



Conference of the Parties

Sixteenth session

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2–13 December 2024

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Programme and budget

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By [decision 10/COP.15](#), the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its sixteenth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules. This document responds to that request by providing an overview of the income and expenditure of all Convention trust funds for the triennium 2022–2024, as at 31 July 2024.

In line with the United Nations approach to results-based management, performance reporting is used to determine the actual progress made towards achieving expected accomplishments in comparison with the commitments set out in the approved programme budget. Such performance reporting covers all activities in the programme budget. Accordingly, Parties may wish to review the financial performance of the Convention trust funds in view of the degree of implementation of the workplan of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism. Therefore, this document should be read in conjunction with document [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/3](#), which presents the performance of the Convention bodies and institutions with the results achieved.



Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–4	3
A. Mandate	1	3
B. Scope of the note	2–4	3
II. Income and expenditure report.....	5–16	3
A. Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	5–10	3
B. Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	11	6
C. Trust Funds for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	12–13	6
D. Trust Fund for Convention Events Organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (the Bonn Fund)	14–15	7
E. Special Account for Programme Support Costs	16	7
III. Conclusions and recommendations	17	8
Annex		
Projects and events funded from the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities (secretariat and the Global Mechanism) in the triennium 2022-2024		9

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the COP shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements. By [decision 10/COP.15](#), the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its sixteenth session (COP 16) on the status of the trust funds established under its financial rules, as well as on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods (before 1 January 2022), received during the triennium 2022–2024 as at 31 July 2024.

B. Scope of the note

2. This document provides an overview of the income and expenditure of all Convention trust funds for the triennium 2022–2024, as at 31 July 2024.

3. The secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) plan, carry out and monitor progress in their work by using four-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes. These workplans and work programmes follow a results-based management (RBM) approach.

4. At the end of each biennium, or in this case, triennium, the secretariat and the GM provide information on their performance in implementing the workplan and programme. In line with the United Nations approach to RBM, performance reporting is used to determine the actual progress made towards achieving the objectives of the workplan in comparison with the commitments set out in the approved programme budget. Such performance reporting covers all activities in the programme budget. This document presents the performance of the Convention trust funds and should therefore be read in conjunction with the detailed report on the performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2022–2024).¹

II. Income and expenditure report

A. Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

5. The COP, by its [decision 10/COP.15](#), approved a core budget of EUR 24.6 million for the triennium 2022–2024 (see table 1). Funding for the approved budget comes from indicative contributions by all Parties and the Host Government.

¹ [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/3](#).

Table 1
Programme budget for the triennium 2022–2024
(euros)

	2022	2023	2024	2022–2024
Direct costs for programme activities	7 270 311	7 270 311	7 270 311	21 810 933
Programme support costs	945 141	945 140	945 140	2 835 421
Adjustment to working capital reserves	0	0		0
Total approved budget	8 215 452	8 215 451	8 215 451	24 646 354
Contributions from the Host Government	511 292	511 292	511 292	1 533 876
Indicative contributions from all Parties	7 582 749	7 704 159	7 704 159	22 991 067
Unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods (up to)	121 411			121 411
Total income	8 215 452	8 215 451	8 215 451	24 646 354

6. The COP, by its same decision, also authorized the Executive Secretary to use the available unspent balance or contributions from prior financial periods to: (a) set aside funds for after-service health insurance, not exceeding the amount of EUR 500,000; (b) support the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought in an amount not exceeding EUR 1,050,000; and (c) assign as partial funding for the financial needs assessment, to be conducted by the GM, an amount not exceeding EUR 150,000 from available unspent balance or contributions from prior financial periods.

7. As at 31 July 2024, the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification had received EUR 17.3 million, or 75.5 per cent of the total indicative contributions for the triennium. As this report was being prepared, the voluntary contribution from the Host Government had been received for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Table 2 indicates the actual amount of income received to date in the triennium.

