international community in addressing drought in a more comprehensive manner, and the significance of ensuring and prioritizing drought in the international agenda was emphasized. Some countries also requested the need for a legally binding instrument on drought as a vital tool for coordinating better policies at the national level. Many participants underlined the impact of droughts on migration and emigration as an accelerating stress factor.

6. Many countries stressed the importance of the Great Green Wall – as they count on the pledges made by donors – while reiterating their commitment and continued support for the initiative.

7. The value of collaborative efforts and regional initiatives, and the pooling of knowledge, experience and lessons learned, including that of indigenous communities, was highlighted. Some countries mentioned the importance of agricultural diversification, production of pulses and rotational cropping in order to enhance drought resilience. The sharing of positive experiences that have contributed to enhanced drought resilience and improved ecosystems and economies, as well as the need to work with communities and indigenous people and in various circumstances, were underlined.

8. Some countries went on to elaborate that drought is the core mandate of the Convention (also citing the relevant articles of the Convention on drought) and that drought has not received the necessary attention it deserves. The speaker appreciated the crucial work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought and added that the international community should treat droughts as global threat which requires an integrated, long-term approach, with financing from donors as well as effective coordination.

9. Three dimensions of drought management were emphasized by many: preparing for droughts, responding to droughts and recovering from droughts. The importance of providing farmers with risk management support was also highlighted. The speaker also mentioned that Australia provided the example of the successful future drought fund, which provides long-term stable funding for remote communities and farmers, while also providing support to regional resilience hubs in Australia.

10. The need to consider the disproportionate impact of drought on women and children, while also stressing that young people and women could be part of the solution, was underscored. The spiraling impacts of drought on food security, rural livelihood and economy, conflicts and migration were also mentioned. The importance of integrating drought and sand and dust storms, a cross-border problem, was also highlighted.

11. The value of mainstreaming drought at all levels, including the regional, national, and local levels, to coordinate policy and concrete activities on the ground in order to reduce drought vulnerability was stressed. Another point highlighted was the need to share experiences, evidence and success stories. Action must be taken to share experiences of good practices developed by local communities, often with the support of civil society.

12. Some countries reiterated finance as the main bottleneck to effectively tackling drought, and it remains the biggest challenge. It was highlighted that the need to align strategies at the national level while strengthening cooperation among the conventions was recommended.

13. Drought management is not a one-off event. Active drought management requires rigorous planning processes backed by data.

Annex II

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

[English only]

We would like to express our gratitude to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for its commitment to facilitating collaborative interactions among Parties, international organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs). We would also like to thank the government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) of the UNCCD.

Over the past two weeks, more than 1200 civil society representatives have actively and passionately participated in all stages of the COP 15 agenda. We organized two Open Dialogue Sessions that allowed us to better share realities from communities affected by desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and, most importantly, the innovative solutions they propose.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw governments around the world take urgent action. Regretfully, this is in sharp contrast with the urgency and action we see around combatting DLDD.

We, as CSOs, would like to provide recommendations to help facilitate the urgent actions that are needed.

They are as follows:

On gender:

- Ensure that the Gender Action Plan and its road map are not stand-alone documents within the COP discussions, and add gender experts to the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) and other subsidiary bodies;
- Also ensure that the four priorities of the Gender Action Plan are implemented by the Parties by the sixteenth session of the COP (COP 16): 1) women's participation in decision-making processes; 2) women's economic empowerment; 3) women's land rights and access to resources to improve their situations; and 4) women's access to improve knowledge and technologies;
- Invite the Gender Caucus and Youth Caucus to reflect on the documents and monitor policy impacts on populations in vulnerable conditions.

On sustainable land management and land restoration:

- Promote and support agroecological approaches and regenerative practices as solutions for soil health, biodiversity, and adaptation and mitigation to climate change in order to synergize the three Rio conventions;
- Also promote and develop finance mechanisms to support knowledge and practice development of land users (especially for women, youth, indigenous people and pastoralists) together with scientists and CSOs to consolidate, improve and upscale in order to enhance agroecological approaches and regenerative practices;
- Recognize agroecological approaches and regenerative practices by communities in order to implement the UNCCD and reach land degradation neutrality (LDN) while contributing to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On finance:

- Make sure that financial resources are channeled to the place and people where actions on drought, restoration and sustainable land use are being taken;

- Promote and develop finance mechanisms to support knowledge and practice development of land users together with scientists and CSOs in order to improve and upscale agroecological approaches and regenerative practices;
- Encourage financial institutions, such as national funds, donor countries, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and philanthropies to support the upscaling and replication of agroecological approaches and regenerative practices by engaging with CSOs supporting women, youth and indigenous peoples, pastoralists and local communities.

On drought

- Humanize drought: give drought a human face and better understand the impacts of this disaster on the lives of children, women, men, farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and local communities. Considering that these people are vulnerable due to the magnitude of the situation they are in, we therefore strongly encourage that UNCCD documents refer to them as “people in situations of vulnerability” and not as “vulnerable people”;
- Ensure better coordination of information exchange, policies and budget allocation regarding drought preparedness and response among ministries and government agencies, as well as between different governance levels, from national via local authorities to local communities;
- Support the observance of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026 by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2022, and strongly encourage the promotion and development of multi-dimensional mechanisms on the IYRP, including capacity-building and awareness-raising among CSOs and pastoralists;
- Also support and promote mobile pastoralists’ strategies on mitigating, adapting to and living with climate variability and droughts, and request that all Parties be encouraged to support and provide evidence on the role of sustainable pastoralism in reducing and responding to drought, restoring degraded rangelands and achieving LDN.”

