

Draft decision

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.16,

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

Noting with concern the fact that the rate at which healthy and productive land continues to degrade will prevent country Parties from achieving SDG 15 by 2030,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2024 to 15 April 2026, as published on their website¹ and referred to in document ICCD/CRIC(24)/INF.1;
2. *Welcomes* the high rate of utilization of the available funding for the Land Degradation Focal Area in the GEF-8 cycle and the integrated programming of resources of other GEF trust fund windows through the Global Environment Facility's integrated programs providing opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming;
3. *Welcomes* the initial pledges of \$3.9 billion to the Global Environment Facility for its ninth replenishment cycle, and *encourages* donors to the GEF to continue contributing to the ninth replenishment of the GEF.
4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen 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;
5. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility and *invites* its implementing agencies to support Parties in meeting their reporting obligations in a timely manner; including support for enhancing interoperability among geospatial platforms and tools that countries may wish to utilize for reporting, monitoring and assessment purposes;
6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue enhancing knowledge-sharing, capacity building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;
7. *Notes with appreciation* the Global Environment Facility's support for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative and *invites* continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;
8. *Welcomes* the Global Environment Facility's enhanced attention to drought mitigation and adaptation in its programming strategies, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen its efforts in this regard to enable countries to address their desertification, land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management, integrated water resources management and the restoration of degraded lands;
9. *Notes* that the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy under the ninth 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

¹ The GEF report to UNCCD COP 17 can be consulted at the following link:
<https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-uncdd-cop17>.

implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems, and capacity-building;

10. *Taking note* of the Global Environment Facility's inclusion of a drought vulnerability index as an element of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), and also *noting* the new drought-related indicators in the results management framework for its ninth replenishment cycle.

11. *Welcoming* the new Drylands and Drought Management Integrated Program included in the Programming Directions for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and *encouraging* the Global Environment Facility to continue with the integrated approach of funding drought-related projects and programmes through various Global Environment Facility funding windows, including through the Blended Finance Program, to support Parties in addressing the interconnected challenges of drought;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support the scale up of the LDN TSP 2.0 and ILUP by providing support to Parties currently on the waiting list and moving decisively to programmatic support linking target setting to implementation and financing with monitoring and reporting;

12. *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 Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;

13. *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 eighteenth session.