Table 2
Income received for the triennium 2022–2024 as at 31 July 2024
(euros)

<i>Carry-over from 2020–2021</i>	3 515 631
Indicative contributions for 2022–2024	17 349 260
Contributions for previous years	1 535 966
Contributions from the Host Government	1 533 876
Contributions for future years received in advance	164 812
Interest and miscellaneous income	87 543
Total income received	24 187 087

8. The total amount of outstanding indicative contributions is USD 0.71 million for 2002–2007 and EUR 7.86 million for 2008–2024. Tables 3 and 4 provide details on the number of Parties and the amount outstanding by year.

Table 3
Outstanding contributions to the trust fund by year for the period 2002–2007 as at 31 July 2024

(United States dollars)

	<i>Number of Parties</i>	<i>Outstanding amount</i>
Outstanding since 1 January of:		
2002	1	80
2003	2	94
2004	4	249
2005	4	320
2006	6	267 260
2007	18	438 902
Total		706 905

Table 4
Outstanding contributions to the trust fund by year for the period 2008–2024 as at 31 July 2024

(euros)

	<i>Number of Parties</i>	<i>Outstanding amount</i>
Outstanding since 1 January of:		
2008–2009	20	571 602
2010–2011	23	68 932
2012–2013	30	198 433
2014–2015	34	161 665
2016–2017	38	217 017
2018–2019	48	563 110
2020–2021	61	439 752
2022–2024	143	5 641 807
Total		7 862 318

9. Parties may recall that the COP authorized the Executive Secretary to enter into arrangements with any Party whose agreed outstanding contributions remain unpaid for two or more years to mutually agree on a ‘schedule of payments’ for that Party to pay all unpaid agreed contributions within six years, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party concerned, and pay future contributions by the due date.² The secretariat sent reminders to all Parties with outstanding contributions. As at 31 July 2024, the secretariat had not been contacted by any Party to make these arrangements for outstanding contributions of two or more years. Nevertheless, in the course of the triennium 2022–2024, the secretariat received EUR 1.54 million in core contributions from previous bienniums.

10. The secretariat will continue to remind Parties of their outstanding contributions and post the monthly status of indicative contributions on its website.³

² See, for example, [decision 10/COP.15](#).

³ See: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat>.

B. Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

11. As at 31 July 2024, the Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification had received EUR 0.63 million in income, including carry-over from prior periods, which was used to fund participants and designated science and technology correspondents from eligible affected countries. Information on the income and expenditure of this trust fund is given in table 5.

Table 5
Income and expenditure of the Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as at 31 July 2024
(euros)

<i>Income</i>	
Carry-over from 2020–2021	132 044
Voluntary contributions received for 2022–2024	489 474
Interest and miscellaneous income	9 481
Total income	630 999
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Miscellaneous expenditures	313 343
Programme support costs	41 593
Total expenditure	354 936
Balance of funds	276 063

C. Trust Funds for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

12. Table 6 shows income and expenditure under Trust Funds for Voluntary Financing of Activities for the secretariat and the GM as at 31 July 2024.

Table 6
Income and expenditure of the respective Trust Funds for Voluntary Financing of Activities for the secretariat and the Global Mechanism as at 31 July 2024
(euros)

	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Global Mechanism</i>
<i>Income</i>		
Carry-over from 2020–2021	15 676 364	5 566 487
Voluntary contributions received in 2022–2024	35 538 354	7 154 146
Interest and miscellaneous income	1 435 442	302 474
Total income	52 650 160	13 023 107
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Disbursements	20 691 751	7 539 368
Programme support costs	2 922 761	742 714

	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Global Mechanism</i>
Total expenditure	23 614 512	8 282 082
Balance of funds	29 035 647	4 741 025

13. As at 31 July 2024, the secretariat had received EUR 35.54 million and the GM EUR 7.15 million.

D. Trust Fund for Convention Events Organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (the Bonn Fund)

14. The Government of Germany, Host Government to the secretariat, supports Convention-related activities and events with an annual supplementary contribution amounting to EUR 511,292. This contribution, known as the Bonn Fund, is transferred to the secretariat in one instalment per year. A total contribution of EUR 1 533 876 has been received for the triennium 2022–2024, in addition to the carry-over balance and miscellaneous income.

