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## **Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

### **Twenty-first session**

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 13–17 November 2023

Agenda item 7

**Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender**

## **Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: land tenure and gender**

### **Land tenure**

1. All Parties reaffirmed the central role of land tenure security and the principles and practices of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in combating desertification, land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) as well as in the realization of the spatially explicit, land-based targets of the Rio conventions.
2. All Parties welcomed the Technical Guide on Integrating the VGGT into LDN and land restoration initiatives and encouraged enhanced partnerships to foster: (1) awareness-raising and related capacity-building; (2) strengthening of multi-stakeholder platforms; (3) gender mainstreaming; (4) supporting women's financial empowerment; (5) financing investments in integration efforts; and (6) social and environmental safeguards and grievance redress mechanisms.
3. Some Parties suggested that land tenure should be addressed in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2.0 process, taking into account the Technical Guide on Integrating the VGGT into LDN and making LDN targets more tenure-sensitive.
4. Several Parties recommended adopting do-no-harm and gender-responsive approaches, which safeguard legitimate tenure rights (whether individual, collective, formally documented or not), taking into account the needs and aspirations of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.
5. A number of Parties recommended that the issue of land tenure be addressed in an inclusive and inter-generational manner, taking into account the diversity of ecosystems, and that all knowledge, information, and awareness-raising products should be widely disseminated and made publicly available. Some Parties suggested that the secretariat should consider gathering the most relevant documents in a Land Tenure Toolbox.
6. Some Parties highlighted the useful activities of civil society organizations and proposed to continue to make use of their input and expertise to enhance the implementation of the Convention. Some Parties encouraged other Parties and the secretariat to continue to make use of the contributions and expertise of civil society organizations in their decision-making and guidance.



## Gender

7. Parties commended the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat and the Global Mechanism for their efforts to promote gender equality in the implementation of the Convention.
8. Many Parties highlighted the positive role of women and girls in sustainable land management and land restoration, thereby contributing to the fight against desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD).
9. Many Parties reaffirmed that women and girls are key environmental stewards but face significant barriers, including lack of equal land tenure, unequal access to resources, information, technologies and financial services, and unequal participation in decision-making.
10. Many Parties called for the promotion of gender-responsive and gender-transformative measures to combat DLDD and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national contexts.
11. Some Parties emphasized that intersectionality should be considered in the planning, design and implementation of policies and programmes to address all forms of discrimination, including, but not limited to, age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and nationality.
12. Many Parties called for the further promotion of the use and ownership of land by women, especially rural and Indigenous women, and for the improvement of equal access to land and land tenure security.
13. Many Parties emphasized the need to improve the situation of rural and Indigenous women, particularly in terms of economic empowerment, recalling the second priority area of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan.
14. A number of Parties recommended that the rights of all stakeholders, including women, youth and Indigenous peoples, must be respected throughout the development and implementation of land use policies, programmes and plans and recommended the promotion of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and to this end to strengthen the collaboration with the private sector and civil society.
15. One Party recommended a more holistic approach to implementing the UNCCD Gender Action Plan Roadmap, using a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.
16. Several Parties reiterated the importance of promoting activities that boost synergies towards gender mainstreaming between the Rio conventions and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
17. Several Parties welcomed the first reporting on sex-disaggregated exposure to land degradation and drought, but found that the current indicators do not yet fully reflect the actual differences in how men and women are affected by these phenomena.
18. Several Parties mentioned the urgent need to tackle the gender data gap and called for the improvement of the reporting process through additional data collection and the assessment of new indicators.
19. A number of Parties suggested compiling such information on a regular basis and making it publicly available to Parties and suggested that the secretariat provide more information on how regular progress reports are evaluated and inform further actions to promote gender equality across the Convention.
20. Several Parties recommended the continuation of the Gender Caucus, ensuring its greater visibility on the agendas of forthcoming sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), and that it should remain open and inclusive and ensure meaningful civil society engagement.
21. Several Parties stated that all the agenda items on thematic topics should be presented separately on the agendas of future sessions of the CRIC, for the sake of clarity.

22. A few Parties recommended that the secretariat share information with Parties on the UNCCD's collaboration with relevant international organizations and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies on gender-disaggregated data.
23. Several Parties recommended that financial institutions and mechanisms assess and, where necessary, adjust the accessibility of their funding programmes vis-à-vis women's organizations that support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
24. Some Parties noted that outreach and awareness-raising activities should include men and boys as equal agents and beneficiaries of change.
25. Civil society organizations and some Parties highlighted the need for a more gender-responsive Science-Policy Interface.
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