On Land rights and tenure:

- Raise awareness around the Technical Guide at national and subnational level by taking an intersectoral approach, engaging non-state stakeholders in the process and requesting the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support capacity-building and participatory workshops on the Technical Guide and the translation into local languages;
- Engage with local communities, especially women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and local communities, to ensure that their rights and interests are secured in policy discussions relevant to the governance and use of land;
- Ensure coordination and coherence regarding land tenure in the different UNCCD tools and initiatives, such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Programme, the Gender Action Plan roadmap and the work of the SPI;
- Replace the term “vulnerable people” with “people in situations of vulnerability” in UNCCD official documents related to land tenure and others, and refer to the most vulnerable people and how they are affected by tenure insecurity;
- Encourage financial institutions, such as the GEF, the GCF, the IFAD, philanthropies and donor countries to engage with CSOs to support women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities for its meaningful participation in the design and implementation of land tenure security strategies, including the implementation of the Technical Guide;

- Also encourage and support tenure security for women, pastoralists and small-scale farmers in a variety of socio-ecological environments, actively investigating and highlighting best practices and effective policies.”

On CSO participation

- Support and facilitate the participation of civil society throughout the decision-making processes regarding LDN target and National Drought Plans;
- Allow the CSO Panel to be an observer to the meetings of the Friends of the Chair;
- Continue working with the SPI and ensure the active participation of CSO observers and the participation of international organizations, such as the FAO, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
- Ensure effective engagements and strong partnerships between national governments and government agencies, communities, local authorities and CSOs in the preparation and organization of COP 16;
- Encourage the current and future presidents of the COP and the Friends of the Chair group to take action to ensure that the next COP agenda facilitates the active participation of Parties in the Open Dialogue Sessions.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us that we, as an international community, are able to work together and take urgent action. We encourage the Parties to actively engage with CSOs as we work closely with the communities where practical action is being taken in relation to sustainable land management and restoration.

Annex III

Report from the Green Business Forum

[English only]

Speakers in the main event:

1. Souleymane Diarrassouba, Minister of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion of Côte d'Ivoire
2. Louise Baker, Managing Director, Global Mechanism, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
3. James Smith, Director, Natural Climate Solutions, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
4. Eunsik Park, Director General, Korea Forest Service
5. Florent Clair, Head of Partnerships for Sustainability, UPL
6. Arnaud Henneville-Wedholm, Head of Sales and Business Development, GLOBHE
7. Nick Salter, Co-founder, Aduna
8. Scott Poynton, Chief Executive Officer, Pond Foundation
9. David Gyampoh, Sustainability Analyst, Evonik
10. Christine Von Brunn, Product Manager B2B, Doehler
11. Tom Skirrow, Chief Executive Officer, Tree Aid
12. Aaron Adu, Managing Director, Global Shea Alliance
13. Tillem Burlace, Lead for Sahel and the Great Green Wall at It.org, World Economic Forum
14. Diane Binder, Co-Founder, Regenopolis
15. Eric Kacou, Co-Founder, Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners
16. Marc Daubrey, Chief Executive Officer, Green Invest Africa
17. Sosthène Larissa Kouadio, Advisor, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Côte d'Ivoire
18. Claude Koutoua, Commission President, Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire
19. Pierre Joseph Kingbo, Senior Partner, Green Invest Africa
20. Solange Amichia, Chief Executive Officer, Investment Promotion Center in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI)
21. Marcel Yao, Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
22. Honorat Boua, General Manager, Globeleq Azito power plant
23. Kombo Ekra Noël N'guessan, Chief Executive Officer, LONO
24. Salimou Bamba, Chief Executive Officer, Agence Côte d'Ivoire PME
25. Jean-Yves Kpalou, Advisor, Ministry of Water and Forests
26. Vincent Istasse, Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Africa
27. Aurore Assemian, Governance Affairs, RSE
28. Fidèle Kouadio, Director of Gender and Environment Services, Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricoles

29. Adai, Chief Executive Officer, AGRO-MAP
30. Mamadou Yoda, Director, Agence Côte d'Ivoire PME
31. Loesse Jacques Esso, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion of Côte d'Ivoire

In addition, the following side events took place:

1. Innovative finance mechanisms for sustainable landscapes (Global Green Growth Institute)
2. Innovative finance mechanisms for landscape restoration (African Development Bank)
3. Financing commercially viable solutions for scaling restoration in the Sahel/Great Green Wall (World Economic Forum and World Resources Institute)
4. Restoring parklands to unlock business opportunities: the shea agroforestry farm example (Global Shea Alliance)
5. Fragile Contexts: Putting communities, the private sector and resource mobilization at center stage at COP 15 (African Development Bank)
6. Smallholder agriculture: Untapped business opportunities for the private sector (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

Summary of the Green Business Forum

1. Co-organized with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the private sector, the Green Business Forum called for the support, expertise and investment of the private sector to highlight the urgency of tackling land degradation and propose solutions and innovations. The morning sessions focused on progress made since the Delhi Declaration from Business as well as the launch of the Business 4 Land (B4L) initiative, the Great Green Wall Sourcing Challenge and the World Economic Forum's UpLink 2022 Trillion Trees: Sahel and the Great Green Wall Challenge.

2. During the session on progress made since the Delhi Declaration from Business, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development highlighted that, due to the central role played by soil health as an asset, sustainable land management is emerging as a key priority for business extending beyond operations, with companies setting targets and commitments for sustainable impact. During consultations held prior to the Green Business Forum, the lack of strong measurable and time-bound targets on soil health-related goals was identified as a key issue. A private sector-adapted international standard on soil health would (i) enable accelerated private investments in practices and solutions by enabling clear targets to be set and progress to be better monitored; (ii) incentivize follow-on investments; and (iii) increase transparency for public and private stakeholders.

