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**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

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

**Twenty-second session**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 3–11 December 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

**Draft decisions for consideration at the twenty-second session  
of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the  
Convention**

**Note by the secretariat\***

**Addendum**

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



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## 1. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

*Also recalling* [decision 9/COP.15](#),

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024, as published on their website<sup>1</sup> and referred to in document [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/4](#);
2. *Welcomes* the increased focus on land-based actions implemented through the Global Environment Facility's integrated programs and that the Land Degradation Focal Area strategy includes an emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth and *calls on* the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming;
3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;
4. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in meeting their reporting obligations in a timely manner;
5. *Notes* the Global Environment Facility's encouragement to project implementing and executing agencies to use the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database as appropriate, especially in projects applying sustainable land management practices, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to support knowledge-sharing and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;
6. *Notes with appreciation* the Global Environment Facility's support for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and *requests* continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;
7. *Notes* also the Global Environment Facility's upstream engagement with key partners, including the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative and *requests* continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;
8. *Takes note* of the Global Environment Facility's efforts to align the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility with the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and goals and the enhanced attention to drought mitigation and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts in this regard to enable countries to address their desertification/land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands;
9. *Notes* that the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, continues to give countries the opportunity to implement their national drought plans and other drought-related policies and *requests* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to continue to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially

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<sup>1</sup> The GEF report to UNCCD COP 16 can be consulted at the following link:  
<https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-unccd-cop16>.

strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems, and capacity-building;

10. *Takes note* that Global Environment Facility proposes to continue with the integrated approach of funding drought-related projects and programmes through various Global Environment Facility funding windows and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought through enhanced programming options in the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

11. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies (i) among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals; as well as with (ii) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by encouraging collaboration amongst the national focal points to the Global Environment Facility, as well as the different Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;

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

## 2. Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 19 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decisions [3/COP.8](#), [1/COP.9](#), [1/COP.10](#), [22/COP.10](#), [1/COP.11](#), [3/COP.12](#), [13/COP.12](#), [7/COP.13](#), [8/COP.13](#), [2/COP.14](#), [2/COP.15](#),

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

*Having considered* document [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/6](#) and its conclusions and recommendations,

*Acknowledging* the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate and implement targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention,

*Highlighting* the need for further collaboration among Convention institutions, including specific programmes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (such as the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative), and associated partners to increase the availability of information and opportunities for capacity development within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

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

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and other related initiatives as well as external partners, to continue to respond to capacity needs expressed by Parties;
2. *Calls on* developed country Parties, Parties in transition and other Parties able to do so to provide commensurate funding for capacity-building activities that assist Parties in the implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level;
3. *Encourages* Parties to make full use of tools developed to mitigate the impact of sand and dust storms;

*General support to targeted capacity-building*

4. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism and the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative, to:
  - (a) Maintain an annual work programme for capacity development activities undertaken by Convention institutions, the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and other related initiatives, as well as by external partners for monitoring purposes and to assess needs for additional resources;
  - (b) Make public all efforts undertaken in capacity-building by Convention institutions, the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and other related initiatives throughout the biennium to ensure easy access for Parties and civil society to opportunities, training tools, and products relating to capacity-building;
  - (c) Reconceptualize and redesign the Capacity Building Marketplace to become a vehicle to showcase and offer those products and tools;
  - (d) Coordinate and help harmonize, where possible, capacity-building activities implemented by Convention institutions, the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and other Rio conventions to enable expansion in synergies with project and/or programme implementation at all levels;

(e) Expand, within available resources and in all United Nations languages, online training and e-learning opportunities for Parties, while continuing with in-person capacity-building, where needed;

(f) Pursue efforts directed at an innovation-driven United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, making full use of technological advances such as artificial intelligence;

*Targeted capacity-building to support implementation*

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Expand activities within available resources to support the gender-responsive and transformative implementation of the Convention at country level and at the level of Convention institutions, while considering for the latter staffing needs, possible changes in assigned functions of staff, and the development of protocols implemented across the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(b) Continue to provide on-demand media training activities for journalists and expand these to other regions and subregions with due regard to the specific needs of Regional Implementation Annexes and other United Nations interest groups;

(c) Increase efforts in collaboration with the Global Mechanism and the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative to involve external partners in capacity development for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and continue to engage on capacity-building initiatives that include the other two Rio conventions;

(d) Develop, subject to the availability of funding, an early and mid-career fellowship programme targeted at youth and especially women from the most vulnerable communities;

(e) Continue cooperation with Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders on capacity-building to address the impact of sand and dust storms;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat, together with data providers, financial and technical partners and the Earth observation community, including the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship initiative, to:

(a) Provide capacity development support to Parties to undertake participatory mapping of degraded land, voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets and associated interventions, as well as quantitative assessments of drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability;

(b) Facilitate blended learning for national reporting that includes both e-learning training and face-to face capacity development activities at regional or subregional level;

(c) Facilitate South–South cooperation to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned related to national reporting;

(d) Provide technical and financial assistance to maximize the use of national data for reporting;

(e) Make available guidelines to standardize mapping approaches for the relevant geospatial indicators;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at the next session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.