15. The Bonn Fund is utilized according to a cost plan proposed by the secretariat and accepted by the Government of Germany. As at 31 July 2024, EUR 1 934 746, also including unspent balances from previous years, had been used according to the cost plans agreed for 2022–2024. An overview of this utilization is presented in table 7.

Table 7

Income and expenditure of the Bonn Fund as at 31 July 2024 (euros)

<i>Income</i>	
Carry-over from 2020–2021	897 064
Voluntary contributions received for 2022–2024	1 533 876
Interest and miscellaneous income	65 732
Total income	2 496 672
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Disbursements	1 707 711
Programme support costs	227 036
Total expenditure	1 934 746
Balance of funds	561 926

E. Special Account for Programme Support Costs

16. In accordance with the standard practice of the United Nations, a rate of 13 per cent is charged to all trust funds for programme support services. These support services are mostly used to cover the costs of administrative support staff in Bonn and secretariat staff at the UNCCD Liaison Office in New York, United States of America. Table 8 shows the status of the Special Account for Programme Support Costs.

Table 8

Income and expenditure of the Special Account for Programme Support Costs as at 31 July 2024

(euros)

<i>Income</i>	
Carry-over from 2020–2021	270 996
Programme support costs income in 2022–2024	6 148 211
Interest and miscellaneous income	69 957
Total income	6 489 163
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Disbursements	5 320 236
Total expenditure	5 320 236
Balance of funds	1 168 928

III. Conclusions and recommendations

17. The COP may wish to take note of the information presented in this document and decide on actions that may need to be included in the decision on the programme budget.

Annex

Projects and events funded from the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities (secretariat and the Global Mechanism) in the triennium 2022–2024

<i>Project</i>	<i>Income (Euros)</i>	<i>Expenditure (Euros)</i>	<i>Balance (Euros)</i>
Global Support Programme III/national reporting	784,560	886,977	(102,417)
Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought	55,386	55,386	0
Enhancement of the Drought Toolbox	121,420	242,840	(121,420)
International Drought Resilience Alliance	5,070,000	1,411,810	3,658,190
Integrating gender equality into United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) implementation	2,529,438	1,664,963	864,475
Changwon Initiative 2022, 2023 and 2024	4,039,853	910,004	3,129,849
Civil society organizations: Civil Society Organization Panel and activities	355,612	127,676	227,936
Group of 20 Global Land Initiative	19,614,000	10,717,022	8,896,978
Land for Life Award programme	0	240,772	(240,772)
Land degradation neutrality activities	747,183	0	747,183
Land degradation neutrality activities	200,000	315,716	(115,716)
Peace Forest Initiative 2021–2025	1,663,247	1,518,210	145,037
UNCCD advocacy in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings and events	326,900	326,900	0
Project Preparation Partnership for Transformative Land-based Solutions 2021–2026	1,321,600	1,242,344	79,256
Support to the Great Green Wall Initiative and other activities	336,240	275,239	61,001
Strengthening the coordination and implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative	530,000	1,301,228	(771,228)
Initiative for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa (3S Initiative)	30,000	0	30,000
Combating Post Harvest Losses project in Nigeria	21,482	21,482	0
Northeast Asia subregional activities, Global Land Outlook, South–South cooperation for the Great Green Wall Initiative	320,900	296,010	24,891
Support to the regional liaison office in Rabat, Morocco	98,473	332,197	(233,724)
Programme Officer to the Global Mechanism	251,957	181,897	70,060
Total	38,418,252	22,068,675	16,349,577

*: There was a balance carried forward from the previous years' contributions.