3. The B4L initiative was launched during the Green Business Forum. The B4L initiative is designed to serve as a platform that brings together private sector partners interested in furthering the objectives of the Convention, including:

- (a) Avoid degradation of healthy land;
- (b) Reduce the level of land degradation through sustainable management practices; and
- (c) Restore or rehabilitate degraded land.

Representatives of business sectors and foundations, such as Woori Financial Group, Mirova, ELYX Foundation, GS Retail Co. Ltd. and Hyundai Livart, have pledged to support the B4L initiative, emphasizing the role of the business sector in the realization of land degradation neutrality.

4. In support of the B4L initiative, the Great Green Wall Sourcing Challenge was launched, which calls upon the private sector to increase their sourcing of sustainable products from the region to ensure a better market. Aduna, WhatIF Foods, Evonik, Doehler, Unilever and the Global Shea Alliance have already pledged to support the challenge or are keen to further engage. The Great Green Wall Sourcing Challenge aims to highlight the diversity of products from the Sahel, while at the same time creating new markets and better revenue streams for communities. Tree Aid highlighted the potential of agroforestry products in global markets as a vehicle for land restoration and community development. While the Great Green Wall Sourcing Challenge focuses on upstream market access, the World Economic Forum's [2022 Trillion Trees: the Sahel and the Great Green Wall UpLink Challenge](#) aims for downstream support to ecopreneurs, calling for commercially viable solutions to scale restoration that contributes to the vision of the Great Green Wall Initiative and delivers benefits to the people and the environment of the Sahel. The challenge was launched during the Green Business Forum and will focus on:

- (a) Value chain development and enhancement;
- (b) Landscape restoration;
- (c) Supportive activities ensuring an enabling environment.

5. The afternoon sessions focused on enabling financing architectures for a sustainable private sector. The first panel discussed financing opportunities for the main priorities of the 2021–2025 National Plan of Côte d'Ivoire, including possible ways to limit private sector risks linked to sustainable investments as well as ensure better access to finance for the private sector, including through the establishment of a guarantee or investment fund. Particular emphasis was placed on opportunities around accessing green investments, as well as barriers faced by the private sector in accessing green or sustainable financing. Finally, support actions for the private sector were discussed, including issues around regulatory and legislative frameworks.

Annex IV

Declaration of the Youth Forum

[French only]

LES METIERS DE LA TERRE DE DEMAIN

LES RESOLUTIONS D'ABIDJAN

Nous, Jeunes, réunis à Abidjan, les 8 et 9 Mai 2022 à l'invitation de la quinzième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification ;

Nous,

Jeunes du Monde Entier,

Réaffirmant notre engagement en faveur des Objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD), notion universelle qui englobe les principes interdépendants et mutuellement étayés du développement durable - développement économique, développement social et protection de l'environnement - sur les plans local, national, régional et mondial et tout en poursuivant notre engagement à garantir l'indivisibilité de la dignité humaine pour tous, une gouvernance mondiale démocratique des ressources naturelles grâce à des institutions internationales et multilatérales plus efficaces et plus responsables ;

Profondément préoccupés par la tendance constante à la dégradation de l'environnement et à l'aggravation de la pauvreté, surtout dans les écosystèmes fragiles et les zones arides des pays en développement ;

Constatant la dégradation des sols, ainsi que les pertes subies par les forêts, la couche arable et la biodiversité en raison de l'extension de la désertification, des incidences des variations climatiques et de leurs conséquences directes pour l'équilibre mondial, en ce qui concerne en particulier la production et la disponibilité de denrées alimentaires et l'aggravation des flux migratoires liée aux effets néfastes de l'homme sur l'environnement ;

Constatant le retard accusé dans la lutte contre la dégradation des sols et l'avancée du désert en raison de la COVID-19 et de ses nombreux impacts négatifs sur l'économie mondiale ;

Conscients de la menace planétaire que fait peser la dégradation constante de la terre qui nous nourrit ;

Conscients des rapports directs de cause à effet existant entre la dégradation des sols et la pauvreté en particulier pour les couches les plus vulnérables que sont les jeunes et les femmes, qui entraînent le cercle vicieux de la surexploitation par des communautés de plus en plus démunies ;

Tenant compte des privations dont souffrent les jeunes en matière de perspectives et de services sociaux, pédagogiques, économiques, écologiques et culturels ;

Tenant compte du fait que la désertification et la sécheresse ont des incidences particulières préjudiciables sur les conditions de vie des jeunes, et notamment sur la sécurité alimentaire, la santé et la qualité de l'eau ;

Soulignant l'importance de l'eau et de son accès pour lutter contre la désertification et fondant un grand espoir sur les futures conclusions de la quinzième édition de la COP et du Programme Initiative d'Abidjan, qui devrait recommander des mesures en faveur de la gestion durable des ressources terrestres et maritimes, essentielles pour combattre la désertification ;

Reconnaissant que l'élimination de la pauvreté, l'amélioration des conditions de vie des jeunes par des emplois décents, la transformation des modes de consommation et de

production et la protection des ressources naturelles sont essentielles pour un développement durable et pour la survie de notre humanité ;

Nous rendant compte du faible altruisme intergénérationnel environnemental qui constitue une menace majeure pour notre avenir, celui de nos petites sœurs et petits frères et de nos enfants et petits-enfants,

