

Decision 25/COP.16

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender

The Conference of Parties,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.12, 9/COP.10, 9/COP.11, 30/COP.13, 24/COP.14 and 24/COP.15,

Reaffirming that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly those affected by poverty and vulnerable situations, including Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and to the achievement of the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality and Sustainable Development Goal targets 5.5 and 5.a,

Also reaffirming that securing women's tenure rights and women's access to and rights to land and other natural resources will be critical for the effective implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing that the active involvement of women and girls in land management is essential for addressing desertification, land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality,

Reiterating our commitment to the effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its associated Roadmap, as well as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Gender Caucus, as appropriate,

Welcoming with appreciation the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(16\)/17](#) and the conclusions contained therein,

Recalling the recommendations contained in paragraphs 185, 186 and 187 of document [ICCD/CRIC\(21\)/11](#),

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to monitor and promote full and effective gender parity across the Convention, and report on this data at every session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to promoting at least 40 per cent women in each constitutive body and the total delegates to each session of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
2. *Invites* Parties to tackle the gender data gap by collecting sex-disaggregated data, through their national statistics offices and systems, on income, poverty levels, land ownership, migration, school enrolment, prevalence of illnesses and other types of relevant data, which may provide a basis for future indicators which will reflect the actual differences in how men and women are affected by drought and land degradation;
3. *Encourages* Parties, in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, as appropriate, to pay special attention to all forms of discrimination faced by women and girls when planning, designing and implementing gender-responsive policy and programming related to desertification, land degradation and drought, and to submit, on a voluntary basis, reports on the implementation of key national-level activities contained in the Roadmap;
4. *Requests* the secretariat and relevant bodies of the Convention, within their respective mandates, and in collaboration with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, as appropriate, and subject to availability of funding, to develop effective and meaningful gender-specific indicators for (i) the future Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, following the current 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification; and (ii) the monitoring and reporting process associated with the next Strategic Framework in order to close the gender data gap in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and work towards a better assessment of the differentiated impact of desertification, land degradation and drought on men, women, boys and girls;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in consultation with potential contributors and partners, to identify and apply, according to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, means of further facilitating the capacity-building and effective participation of women delegates, as appropriate, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society organizations, including through voluntary earmarked funds under the Special Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for the purpose of increasing the number of women delegates attending and effectively participating in the meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and *invites* Parties to support such initiatives;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating with the other Rio conventions and relevant conventions and international organizations, such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its Roadmap, as well as on critical issues for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, including, but not limited to, access to resources, capacity-building and technologies for sustainable land management and women's economic empowerment;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating with the other Rio conventions and relevant conventions and international organizations, subject to the availability of resources, on advocacy for the recognition and expansion of women's land rights, as appropriate, in particular for Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, building on the high-level advocacy and global visibility achieved by the "Her Land. Her Rights." campaign, as well as the collaborative momentum generated by recent workshops focused on leveraging synergies between the Rio conventions and other key actors on women's land rights;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat to facilitate the convening of the Gender Caucus as part of the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on an annual basis, as well as informal sessions, as a vehicle for identifying bottlenecks in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and for sharing best practices in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and encouraging the participation and engagement of women and girls from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth and civil society organizations;

9. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to continue to establish, strengthen and evaluate partnerships to design flagship initiatives and projects that promote and integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in the establishment of land tenure, addressing of desertification, land degradation and drought, and achievement of land degradation neutrality;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the progress made in implementing this decision to the Conference of Parties at its seventeenth session.

*9th plenary meeting
14 December 2024*