

Decision 19/COP.15

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

The Conference of the Parties,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat, after consulting with those intergovernmental scientific bodies and panels cooperating with the Science-Policy Interface, to develop a gender policy and implementation plan for the Science-Policy Interface whereby gender is mainstreamed and gender parity is progressively achieved;
2. *Also requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat to revise the Science-Policy Interface terms of reference and selection criteria to be consistent with the gender policy and implementation plan described in paragraph 1 above;
3. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue fostering partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders and invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, with a view to strengthening collaboration;
4. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and current and past Science-Policy Interface members to continue to increase awareness of the work of the Science-Policy Interface;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to promote published and new Science-Policy Interface technical reports and science-policy briefs through its website and to promote new reports on

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

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

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

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

9. *Decides* that (a) any scientific output prepared under the supervision of the Science-Policy Interface should undergo an international, independent review process and that any output published under the name of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification should be reviewed, as of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology prior to publication; (b) the technical report prepared by the Science-Policy Interface (i) should be submitted to Parties for comments to be considered by the Science-Policy Interface prior to publication; but (ii) should not be negotiated;

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

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to (a) continue the development of the Drought Toolbox, the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and other knowledge tools, in collaboration with partners, in order to ensure synergies and effectiveness of these knowledge tools in addressing the needs of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders; and (b) conduct an assessment of the use and effectiveness of the tools and, based on the results, where possible explore opportunities to improve their efficacy;

12. *Further requests* the secretariat to continue developing joint actions with the secretariats of other Rio conventions and relevant institutions and stakeholders to ensure that the multiple co-benefits achieved by projects related to sustainable land management approaches and technologies are taken into consideration;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022