Déclarons ce qui suit :

1. Extrêmement alarmés par la dégradation croissante de l'environnement et notamment par la désertification, qui a atteint une ampleur telle qu'elle menace le fondement même de la vie sur Terre, et déterminés à infléchir ce cours dangereux, il nous incombe plus que jamais à nous, jeunes du monde entier, d'œuvrer ensemble à la poursuite de l'objectif commun de la viabilité économique, sociale, écologique et politique.
2. Nous sommes profondément préoccupés par la diminution continue de la productivité agricole, l'agriculture restant la principale source de revenus économiques de la majorité des pays en développement.
3. Nous sommes très inquiets du fait des informations corroborées selon lesquelles le processus de la désertification, qui s'accompagne souvent de vastes déplacements de populations et de conflits armés, mine gravement les opportunités d'insertion professionnelle et socio-économique des jeunes, impacte la possibilité d'une croissance économique durable, limite la sécurité alimentaire et exacerbe la propension à la famine.
4. Nous sommes conscients du fait que les tendances avérées en matière d'exploitation des ressources naturelles renouvelables ou non et que les modes actuels de consommation dépassent de loin la capacité de charge de la planète.
5. Nous sommes convaincus que l'élimination de la pauvreté et notamment de la vaste pauvreté d'origine environnementale (due notamment à une avancée rapide de la désertification et à une pénurie croissante d'eau) et de ses conséquences tragiques en termes de perturbations d'ordre macrosocial doit être considérée comme une priorité absolue des projets politiques internationaux intégrés visant la promotion de l'accès à un emploi décent pour chaque jeune et femme de la Terre, en particulier les populations rurales.
6. Nous sommes persuadés de la nécessité de reconnaître que la terre qui nous nourrit, et notamment ce qu'on appelle la couche arable, est une ressource précieuse à protéger universellement de manière impérative, urgente et concertée.
7. Nous croyons fermement que les politiques devraient donner plus de place aux jeunes, aux femmes et aux communautés rurales pour être en première ligne de la lutte pour un développement durable car ils sont les premières victimes.
8. Nous nous déclarons convaincus que la croissance ne peut être un objectif en soi et ne saurait justifier la dégradation de l'environnement et qu'elle devrait s'accompagner de politiques sociales qui assurent une redistribution équitable des richesses, abordent la question du régime foncier et garantissent l'accès à l'éducation afin de donner l'autonomie aux jeunes, de leur permettre de réaliser leur potentiel et de réduire leur vulnérabilité face aux pressions qui les poussent à l'exode et à l'immigration clandestine.
9. Nous réaffirmons la pertinence de toutes les mesures de lutte contre la désertification promues par les deux précédentes éditions du Forum des Jeunes de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification, et insistons sur la nécessité d'une exploitation durable des sols, de la lutte contre l'érosion, de la remise en état des terres dégradées, du lancement de programmes ambitieux et efficaces de reboisement, de la gestion rationnelle de l'eau et des sols, de l'exploitation de sources d'énergie renouvelables, du renforcement des capacités et de la vulgarisation de programmes d'éducation en matière d'écologie.
10. Nous sommes convaincus que toutes les grandes questions écologiques sont liées intrinsèquement entre elles et qu'un effort international concerté est nécessaire pour les traiter en synergie. Il conviendrait d'agir en synergie pour mettre en œuvre les décisions qui seront arrêtées lors de cette COP-15, notamment aux échelons national et local.

11. Nous réitérons notre soutien aux dispositions multilatérales, gouvernementales, non gouvernementales et bénévoles prises à tous les niveaux pour promouvoir le boisement, le reboisement et le développement agricole.

12. Nous demandons à toutes les personnalités dirigeantes de rendre publique la présente déclaration en l'inscrivant à l'ordre du jour de leurs pays respectifs ou en la portant à l'attention de leurs parlementaires ou de toute autre manière appropriée.

13. Nous reconnaissons que les jeunes peuvent et doivent contribuer de façon décisive à une gouvernance correcte fondée sur des institutions démocratiques sensibles aux besoins des populations et encourageant la lutte contre la corruption, l'égalité des sexes, les opportunités d'emploi et d'entrepreneuriat pour les jeunes ainsi qu'une atmosphère et un environnement favorables à l'investissement.

14. Nous demandons la participation active des jeunes aux niveaux régional, sous-régional, national et local sur les enjeux liés à la désertification ainsi que le renforcement des capacités des jeunes par la formation dans des domaines innovants comme l'agroécologie, l'agroforesterie, l'agriculture durable, les cultures hors sols, la gestion de l'eau, l'agriculture durable, etc.

15. Nous demandons une amplification de la mobilisation de l'opinion publique et la sensibilisation des citoyens au développement humain durable et aux questions relatives à la désertification grâce à des campagnes, à des manifestations annuelles (telle que la Journée mondiale de lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse, célébrée le 17 juin), à des rencontres entre les jeunes du monde entier, à l'éducation écologique, à l'engagement d'écoles, d'universitaires et d'artistes et à des émissions grand public.

16. Nous sollicitons l'instauration de modules de formations relatifs à l'éducation à l'environnement et au développement durable dans les écoles et lycées.

17. Nous attirons l'attention de nos dirigeants sur la participation active des jeunes relativement aux enjeux environnementaux ainsi que sur le renforcement de nos capacités dans les domaines innovants comme l'agroforesterie, l'agroécologie, l'écotourisme, les cultures hors sols, la gestion de l'eau et l'utilisation de gaz pour rendre les sols plus fertiles.

