

Decision 11/COP.15

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

The Conference of the Parties,

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Endorses* the guidelines for the technical review of national reports contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/INF.1;

2. *Requests* that the secretariat arrange future sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to be organized to maximize the participation of the science and technology correspondents in the regional meetings and the work of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention within the time frame in which the science and technology correspondents are present;

3. *Urges* Parties to:

(a) Use the spatial tools provided in the performance review and assessment of implementation system platform to delineate hotspots of land degradation and brightspots of land improvement, as well as the location and extent of their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation actions, thereby ensuring that they are quantifiable, spatially explicit and time-bound, in line with levels of national ambition;

(b) Share national data through the performance review and assessment of implementation system platform with as few restrictions as possible on its use in order to maximize the potential of reported data to inform decision-making on land;

(c) Engage in the technical review of national reports undertaken prior to the submission of national reports in order to ensure that comparable, robust and credible data will be submitted through the upgraded performance review and assessment of implementation system platform to the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Encourages* Parties to use their own national data for tracking progress in the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Support Parties in reviewing and refining their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and in delineating their location and extent in order to ensure that they are quantifiable, spatially explicit and time-bound, in line with levels of national ambition;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Methodological updates for strategic objectives 1 to 5:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) International and domestic private resources;

(b) Technology transfer; and

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

11. *Encourages Parties to:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5th plenary meeting

19 May 2022