18. Nous sommes déterminés à garantir une mise en œuvre efficace et rapide de la Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification aux niveaux national et régional grâce aux différentes initiatives que nous portons et pour lesquelles nous demandons une facilitation des conditions d'accès au financement.

19. Nous, Jeunes, appelons les parties concernées à tout mettre en œuvre pour que les déclarations d'intention de la COP-15 soient suivies de mesures concrètes.

20. Enfin nous, Jeunes du monde, prions le Secrétariat de la Convention, avec le Forum des Jeunes :

- d'organiser prochainement une rencontre des jeunes en parallèle aux fins de décliner la présente Déclaration en Plan d'action concret et opérationnel ;
- d'assurer le suivi des décisions de cette rencontre entre les jeunes et d'élaborer les stratégies de sensibilisation et de financement ;
- de nous accompagner dans le lancement de l'initiative mondiale « un jeune, un arbre ».

Annex V

Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration

[English only]

We, representatives of States, institutions and civil society, forming a group of political, business and civil society leaders, committed to promoting gender equality as a means of accelerating land restoration, gathered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at the Gender Caucus of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2022,

Recognizing that land provides a source of food, feed, fibre, shelter, income, and social identity and reduces vulnerability to food and water insecurity, hunger and poverty, particularly in rural areas,

Acknowledging that land remains among the most fundamental assets for most of the women and men living in developing countries, and is essential to their life, livelihoods and resilience,

Recognizing that securing women's access to and control over land and their access to finance for land-based economic activities is a central component of women's economic empowerment and women's rights, generating opportunities for economic prosperity and autonomy,

Acknowledging that the lack of secure land tenure contributes to land and forest degradation and exacerbates poverty, social instability, and conflict over land and natural resources,

Recognizing that equitable land governance and land tenure security are fundamental components to enable land degradation neutrality and land restoration efforts,

We will strengthen our shared efforts to:

1. *Promote* all necessary measures to identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (i) in the context of the fight against desertification/land degradation, and drought; and (ii) in relation to land tenure security and access to, ownership of, and control over land and natural resources, and other forms of property and inheritance, paying particular attention to the rights of older women, widows, women with disabilities, and young women;
2. *Foster* measures to ensure the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women at all levels in land and natural resource governance at the regional, national and landscape levels through the inclusive, national-level coordination and promotion of women's leadership in planning and implementation activities;
3. *Strengthen and enforce* (i) legal frameworks for women's access to land and control over land, including common lands; and (ii) equal land rights, both under customary and statutory law, and *continue* efforts on advocacy for women's land rights;
4. *Facilitate* access to technology, services and resources for women and groups in vulnerable situations to promote their effective participation in land restoration efforts, including through gender-transformative land-use planning and management that addresses the root causes of gender inequality;
5. *Actively work* to close the gender gap to move towards evidence-based interventions and responses by collecting, analyzing and disseminating data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, race/ethnicity, class, livelihood source, migrant status and other relevant factors to support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of land-related interventions and policies;

6. *Appeal to* development agencies, multilateral development banks, national banks and other financial institutions and mechanisms to lift structural barriers and increase funding that specifically targets women's rights organizations and movements, women entrepreneurs, women's cooperatives, enterprises led by women's and Indigenous groups, and civil society organizations that design and implement programmes contributing to desertification/land degradation and drought initiatives;

7. *Commit to* working towards the inclusion of gender equality criteria in the development – and granting – of finance for sustainable land management, land restoration, drought preparedness and drought resilience at the regional, national, subnational and local levels;

8. *Call upon* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to incorporate these commitments into their deliberations around the gendered aspects of desertification/land degradation and drought and accordingly into their policy decisions.

Annex VI

Report from the Gender Caucus

[English only]

Summary

Background:

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Gender Caucus held three sessions at the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) in Côte d'Ivoire. The high-level event took place on 9 May and was hosted by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Dominique Ouattara. Two other sessions, which focused on (1) the Gender Caucus structure and future priorities; and (2) sharing promising practices and local solutions, were held, co-chaired by Canada (Head of Delegation, Mr. Hong-Won Yu) and Côte D'Ivoire (Minister of Women, Family and Children, Ms. Nassénéba Touré), respectively. The Caucus aimed at providing a space to enhance knowledge, including by providing new evidence on issues affecting women in the context of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), among policymakers attending COP 15, civil society, international development actors and all other participants. The Caucus discussed the emerging issues of gender equality, specifically with regard to DLDD, and made some policy recommendations for sustainable finance for women in tackling DLDD.

More than 690 participants (approx. 60 per cent women), including country Party delegates and representatives of international agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media and youth organizations, were present at Gender Caucus events. Several high-level officials, including the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the First Lady and Minister of Women, Family and Children of Côte d'Ivoire and the First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, participated the high-level event.

Session 1: Gender Caucus High-Level Event: In Pursuit of Gender Equality for Strong Land Stewardship

This session featured two high-level panels together with opening session of the Gender Caucus. Various policymakers and experts in the field of gender equality and land-related issues shared their statements and experiences. At the opening of the Gender Caucus, **Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of UNCCD**, welcomed all the participants and high-level officials to the event and expressed his gratitude to the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for organizing COP 15 in Abidjan under the theme of "Land, Life and Legacy". Highlighting the significance of gender equality and women's empowerment (e.g. voice and agency) in restoring land and making progress in combating DLDD, he called for the building of solidarity among the other Rio conventions – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – and collective action in promoting girls' education; sustainable technology and financial investments targeting women; and the facilitation of women's rights to land to ensure gender equality.

Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly, highlighted the gender disparity and disproportionate effects of DLDD on women and girls around the world and called on all governments, United Nations entities, civil society, development partners and the private sector to consider gender equality at the heart of the discussion to ensure the restoration of land and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, **Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations**, underlined the importance of the Gender Caucus, which provided a valuable space for discussion on gender equality and for setting strategies for the future of land restoration that help to promote agricultural production, food security and nutrition. She further noted that tackling

discrimination in the utilization of land, land ownership and access to taxes/tax benefits is critical to ensure gender equality.

Ms. Denise Nyakéru Tshisekedi, First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, called on all policymakers and planners to consider the impacts of excluding women and girls from accessing land and land ownership and to make investments in technology transfer to women. Acknowledging the participation of high-level officials, country Parties, CSOs, youth and the media in the Gender Caucus, **Ms. Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire**, explained that the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration (see <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/abidjan-declaration-achieving-gender-equality-successful-land-restoration> for more information) would identify the proper path for solutions in addressing challenges. She recommended that the COP should increase women's participation and strengthen their capabilities through various initiatives, including in the area of agriculture through land security, microcredits and rural banks.

Ms. Lorena Aguilar, Lead Author of "Study on the Differentiated Impacts of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought on Women and Men", Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica, presented the findings of a study commissioned by UNCCD on the differentiated impacts of DLDD. She identified six structural nodes affecting DLDD: control of natural resources and land, access to markets, financing, patriarchal society, the sexual division of labour, and institutional discrimination. She outlined the gender dimensions in DLDD, land governance and land tenure, and the sizeable gaps in land ownership between men and women. Finally, she observed that women are not inherently vulnerable, but rather are made vulnerable by society on various fronts.

A high-level dialogue was convened on showcasing gender-responsive policy initiatives in various countries. **Mr. Shahab Uddin**, Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh, **Ms. Nassénéba Touré**, Minister of Women, Family and Children, Côte d'Ivoire, **Mr. Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, Germany, **Mr. Malcolm Stufkens**, Vice-Minister of Environment for Honduras, **Ms. Makhotso Magdeline Soty**, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, and **Ms. Vicky Ford**, Minister for Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, made statements describing their experiences. The panel highlighted institutional arrangements and women's leadership roles in addressing DLDD. It also suggested developing a well-resourced gender action plan and applying a gender budget at national level for the promotion of gender equality. It is crucial to have extensive and sustained support schemes that focus on reach, benefits and empowerment of women across the board. Ensuring women's food sovereignty, access to information and capacity development, and investing in women, youth and girls is paramount in promoting women's voice and agency. More importantly, it is crucial to (i) recognize women as active agents of change with traditional skills and knowledge; (ii) incentivize capacity-building and investment for women and girls to live productive lives, particularly in rural areas; and (iii) build partnership with women's groups.

The second panel, entitled "Supporting countries to accelerate efforts in pursuit of gender equality in the context of desertification, land degradation and drought", was held with high-level officials from United Nations agencies, among other entities. **Ms. Susan Gardner from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (on behalf of Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP)**, **Ms. Usha Rao-Monari, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme**, **Ms. Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development**, **Ms. Amel Hamza, Acting Director for Gender, Women and Civil Society, African Development Bank** and **Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility** delivered their statements in a panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Oulimata Sarr**, Regional Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in West and Central Africa (on behalf of the UN Women Executive Director). The discussion emphasized the interlinkages between rights, representation and resources in the context of climate change and DLDD. The key issues are related to regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks, development and implementation, gender- and sex-disaggregated data for analysis, the building of capacity and boosting leadership of marginalized groups, financing targeted at women/girls, ensuring of access to

information, infrastructure (land, water, energy) and technology. The discussion also called for breaking down silos and working on political, economic and social dimensions and gender equality, which helps to achieve the SDGs. It also recommended affirmative financial action, 50 per cent representation of women, quotas for women, addressing unconscious bias and installing more women negotiators in desertification and climate change negotiations. It is crucial to unlock the potential of women in restoring land.

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland and UNCCD Ambassador**, thanked all member states, delegates, CSOs, international organizations, United Nations entities, media and all participants and reiterated that participants should consider the principle that “women’s rights are human rights”, recalling the commitments on women and environment in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. She called on all Parties to “do what you promised for advancing gender equality.”

An **exhibition on women-led solutions to address DLDD** was visited by approximately 3,000 people during COP 15. Parties to the Convention also expressed interest in signing the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration, which was launched following the event.

Session 2: UNCCD Gender Caucus: Update on Progress, Roles and the Way Forward

Session two of the Gender Caucus was focused on the structure and future priorities of the Caucus itself. It also included perspectives and recommendations from the other Rio conventions (CBD and UNFCCC) and a panel discussion on **regional perspectives on the roadmap to accelerate the Gender Action Plan (GAP)**. This session was opened with welcome remarks by **Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNCCD**. She shared the UNCCD’s commitment to the empowerment of women and advancement of gender equality in addressing DLDD and provided a briefing on a roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the GAP.

A video was shown with messages from Mr. Bob Rae, Canada’s Ambassador to the United Nations. **Mr. Hong-Won Yu, Head of the Canadian Delegation**, also noted that women and girls are rights holders and agents of change in all sectors of society, so they should be at the heart of the Convention’s priorities. He reiterated that the Gender Caucus sessions will help to outline the next steps in mainstreaming gender equality in the implementation of the GAP and in initiatives carried out within the framework of the UNCCD. The other Co-Chair, **Ms. Nassénéba Touré, Minister of Women, Family and Children from Côte d’Ivoire**, called on the Gender Caucus to fast-track the GAP and serve as a platform to raise the voices and concerns of women around the climate and land issues. She also asked Parties to fast-track the relevant action plans targeted at women, noting that women should participate in all levels of the decision-making processes. She noted that the GAP should be supported with sufficient resources to achieve the SDGs and that the focus and structure of the Gender Caucus must be clarified.

A video titled “Women protecting life, preserving land, ensuring legacy”, co-produced by the UNCCD secretariat and the International Gender Champions, was launched on this occasion. It portrays women’s close connections to the land globally and their essential role in land restoration initiatives.

Acknowledging the Gender Caucus as platform for advocacy and knowledge-sharing, **Ms. Jackie Siles of International Union for Conservation of Nature** observed a need to collaborate with ministries of women/gender on the importance of (i) women’s rights to land; and (ii) the recognition of care work undertaken by women and its value to the national economies. The other speaker, **Ms. Lorena Aguilar**, outlined the linkages between the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2022) outcomes and DLDD, noting the need to promote land tenure security, property inheritance by women and the rights of indigenous women and girls, as well as eliminate barriers to land ownership. She further highlighted the need to ensure equal and full participation of women in all decision-making processes across the sectors, strengthen the capacity of data production/management agencies and ensure the protection of environmental defenders.

Representatives of the other Rio conventions – CBD and the UNFCCC – shared the details of their institutional arrangements for addressing gender equality concerns in their respective strategic planning and work programmes. The UNFCCC presentation was made via pre-recorded video by **Ms. Fleur Newman**, where she suggested that UNCCD build coordination and collaboration among ministries of women, CSOs and gender experts and support country Parties on the intersection between gender and climate, land and biodiversity matters. Deliberate collaboration to integrate gender issues in processes/work at the regional/international level is crucial, as well as the mobilization of gender experts to support Parties to engage in gender initiatives. **Dr. Jamal Annagylyjova from CBD** stated that CBD has a Women’s Caucus, which includes Indigenous peoples and youth and has an observer status. It also has a Friends of Gender Equality Group, which includes country Parties and CSOs working on gender. The Women’s Biodiversity Network hosted the CBD Women’s Caucus and Friends of Gender Equality groups, which were co-chaired by Canada and Malawi during the last Conference of the Parties to the CBD. Dr. Annagylyjova recommended lobbying at COP 15 to formalize the role of the UNCCD Gender Caucus. **Ms. Rockaya Aidara of UNCCD** shared an update on the GAP, which was approved by Parties in 2017, and the related roadmap to accelerate its implementation, which is among the COP decisions to be considered at this COP. Also, she emphasized that gender balance in constituted bodies is important, as systematic gender balance and gender analysis is essential. UNCCD currently does not have gender focal points at the national level.

Subsequently, **Ms. Everlyne Nairesiae of the Science-Policy Interface** moderated a discussion on the draft terms of reference for the Gender Caucus. All participants acknowledged and agreed the terms of reference and called to clarify the key role and mandate of the Caucus in reference to UNCCD. Participants also indicated that the Gender Caucus should facilitate networking among women; promote their leadership at national, international and local level; discuss women’s access to technology, decent livelihoods and other benefits; ensure the representation of vulnerable people; include voices from the private sector by ensuring their engagement; establish internal social indicators to measure the performance of the Gender Caucus; identify drivers of gender discrimination and exclusion; develop operational protocols and cross-sectional and interregional collaboration; ensure the capacity development of Parties on gender issues, including gender-sensitive budgeting, gender performance tools and gender studies, etc.; and carry out data management and monitoring and evaluation.

Statements were delivered by **Mr. Khalid Cherki for Regional Implementation Annex I**, **Mr. Salih Serdar Yegül for Regional Implementation Annex IV**, and **Mr. Andrei Kuzmich, National Focal Point for Belarus**, who reiterated the commitment of the Regional Implementation Annexes to accelerate the implementation of the GAP. They welcomed the roadmap and called for a stronger Gender Caucus to support its rollout. They suggested advocating the increased participation of women in decision-making (noting that COP 14 delegations were comprised of only 21 per cent women) and recommended additional actions to maintain gender-balanced representation. They reiterated that Gender Caucus actions should focus on land ownership rights for the poor, the bridging of gender gaps, and enabling environments for women to access social and economic activities, and called for the development of national gender action plans.

Session 3: UNCCD Gender Caucus: Open Discussion on Gender in COP Decisions: Knowledge-Sharing, Promising Practices and Local Solutions

Opening remarks were provided by the co-chairs, **Dr. Namizata Binaté Fofana of the Côte d’Ivoire Ministry of Women, Family and Children**, and **Mr. Hong-Won Yu, Head of the Canadian Delegation**. They highlighted the importance of the Gender Caucus and reiterated some of the messages expressed during the two previous sessions of the COP. They expressed the importance of the four priorities of action of the GAP, which remain relevant in particular as the world is facing numerous socioeconomic challenges.

Ms. Rockaya Aidara of the UNCCD secretariat provided a recap of the recommendations gathered from Gender Caucus members. The main recommendations were to enhance

women's organizations' participation in UNCCD processes, including through the facilitation of their accreditation process; increase parity in the UNCCD constituted bodies; monitor women's participation in the UNCCD processes and regularly share such information with the COP and the Gender Caucus; invite the Gender Caucus to play an advisory role in between the COPs; foster information-sharing on an ongoing basis, in addition to meeting in person during the COP; involve members of the Caucus in strategic activities led by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism relating to gender; continue advocating for women's land rights and encourage national legal reforms related to land tenure; enhance synergies with the other Rio conventions; and develop and disseminate gender-related knowledge on the GAP's priorities for action, etc. (see appendix for details).

Highlighting the critical role and contribution of women organizations, **Ms. Fidaa Haddad of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** shared a presentation on the critical role and contribution of women's organizations in implementing the GAP at the regional, national and local levels, highlighting the experience of the WeCaN, Nurturing Community of Knowledge Practice for Women. She presented a video featuring women-led solutions to drought and land degradation from all corners of the world (see <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/wecan-community-practice/en/> for more information).

The panel discussion on the GAP priorities for action mainly focused on women's access to technologies and economic empowerment. A presentation was made by **Ms. Nicole Harari of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)** on the UNCCD/WOCAT tool for gender-responsive sustainable land management. **Ms. Dunia El Khouri from the Women's Association of Deir El Ahmar** in Lebanon then shared a presentation outlining how that organization addresses DLDD and women's economic empowerment in the Lebanese context. Finally, **Mr. Ousmane Dambadji of the WASH Journalists Network** showed a short video and explained how his organization covers the impacts of climate change and land degradation on women in the Niger, the Sahel and other parts of Africa. A lively discussion was held with questions for participants on these three presentations.

Participants expressed satisfaction to see the close link between DLDD and women's economic empowerment addressed at the event. They requested the secretariat to continue intensifying its work on these aspects, including through data collection and projects such as the one implemented with WOCAT. They commended the examples from Lebanon and the Niger, which show the power of grassroots organizations when they are structured and work towards a common goal. The experts and participants requested the secretariat to continue to share these examples and establish a communication mechanism for the Gender Caucus that would allow the sharing of information and best practices in a timely manner.

In closing the session, the Co-Chairs expressed their satisfaction with the great results achieved in advancing gender equality within the Convention mechanisms and various areas of work. They commended the secretariat for producing valuable knowledge and tools to help planners and policymakers better understand and address the challenges faced by women in the context of DLDD. They also commended the numerous Parties, CSOs, Rio conventions, United Nations entities and partners who attended the three sessions of the Gender Caucus and contributed to making them a success. They called on all stakeholders' stronger engagement at all levels of decision-making.

The full text of the report is made available on the UNCCD website <www.unccd.int>.

Appendix

Recommendations from the Gender Caucus to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session

Dozens of Parties attended the Gender Caucus sessions, including Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Türkiye, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia. In addition, numerous civil society organizations (CSOs)⁴ and observers took part in the discussions, as well as international organizations including the African Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies and the two other Rio conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Several recommendations were formulated during the Gender Caucus sessions by global leaders, ministers, CSOs, women farmers and entrepreneurs, and desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and gender experts. These recommendations include:

- Enhance women organizations' participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) processes, including through the facilitation of their accreditation process;
- Increase parity in the UNCCD constituted bodies;
- Monitor women's participation in the UNCCD processes and regularly share such information with the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and the Gender Caucus;
- Involve media and grassroots organizations in communications, knowledge and awareness-raising activities at the local and national level;
- Invite the Gender Caucus to play an advisory role in between the COPs and foster information-sharing on an ongoing basis in addition to meeting in person during the COP. This could be facilitated by the secretariat via a mailing list including Parties, accredited CSOs and observers;
- Involve members of the Gender Caucus in strategic activities led by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism relating to gender;
- Continue advocating for women's land rights and encourage national legal reforms related to land tenure;
- Enhance synergies with the other Rio conventions;
- Develop and disseminate gender related knowledge on the Gender Action Plan's four priorities for action.

These recommendations will be shared with Parties for their consideration.

⁴ Participating CSOs included Action for Sahel Development, Femmes, Pouvoir et Développement, Global Green Growth Institute, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Landesa, VTV Forest and World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies.

Annex VII

Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session

[English only]

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(15)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/2	Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/3	Report on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/4	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/5	Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/6- ICCD/CRIC(20)/2	Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2022–2025) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2022–2023). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/7	Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/8	Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended at 31 December 2019, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/9	Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended at 31 December 2020, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/10	Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2020–2021. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/10/Corr.1	Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2020–2021. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(15)/11	Report of the Evaluation Office. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/12	Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/13	Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/14	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/14/Add.1	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat. Addendum
ICCD/COP(15)/15	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(15)/16	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/17	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/18	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. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/19	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land Tenure. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/20	Final report of the intergovernmental working group on effective policy implementation measures for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Report by the intergovernmental working group
ICCD/COP(15)/21	Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/22/Rev.1	Credentials of delegations. Final report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(15)/INF.1	Information for participants. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/INF.2	Note on the high-level opening ceremony of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/CRP.1/Rev.1	Options and implications of the scheduling of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(15)/CRP.2	Elements of the UNCCD Voluntary Policy Guidelines for Sand and Dust Storms Source Management

Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its eighteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(20)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/6-ICCD/CRIC(20)/2	Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2022–2025) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2022–2023). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/3	Report on the performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2020–2021). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/4	Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought
ICCD/CRIC(20)/5	Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(20)/6	Development and promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/7	Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7- ICCD/CRIC(20)/8	Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/9	Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/10	Draft decisions for consideration at the twentieth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(20)/INF.1	Guidelines for the technical review of national reports. Note by the secretariat

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/2	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues, under objective 1 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021. Report by the Executive Secretary
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, under objective 2 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021. Report by the Executive Secretary
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies. Report by the Executive Secretary
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5	Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6	Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2022–2023). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7- ICCD/CRIC(20)/8	Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8	Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat