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Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028

Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document presents the proposed integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2027–2028, as well as draft updated financial rules for the Conference of the Parties. The proposed budget should be considered together with the information on financial and programme performance for the biennium 2025–2026, contained in documents ICCD/COP(17)INF.3 and ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4.

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

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I. Introduction

1. In December 2026, 30 years will have passed since the entry into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Since its initiation, the UNCCD has accumulated many important achievements. Through land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets, two-thirds of the world's countries are committed to preventing and reversing land degradation. Drought-affected countries, major organizations, and scientific partners have joined forces through the UNCCD to address drought. The recognition of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) as systemic environmental, economic, social and security challenges of global concern, and the risks they pose to ecosystems, livelihood, food and water security, economic stability and sustainable growth, in particular in fragile and conflict-affected regions, has grown, as reflected in the recent declaration of the Group of 7 countries[1] on desertification and security. The provision of scientific advice has evolved through the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), and the involvement of key stakeholders has increased through the establishment of the UNCCD Gender Caucus, followed by the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and the Caucus for Local Communities, the Business4 Land process for engaging the private sector, and the targeted strategy for involving youth. The UNCCD is a unique instrument that combines intergovernmental decision-making with access to resources for implementation through the Global Mechanism (GM).

2. Nevertheless, verified implementation globally – the amount of land under restoration, rehabilitation, and/or improved management – reaches little more than 10 per cent of the pledged area. The cost of inaction is estimated at USD 878 billion per year[2] in lost productivity, soil depletion, drought damage and carbon emissions.

3. In this context, the implementation of the UNCCD is more important than ever. Productive land generates stability and well-being, and the need to take care of land is universal. Healthy soil is fundamental for the resilience of people and societies in terms of securing food, employment and income, maintaining stability, and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters or conflicts. Land holds great potential for economic growth – every dollar invested in land restoration is estimated to generate up to eight dollars of social, economic and environmental benefits.[3]

4. For 2027–2028, the UNCCD proposes an ambitious programme and budget, leading to global collaboration and commitment to protect land and mitigate the effects of drought. Particular emphasis is placed on future-proofing the most critical functions of land, notably that of food production, and increasing the involvement of the private sector.

5. In line with rule 10 (d) of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP)[4] and decision 10/COP.16, this document presents the proposed integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2027–2028, as well as the draft updated financial rules for the COP. The proposed budget should be considered together with the information on financial and programme performance for the biennium 2025–2026 (contained in documents ICCD/COP(17)INF.3 and ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4).

II. Strategic considerations

6. The secretariat and the GM propose a programme for 2027–2028 that combines targeted action with enhanced efficiency. Priorities remain focused on the interlinked agendas of land and drought, brought forward through expanding stakeholder involvement and increased organizational effectiveness.

7. Securing soil health for the production of adequate and affordable food and for a variety of industries is a defining priority that shapes efforts for protecting and restoring land. At the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16), the COP adopted the first UNCCD decisions on agricultural lands and rangelands, and COP 17 is expected to further

[1] G7 declaration.
[2] UNCCD financial needs assessment, 2024.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Decision 1/COP.1.

advance measures and collaboration that combine ecosystem health with production efficiency and due concern for social aspects, while offering high potential for synergies among the Rio conventions. LDN remains the key tool for the implementation of the Convention, and integrated land use planning (ILUP) in refining and preparing the LDN targets will support the use of various measures within a comprehensive, coordinated framework.

8. No lives should be lost to drought in the twenty-first century, and the UNCCD is the prime tool for advancing that aim. Over recent years, UNCCD Parties have established a solid consensus on the measures needed for addressing drought under the UNCCD, with a focus on proactive work: strengthening early warning, assessing drought vulnerability and impact, and mitigating drought risk. COP 17 is expected to translate this basis into a strong decision for global cooperation on drought. That decision will be implemented through support from several partnerships that are already in place, notably the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP), the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) and the International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO).

9. Meeting the UNCCD aims for land and drought mitigation cannot be done via public funding and government actions only; other stakeholders will need to take an active role as well. For 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM are proposing measures and collaboration to strengthen private sector engagement from two perspectives: (1) making it easier for private companies to invest in protecting land and mitigating drought impact by reducing investment risks; and (2) advancing policies that prevent or reduce unsustainable approaches. The involvement of other key stakeholders, including women, youth, civil society organizations, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, will be facilitated.

10. The secretariat and the GM will continue enhancing the efficiency of institutional performance in 2027–2028, recognizing that the global economic situation is likely to hinder the availability of resources. The integrated results-based approach to the programme and budget will be used as a tool for effective UNCCD-wide planning, and for optimizing the use of resources from all sources. The expertise of each unit – ranging from science and policy to communication and implementation support – will be coordinated and combined into effective high-quality programmes and activities. Partners and collaborators within and beyond the United Nations system will be engaged for joint work in activities of shared interest. The secretariat has started using artificial intelligence (AI) in some tasks; that process will continue along with further digitalization of knowledge management and administrative processes.

III. Financial considerations

11. The 2027–2028 budget is being proposed in an extremely difficult financial context. Prior to COP 16, the UNCCD budget had been at a zero nominal growth level for over a decade, which had significantly lowered its real value. COP 16 took remedial action – the core budget was increased by 8 per cent, with an emphasis on securing funding for staff positions approved in earlier years. In addition, around EUR 1.3 million from the uncommitted balance was authorized by the COP to supplement the non-staff allocations of the core budget, which would have otherwise been inadequate to cover the necessary expenses.

12. While the COP 16 budget decision was an important step toward the funding level needed for filling all approved UNCCD staff positions during the biennium, that aim was ultimately not reached. The COP 16 calculations behind the budget allocation to staff costs were already recognized during COP 16 to be very tight vis-à-vis the actual costs, and the increase made to the United Nations salary scale for Bonn-based General Service Staff at the beginning of 2026 was an additional challenge.

13. The core budget contributions received for 2025 were at an all-time low (only 68.48 per cent of the approved budget). This was highly exceptional as the UNCCD Parties have generally been very diligent with their payments. For example, during 2013–2023, 96,82% of the contributions were received, although some came somewhat later than expected.

14. To address the cash flow problem in the context of a tight budget, the secretariat had to freeze five core budget staff positions. That resulted in expenditures that were approximately 10 per cent lower than the approved budget, but at the end of the year, the cash flow gap was still significant: EUR 1,855,547. Following consultations with the COP Bureau, the secretariat closed the gap by using EUR 955,547 from the working capital reserve and, as an exceptional measure, transferring EUR 900,000 from the programme support account to the core budget.

15. In 2026, the secretariat has intensified its exchanges with those Parties which have pending core budget payments in order to reduce the cash flow gap. The updated status of contributions is presented in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.7 that will be issued shortly prior to the COP. The secretariat has also continued saving measures to ensure that the Convention process remains functional in the event of continuous cash flow problems.

16. In conclusion, with regard to the financial considerations influencing the preparation of the 2027–2028 budget, it may be noted that:

(a) While COP 16 started to repair the deficit resulting from over a decade of zero nominal budget growth, the core budget is still not at the level that is needed for filling all approved positions;

(b) The shortfall in the payment of core budget contributions represents a major risk for the delivery of services and results that the COP has requested from the secretariat and the GM; and

(c) The UNCCD working capital reserve is at a very low level, and restoring it should be considered by the COP as an urgent priority.

IV. Building the integrated programme budget

17. The UNCCD, as a normative, policy-oriented treaty, is built around (a) intergovernmental governance through the COP; (b) a headquarters-centred secretariat that produces policy standards and guidance and facilitates monitoring and reporting; and (c) a field footprint, led by the GM, that is lighter than that of operational United Nations system entities. The credibility of the UNCCD depends on its ability to convene countries and expert communities, offer robust quality assurance for its normative guidance and policy-setting, and catalyse resources for implementation.

18. Because these functions serve all Parties rather than single donors or projects, the UNCCD needs a reliable core resource base. That core is provided by contributions from all Parties, following an indicative scale adopted by the COP. At the same time, most activities under the Convention, and any significant growth, are funded from voluntary, often earmarked, funds.

19. This UNCCD operating model indicates the following:

(a) A mix of core budget contributions and voluntary funding has become the standard for the UNCCD; earmarked voluntary funds exceed the core budget revenue, which can compromise the independence of the secretariat and the GM and increases transaction costs;

(b) Adopting an integrated budget that presents core and extrabudgetary resources against one results framework is a key tool to protect strategic coherence;

(c) Programme support costs are essential to ensuring that activities paid through voluntary contributions pay their fair share of the administrative and similar services;

(d) Cash-flow and liquidity risks from late core budget payments can be material; a predictable core budget is vital for normative/policy work that forms the basis for mobilizing and targeting voluntary contributions.

20. An integrated budget offers an "architecture" that brings clarity and transparency to the programme and budget. It combines core budget contributions, voluntary resources and programme support costs through one results framework that organizes funding by function rather than only by funding source. This is meant to assist Parties in better understanding

what is being achieved and delivered under the Convention, and how their core as well as voluntary contributions support those achievements.

21. Core contributions are the predictable and stable part of the budget, protecting functions that are necessary for the UNCCD. They ensure the delivery of the most essential tasks of the secretariat and the GM, including servicing the COP, its subsidiary bodies and the Bureaux, normative and policy guidance, science backstopping, advocacy and communications, arrangements for national reporting, accelerating access to resources for countries, and overall quality assurance. These tasks serve the UNCCD process as a whole, and their delivery should not be dependent on specific donors or partners. Effective implementation of tasks funded from the core budget provides the basis for activities funded by voluntary contributions – adequate "core heart" is a condition for other types of funding. Changes to the level of core funding are directly reflected in the ability of the secretariat and the GM to mobilize and use other resources.

22. Voluntary funding for the UNCCD activities increasingly leans on partnerships that enable and stimulate broader investments aligned with the Convention objectives, such as the Changwon Initiative, IDRA, the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative (G20 GLI), the emerging RGDRP, and support for the GM Project Preparation Partnership. These initiatives are built on the "core" priorities and aims of the UNCCD process and are led or guided by the secretariat and the GM while resting on bilateral agreements with the involved donors. The arrangements for each initiative differ; often at least some part of the funding is allocated to the secretariat and the GM. In addition to the partnership initiatives, the secretariat and the GM receive "traditional" voluntary contributions targeting specific actions in their work programme.

23. In recent years, the voluntary contributions to the secretariat and the GM have significantly exceeded their core funding: in 2024, the total amount of voluntary contributions received (as transfers to the respective accounts between 1 January and 31 December 2024) was over EUR 26,6 million, and in 2025 it was almost EUR 25,8 million; for comparison, the approved core budget for the same years was EUR 8.2 million and close to EUR 8.9 million, respectively. The voluntary contributions were used by the secretariat and the GM in line with the workplans[5] approved by the COP.

24. In terms of funding for country-level implementation, the largest flows to sectors most relevant to the UNCCD objectives come from a combination of bilateral and multilateral resources, domestic resources, and private sector contributions. These resources do not pass through the Convention structures, but their allocation is often triggered by the active involvement of the UNCCD in the allocation of such resources or guided by the Convention's normative and strategic frameworks.

25. The UNCCD programme support costs follow the United Nations standard of 13 per cent. They seek to ensure payment for the workload associated with extrabudgetary resource use.

V. Proposed budget for the Convention

26. Decision 10/COP.16 requested the secretariat to present three scenarios for the budget:

(1) A zero nominal growth scenario (EUR 17,744,748), which retains the core budget at the same nominal value as for the biennium 2025–2026, but represents a decrease of EUR 1,313,002 (-6,89%[6]) in terms of total approved budget that also includes the allocation of uncommitted balance. As staff costs have significantly increased since COP 16, notably the United Nations salary scale for Bonn-based General Service Staff, the zero nominal growth budget would result in a major reduction in the real value of the core budget. It would entail the freezing of several critical UNCCD core posts and jeopardize the continuation of effective action under the UNCCD;

[5] The workplan is contained in decision 1/COP.15 for 2024 and in decision 1/COP.16 for 2025.

[6] When compared to the approved 2025–2026 core budget, the increase is zero per cent.

(2) A zero real growth scenario (EUR 22,488,146), which comprises the same items as the zero nominal growth scenario, but incorporates the costs formerly covered through the uncommitted balance allocation and an approximately five per cent increase to all non-staff costs. This scenario assumes that all 45 currently approved staff positions are filled at the rate of the updated standard staff costs (see annex III). This scenario would increase the core budget by 18 per cent when compared to the total approved 2025–2026 budget, which also includes the allocation of the uncommitted balance.[7] It would allow the secretariat and the GM to carry out their work programme, provided that the needed voluntary contributions become available;

(3) A scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added cost (EUR 24,525,134). This third scenario is based on the zero real growth costs, while including three additional positions (a P-5 coordinator for special programmes and resource efficiency, a P-4 programme officer for AI/digital transformation, and a P-3 private sector officer). This scenario would increase the core budget by 28.69 per cent when compared to the total approved 2025–2026 budget, which also includes the allocation of the uncommitted balance.[8] In addition to securing the delivery of the work programme, it would enable strengthening the private sector role in UNCCD implementation, accelerating private sector investments in protecting and restoring land at country level. It would also generate major gains in effectiveness and efficiency throughout the UNCCD process by ensuring that the special programmes are well-coordinated, coherent with and supportive of the overall aims of the UNCCD, and that the secretariat and the GM harness digitalization/AI to advance key areas of work.

27. While the third scenario best explains the actual and most critical core budget needs, the secretariat and the GM recognize that the size of the increase may not be realistic. On the other hand, neither of the other scenarios accurately reflects the resource needs. Therefore, the proposed budget is not one of the scenarios, but rather a combination of elements that together offer an optimal approach: a new P-4 position for AI/digital transformation is included, while most of the non-staff costs are kept below those in the zero real growth scenario. This approach amounts to EUR 21,797,918, representing an increase of 14.38 per cent when compared to the total approved 2025–2026 budget that also includes the allocation of the uncommitted balance.[9]

28. Table 1 presents an overview of the scenarios and the proposal for the next budget in comparison to the 2025–2026 budget by programme. An indicative scale of assessment for the proposed core budget for 2027 is contained in annex VI.

[7] When compared to the approved 2025–2026 core budget, the increase is 26.73 per cent.
[8] When compared to the approved 2025–2026 core budget, the increase is 38.21 per cent.
[9] When compared to the approved 2025–2026 core budget, the increase is 22.84 per cent.

Table 1
Overview of the scenarios for the next budget in comparison to the 2025–2026 budget by programme

Programmes	*Approved budget 2025–2026*	*Total approved with UB* 2025–2026*	*Proposed budget 2027–2028*	*Zero nominal growth 2027–2028*	*Zero real growth 2027–2028*	*Third scenario 2027–2028*
A. Management and governance:						
- Executive Office	2 016 814	2 104 078	**2 401 551**	2 392 638	2 506 551	3 037 613
- Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs	785 224	785 224	**967 673**	116 725	1 017 673	1 017 673
B. Secretariat programmes:						
- Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation	2 958 402	3 098 042	**3 292 059**	3 155 279	3 342 059	3 482 059
- Communications, External Relations and Partnerships	1 771 736	1 851 736	**2 771 983**	2 261 114	2 831 983	3 226 783
- Science, Technology and Innovation	2 582 212	2 695 068	**3 546 361**	2 414 274	3 112 395	3 701 445
C. Global Mechanism	4 193 964	4 193 964	**4 765 583**	3 936 661	4 876 729	4 994 461
D. Special programmes:						
- Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office						
E. Administrative Services	1 394 966	2 136 794	**1 544 983**	1 426 627	2 213 624	2 243 624
Subtotal (A–E)	**15 703 318**	**16 865 266**	**19 290 193**	**15 703 318**	**19 901 014**	**21 703 658**
III. Programme support cost (13%)	**2 041 230**	**2 192 484**	**2 507 725**	**2 041 430**	**2 587 132**	**2 821 476**
IV. Working capital reserve						
TOTAL (I-IV)	**17 744 748**	**19 057 750**	**21 797 918**	**17 744 748**	**22 488 146**	**24 525 134**

Income	
Contributions from the host government 2027–2028	1 022 584
Indicative contributions	20 775 334
Total income	**21 797 918**

Abbreviation: UB = uncommitted balance.

A. Integrated results and resources framework

29. The UNCCD integrated budget presents resources from two interlinked perspectives: (1) the programmes of the secretariat and the GM; and (2) the expected results.

1. Overview of the programmes

30. Programmes are used as the main appropriation lines for allocating the budget, as they offer a pragmatic way for managing and implementing the budget in the Umoja system. They are described in the following sections.

a. Management and governance

31. The Executive Office (EO) coordinates the secretariat with regard to support provided to the Convention bodies and ensures the overall effectiveness and coherence of work within the UNCCD process. Within the EO, the Evaluation Office facilitates internal learning for improved effectiveness through the evidence-based measurement of achievements.

32. Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs (GBLA) is in charge of planning and general coordination of the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, and other core meetings of the UNCCD process. GBLA assists the Executive Secretary in advising the President of the

COP and the COP Bureau, coordinates secretariat support for related activities, and provides institutional, procedural and legal advice.

b. Secretariat programmes

33. The Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation (GPARC) programme develops policy frameworks for effective decision-making and the accelerated implementation of the Convention. As part of GPARC, the Regional Liaison Offices facilitate cooperation and outreach within and among regions, encouraging partnerships, advocacy and coordination under each Regional Implementation Annex.

34. Communications, External Relations and Partnerships comprises the following areas of work: (i) strategic communications, including campaigns, outreach and media relations, digital communications, knowledge management/library, and audiovisual functions; (ii) external relations and partnerships, donor relations, and corporate resource mobilization; and (iii) engagement with non-Party stakeholders.

35. The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programme supports scientific cooperation, facilitates national reporting and the related review process, and manages the data submitted by Parties. The STI is also in charge of planning and general coordination of the meetings of the two subsidiary bodies of the Convention and the work programme of the SPI. In addition, the programme supports capacity-building and spearheads the innovation agenda.

c. Global Mechanism

36. The GM is mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities to address DLDD. The GM spearheads several initiatives, engages donors and partners and supports countries in the development of projects and programmes. It applies multisector, multi-stakeholder approaches and promotes synergies to facilitate the financing and implementation of projects.

d. Special programmes

37. The Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office (G20 GLI ICO) has been operational since 2022. It is overseen by the UNCCD Executive Secretary, while focusing on the G20 GLI agenda. The G20 GLI is built on four core pillars that also structure the work of the ICO: (i) sharing and showcasing best practices on land restoration; (ii) engaging the private sector in sustainable land management (SLM), land restoration and habitat conservation; (iii) empowering civil society and the public in land stewardship; and (iv) mobilizing capacity. The G20 GLI ICO workplan is designed to be responsive to the UNCCD’s overarching priorities and to complement the work of the secretariat and the GM.

e. Administrative Services

38. The Administrative Services programme is tasked with ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of services to the secretariat and the GM with regard to financial management, human resources, procurement and information technology, in accordance with the regulations and rules of the United Nations and the UNCCD.

39. Table 2 below presents the proposed 2027–2028 budget, other resources, and the use of programme support cost by programme.

Table 2
Proposed integrated budget for the biennium 2027–2028 by programme

	Approved core budget 2025–2026	*Proposed core budget 2027–2028*	*Other resources*	*Programme support*
A. Management and governance:				
- Executive Office	2 016 814	2 401 551	*1 494 800*	*1 006 210*
- Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs	785 224	967 673	*794 642*	
B. Secretariat programmes:				
- Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation	2 958 402	3 292 059	*4 354 050*	*212 796*
- Communications, External Relations and Partnerships	1 771 736	2 771 983	*1 930 000*	*262 064*
- Science, Technology and Innovation	2 582 212	3 546 361	*2 836 350*	*364 050*
C. Global Mechanism	4 193 964	4 765 583	*24 653 446*	
D. Special programmes:				
- Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office			*13 199 334*	
E. Administrative Services	1 394 966	1 544 983	*361 753*	*4 228 715*
Subtotal (A-C)	**15 703 318**	**19 290 193**	***49 619 375***	***6 073 835***
Programme support costs (13%)	**2 041 430**	**2 507 725**	***6 450 519***	
Working capital reserve*				
TOTAL	**17 744 748**	**21 797 918**	***56 069 894***	***6 073 835***

*subject to the final decision on the budget

2. Overview of the expected results

40. In addition to the programmes, this integrated budget looks at the resources from the perspective of expected results: what the core budget and the voluntary contributions are supposed to generate. A total of 17 expected results have been formulated as broad, strategic longer-term outcomes, keeping in mind that most resources needed for achieving them are voluntary contributions, with less predictability for volume and timing than for the core resources. All activities and deliverables contained in the documents and draft decisions submitted by the secretariat to COP 17, the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 17) and the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 24) fall within these 17 expected results, as briefly presented below.

a. Improved enabling environment to reduce desertification and land degradation

41. The UNCCD secretariat and the GM support Parties in reducing desertification and land degradation through many measures, most of which are presented in the sections below. This expected result focuses on LDN and capacity-building as key tools for building an improved enabling environment.

42. Around 130 countries have committed to voluntary national LDN targets. In 2027–2028, the GM will scale up the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2.0 (LDN TSP 2.0) to support countries in further refining their LDN targets and linking LDN with the implementation of the other Rio conventions. ILUP will be promoted as a tool for embedding LDN principles into spatial and sectoral planning and coordinated, on-the-ground action. As a critical component of the follow-up to LDN TSP 2.0, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is funding a project on ILUP, which is implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and executed by the GM.

43. Provided that the currently frozen position on capacity-building can be filled, opportunities for capacity building will be expanded, including online training, e-learning, gender-responsive programmes and practical knowledge products, among other things. The responsible use of innovation and digital transformation in capacity-building will be strengthened, accompanied by support to digital literacy and access to data.

44. The G20 GLI ICO will expand its work with universities to integrate land restoration into their curricula. Building on existing courses adopted by over 800 institutions and reached by over 24,000 students, the ICO will launch an initiative to develop transdisciplinary curriculum modules for faculties of agriculture, mining, urban development, forestry and business, and develop a Global Land Restoration Massive Open Online Course, aiming to reach one million learners by 2040.

b. Increasing regeneration of rangelands and agricultural lands

45. In 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM will continue to demonstrate the value of healthy and productive rangelands by developing communication products and campaigns and addressing knowledge and data gaps. The GM will develop a pipeline of rangeland projects and programmes that focus on improving food security, local livelihoods and the stewardship of rangeland resources, with particular attention to private sector engagement.

46. The GM will lead UNCCD work on two interlinked initiatives that also have a strong emphasis on private sector involvement. The Rangelands Flagship Initiative is a multi-partner, global initiative led by Mongolia and the UNCCD to mobilize investments for conserving, sustainably managing and restoring rangelands. The Nature for Food/food systems flagship highlights regenerative practices that enhance soil health, boost productivity, and secure food systems in drylands, positioning these as high-return investment themes.

47. The GM is working with the Rangeland Stewardship Council to develop a unified global standard to (i) avoid and reduce rangeland degradation; (ii) promote value chain innovations; and (iii) increase awareness of the potential for sustainability in the production and value chains of rangeland commodities.

48. To advance LDN assessment, planning and monitoring in agricultural lands, the secretariat will continue disseminating and updating the guidance “Living soils, productive lands, resilient landscapes: Guidance on avoiding, reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural lands and soils” that was prepared with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

c. An accelerated pipeline of flagships, programmes and projects

49. The GM will continue focusing on large-scale, high-impact, multi-country flagship initiatives, projects and programmes that integrate private sector components. As mentioned in paragraph 45 above, flagships on rangelands and agricultural lands are under preparation.

50. In the Great Green Wall Initiative in the Sahel, the GM supports multi-country efforts to restore degraded landscapes, build resilience and create green jobs. In Southern Africa, 16 countries and their partners are supported in developing regional investment plans, project pipelines and resource mobilization road maps, with a focus on integrated approaches across drylands.

51. In Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, the GM is continuing multi-country programmes that integrate LDN targets, drought planning and landscape restoration to attract GEF, Green Climate Fund and regional bank financing.

52. Through 19 pilot projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, the Greening Drylands Partnership has contributed to transforming LDN theory and concepts into practice and delivered good examples to inform policy, decision-making and implementation at the national level. In the coming years, the Greening Drylands Partnership will continue supporting pilot projects in the Pacific Islands and East and Southern Africa.

d. Improved preparedness for and resilience to the impacts of drought

53. In 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM will support the further operationalization of the IDRA, the IDRO and the RGDRP.

54. IDRA will continue advancing high-level political commitment and cooperation on addressing drought resilience through active outreach and campaigns. It will assist in the development of country-level investment strategies and private sector engagement, and

support knowledge-sharing through case studies and publications. IDRO will be further enhanced and serve as a complementary tool of the RGDRP.

55. The RGDRP governance arrangements and modalities have been designed to connect 74 vulnerable countries with technical, financial and institutional support, including the translation of their drought action plans into a drought investment plans. The RGDRP will operate through (1) a Readiness Facility for strategy and pipeline development; (2) an Investment Facility for project financing; and (3) a Knowledge Platform for sharing innovation. The first call for proposals under the Readiness Facility is being prepared, with the aim of opening in early 2027.

56. Through IDRA, the secretariat will continue promoting and supporting the communities of learning and practice on drought, which engage hundreds of users in different regions. The UNCCD tools and methodologies for drought risk management, including drought impact tracking, the Drought Toolbox, and targeted capacity-building, will be further developed.

57. Following up on the development of an aridity adaptation supplement to the National Adaptation Plan Technical Guidelines published by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat will support Parties in integrating aridity and drought adaptation into national planning instruments.

58. For drought finance, the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) is being established with a target size of USD 300 to 400 million. DRIF will use concessional capital to de-risk projects and attract commercial finance for equity investments in transferable and scalable drought-resilience technologies and businesses.

59. The GM will continue supporting Parties in forging targeted partnerships and leveraging finance for projects and programmes on drought resilience. Innovative financing mechanisms for drought resilience, including resilience credits and index-based insurance products, will be promoted.

e. UNCCD being an active partner in global collaboration on sand and dust storms

60. Addressing sand and dust storms (SDS) combines measures for land restoration and resilience building, contributing to improved soil health and vegetation. In 2027–2028, the secretariat will further strengthen cooperation in the context of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and with other partners.

61. As a concrete tool, a Global Implementation Initiative for Sand and Dust Storms has been developed, and its implementation will serve as a catalyst for on-the-ground interventions, resource mobilization and large-scale transformation. It focuses on four elements: (a) land-focused monitoring; (b) source stabilization; (c) science–policy integration that refocuses dust models on source areas and aligns SDS with LDN frameworks; and (d) coordination and capacity, including transboundary cooperation and technical capacity-building.

62. The secretariat will further develop the SDS Toolbox to support the use of its source detection module and the inventory of documented tools, technologies and good practices.

f. Secure tenure and gender equality integrated into UNCCD implementation

63. The likelihood of investment in sustainable practices is significantly higher for communities that have documented, enforceable rights. Using the Business Case and Tenure Checklist, the GM will assist project developers in integrating secure tenure, including women's land rights, into project design from the outset.

64. The secretariat will continue working on the Land Tenure Toolbox and raising awareness on the importance of responsible and inclusive land governance for addressing DLDD. The secretariat will also assess the use of global indicators and data sets relevant to land governance and tenure security, including data on Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women's land rights, for future UNCCD reporting processes.

65. On gender equality, the secretariat continues to enhance the involvement of women in the UNCCD process at all levels by raising high-level awareness and commitment through

Gender Caucus events, promoting negotiation training and resources for women delegates, and monitoring gender parity across the Convention. Collaboration with the other Rio conventions for deepening gender-responsive synergies, as well as with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other partners, will be continued as well.

66. The GM will continue supporting the integration of gender equality into projects and programmes that are designed under the Project Preparation Partnership, and in the context of several flagship programmes.

g. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to support security and stability

67. In 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM will advance the second phase of the Peace Forest Initiative (PFI), focusing on synergies between land restoration, security and resilience. It will work on a fragility financing mechanism for environmental restoration in fragile contexts, possibly as a platform for blended financing with embedded de-risking. Additional pilot projects to expand the current geographic scope of the PFI will be developed as well.

68. The secretariat and the GM will cooperate with partners to mainstream DLDD in the agendas of different security forums to draw attention to the potential of land restoration for reducing drivers of conflict and to promote related investments. Cooperation to support the Global Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S Initiative) and for sharing data and information on the linkages between DLDD and migration will be strengthened.

h. UNCCD decision-making and implementation guided by up-to-date science-policy information

69. In line with decision 20/COP.16, the SPI will start its first four-year work programme in 2027. It will focus on (i) taking the scientific leadership of the high-profile, science-based fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 4); (ii) the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice in response to requests from the Bureaux of the COP, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) as well as from the secretariat and the GM; and (iii) coordination with other intergovernmental science–policy bodies. The cost estimates for the upcoming SPI work are presented in annex V.

70. The secretariat organizes the meetings of the SPI and supports it in carrying out the mentioned tasks. At the beginning of the biennium, the main activities will include supporting the CST Bureau in the recruitment, selection and renewal of the membership of the SPI and arrangements for the technical support unit for GLO 4. The secretariat will also participate in various scientific meetings and processes and promote networking and cooperation with scientific partners.

i. An updated UNCCD performance review and assessment of implementation system

71. The national reporting process is currently ongoing, with tentative deadlines of 30 November 2026 for data on strategic objective 1 and 26 February 2027 for the remaining strategic objectives. Upon receipt of the reports, the secretariat will compile and analyse the information for the documentation for the next intersessional session of the CRIC, and for updating the UNCCD Data Dashboard.

72. After CRIC 25, the secretariat will analyse the requirements for the further evolution of the UNCCD reporting infrastructure, including potential uses of AI, and continue to develop the Data Dashboard. The secretariat also intends to prepare a second “Land Story” publication to showcase practical lessons and approaches emerging from the 2026 reporting process. In collaboration with the other Rio conventions, the secretariat will continue to promote the sharing of data collected under each convention.

73. The G20 GLI ICO will operationalize a global data platform for information concerning land restoration and lead the first major systematic assessment of progress in the implementation of the G20 GLI so far.

j. A bigger profile for the UNCCD on the global agenda through strategic communication

74. In 2027–2028, the main aim of the UNCCD communications will be to raise the profile of the Convention and its priorities and increase audience engagement. The secretariat will develop and implement impactful campaigns that: (i) showcase the extent and successes of initiatives on land restoration and drought resilience; (ii) share information and stories from the ground; and (iii) highlight the results of political and operational partnerships and financing.

75. The secretariat will leverage key opportunities, including the annual observances of Desertification and Drought Day, to place land issues high on the global agenda, reach new audiences, and strengthen partnerships and the capacity for raising the visibility of land issues and the UNCCD. Scientific and technical data, the Global Land Outlook, and other major science-policy assessments will be fully employed. The secretariat will continue mobilizing new and influential voices in support of the Convention's advocacy and communications activities.

76. The strategic themes for communications activities in 2027 and 2028 will be:

1. Healthy land and food systems: healthy land as a cross-cutting solution for climate change, biodiversity, food security, and stability;
2. Drought resilience: drought as a defining global challenge and core UNCCD priority;
3. Rangelands and pastoralists: promotion of their ecological, cultural, and economic value;
4. Equity and inclusion: contributions of women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples towards achieving UNCCD objectives, emphasizing secure tenure rights and participation in decision-making;
5. Engagement and innovation: private sector collaboration and digital transformation.

k. Growth in strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement

77. The secretariat will continue active outreach and collaboration with stakeholder groups that are critical for effective implementation. The accreditation of different stakeholders in the Convention processes will be encouraged. A public awareness strategy will be developed to showcase the involvement of various stakeholders in the UNCCD process.

78. In 2027–2028, collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions will be further strengthened. The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions will continue its work; one focus area will be on food systems that are critically challenged by the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. The GM will further emphasize synergies in its support to project preparation on LDN and drought resilience.

79. The secretariat will support the further development of the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and the Caucus for Local Communities, in accordance with the terms of reference presented to COP 17. The implementation of the Youth Engagement Strategy will continue to promote the involvement of youth in the UNCCD process and activities.

80. The secretariat will assist the Civil Society Organization Panel in its work, starting with organizing the renewal of membership to the Panel after COP 17. By its small grants programme, the G20 GLI ICO will collaborate with CSOs engaged in land restoration through targeted capacity-building, joint advocacy campaigns and support for community-led restoration projects.

81. To facilitate the translation of restoration ambitions into national legislative action, the ICO will continue expanding the Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians. New elements will include targeted regional academies and the development of an online version, with the aim of reaching 500 parliamentarians by 2030.

l. Enhanced private sector engagement with the UNCCD and on land issues

82. In 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM will continue implementing the Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2021–2030 and further developing the Business4Land Initiative. The GM, in collaboration with G20 GLI ICO and other partners, will:

(a) Continue work on corporate disclosure and land-related target-setting;

(b) Support the Business4Land Champions' Council and establish the network of Business4Land Hubs at the national and regional levels;

(c) Engage specific sectors with land-intensive value chains, such as mining and fashion;

(d) Develop private sector partnerships and pathways to contribute to flagship initiatives and transformative projects and programmes, notably around food systems, land restoration and drought resilience;

(e) Build on blended finance approaches and innovative financial instruments;

(f) Consolidate recommendations for scaling private sector-led SLM practices; and

(g) Facilitate the organization of the Business4Land Forum to address land restoration and drought resilience.

83. The secretariat will continue facilitating the participation of representatives of business and industry entities in the meetings and processes of the Convention, including through the accreditation procedure.

84. The G20 GLI ICO will launch a Restoration Industry Forum for promoting the environmental restoration economy and boosting green jobs and start up opportunities.

m. *Enhanced resource mobilization by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism*

85. In the coming years, the GM will intensify its collaboration with bilateral partners, regional organizations and multilateral development banks with a view to expanding its geographic and thematic flagship portfolio. The GM will support country Parties in mobilizing technical and financial support for projects and programmes on DLDD and contributing to building country Parties' capacities to strengthen synergies and coordination across relevant sectors, including finance and planning, agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure development, and disaster risk management. The GM will seek to grow a geographically balanced project preparation pipeline through a partnership model, facilitating gender-responsive, large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes.

86. Corporate resource mobilization aims to ensure predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for the secretariat and the GM to enable effective programme delivery and positive impact. The secretariat and the GM will continue reaching out to decision-makers in donor countries, donor organizations and strategic partners. The planning, management and reporting of voluntary contributions will be further enhanced.

n. *Effective support to the governing bodies*

87. The next official meeting following COP 17 will be the intersessional CRIC in 2027, with a focus on reviewing the findings of the national reports. COP 18, along with CST 18 and CRIC 26, will be held in 2028. Both meetings will entail extensive exchanges to draw up the Host Country Agreement and prepare the conference facilities plan in liaison with the host country. Preparatory work also includes documentation, planning the organization of work during the meetings, and setting up meetings and events outside the official agenda.

88. During the official meetings, the secretariat coordinates the provision of technical procedural support for the COP and its subsidiary bodies and the provision of guidance and advice to the Chairs as well as to other elected officers on the organization of work, status of negotiations, conduct of business, and rules of procedure. The secretariat also supports and organizes the work of the Bureaux of the COP and its subsidiary bodies during and between meetings.

o. *Effective management and coordination of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism*

89. In 2027–2028, the secretariat and the GM aim to further enhance their effectiveness and expertise in delivering their services and achieving their results while focusing and prioritizing their activities to ensure optimal use of their resources. Internal coordination will

be further enhanced, with the aim of ensuring that the activities of different units are coherent and complementary. For example, the activities of different units/the GM concerning private sector engagement are guided by one unified strategy.

p. Administration of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism efficient and operating in accordance with United Nations rules

90. In the biennium 2027–2028, the secretariat will continue improving administrative processes to meet the evolving needs of the organization. Building on the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, expanding the use of the Umoja system will be further studied and related training organized. The update of key internal policies and standard operating procedures will continue, building on the common United Nations system standards and adjusted to the specific nature of UNCCD operational modalities. Staff training opportunities will continue to be provided.

q. Digital transformation

91. The UNCCD digital environment will be enhanced to generate significant cost-efficiency gains through faster, streamlined workflows, and to improve the effectiveness and targeting of actions through better access to knowledge. A new P4 position for AI/digital transformation is proposed to be established, to work with the G20 GLI ICO in developing a strategy for the digital transformation. This strategy will consider automating reporting processes, using AI to enhance data analysis and decision-making, and deploying online tools for project management and stakeholder coordination, among other tasks.

92. Table 3 shows the proposed core budget by expected result and related programmes, along with other resources.

Table 3
Proposed UNCCD budget for the biennium 2027–2028 by expected result

Expected results	*Programmes*	*Proposed budget 2027–2028*	*Other resources*	*Programme support*
1. Improved enabling environment to reduce desertification and land degradation	GM, G20 GLI ICO	2 767 108	*9 344 214*	*0.00*
2. Increasing regeneration of rangelands and agricultural lands	STI, GPARC, GM	783 993	*2 885 000*	*0.00*
3. An accelerated pipeline of flagships, programmes and projects	GM	869 660	*6 730 496*	*0.00*
4. Improved preparedness for and resilience to the impacts of drought	EO, GPARC, GM	1 546 174	*7 559 800*	*212 796*
5. UNCCD being an active partner in global collaboration on sand and dust storms	GPARC, GM	212 796	*800 000*	*0.00*
6. Secure tenure and gender equality integrated into UNCCD implementation	GPARC, GM	0.00	*2 914 050*	*0.00*
7. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to support security and stability	GM, GPARC	0.00	*1 858 850*	*0.00*
8. UNCCD decision-making and implementation guided by up-to-date science-policy information	STI, GLI G20 ICO	961 989	*2 461 350*	*0.00*
9. An updated UNCCD performance review and assessment of implementation system	STI	1 263 710	*1 314 050*	*364 050*
10. A bigger profile for the UNCCD on the global agenda through strategic communication	CERP	1 390 704	*2 284 050*	*0.00*
11. Growth in strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement	CERP, GM, G20 GLI ICO	607 421	*3 536 846*	*0.00*
12. Enhanced private sector engagement with the UNCCD and on land issues	GM, GPARC, G20 GLI ICO	1 100 717	*3 933 064*	*0.00*
13. Enhanced resource mobilization by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism	CERP, GM	1 865 504	*540 000*	*262 064*
14. Effective support to the governing bodies	GBLA, STI	967 673	*789 642*	*0.00*
15. Effective management and coordination of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism	EO, GM	3 012 961	*1 611 410*	*1 006 210*
16. Administration of the secretariat and the GM efficient and operating in accordance with United Nations rules	AS	1 544 983	*361 753*	*4 228 715*
17. Digital transformation	G20 GLI ICO, STI, AS	394 800	*704 800*	*0.00*
Subtotal (A-C)		**19 290 193**	***49 619 375***	***6 073 835***
Programme support costs (13%)		**2 507 725**	***6 450 519***	
Working capital reserve				
TOTAL		**21 797 918**	***56 069 894***	***6 073 835***

Abbreviations: AS = Administrative Services, CERP = Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, EO = Executive Office, G20 GLI ICO = Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office, GBLA = Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs, GM = Global Mechanism, GPARC = Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation, STI = Science, Technology and Innovation.

B. Staffing

Table 4
Proposed UNCCD staffing budget for the biennium 2027–2028 by category

	Approved core budget 2025–2026			*Proposed core budget 2027–2028*		
	Secretariat	*Global Mechanism*	*Total*	*Secretariat*	*Global Mechanism*	*Total*
Professional category and above						
USG	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-2	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-1	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
P-5	7.00	1.00	8.00	7.00	1.00	8.00
P-4	7.00	2.00	9.00	8.00	2.00	10.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	8.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
P-2	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	3.00
Subtotal Professional category and above	21.00	10.00	31.00	22.00	10.00	32.00
Subtotal General Services category	10.00	4.00	14.00	10.00	4.00	14.00
TOTAL	**31.00**	**14.00**	**45.00**	**32.00**	**14.00**	**46.00**

Information on UNCCD staffing by programme and by expected results is contained in annex III.

C. Working capital reserve and uncommitted balance

93. Working capital reserve: By decision 10/COP.13, the COP decided to set the level of the working capital reserve at 12 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure, where it stands today. Using 2025 expenditure as the basis, the working capital reserve amounts to EUR 971,041. As mentioned in paragraph 14 above, following consultation with the COP Bureau, the secretariat utilized EUR 955,547 in February 2026 from the working capital reserve to partially cover the shortfall of core budget contributions for 2025. This utilization nearly exhausted the reserve. In line with decision 10/COP.13, the working capital reserve may draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income.

94. For 2027–2028, taking into account the difficult financial context, the secretariat proposes that the COP set the level of the working capital reserve to 8.3 per cent, which is similar to the level used in many United Nations system entities. This would amount to EUR 904,614 in 2027, should the COP adopt the budget as proposed in this document.

95. Uncommitted balance: By decision 10/COP.16, the COP authorized the use of EUR 1,161,949 from the uncommitted balance to cover expenditures related to contractual services, travel, equipment, vehicles and furniture, and operating and other direct costs that were previously covered from the core budget. Out of the approved amount, EUR 775,000 was used by 31 May 2026, and the remaining balance will be fully spent by the end of the year. COP 16 also authorized the use of EUR 280,000 for the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework, which has been fully spent. Furthermore, EUR 60,000 was authorized to be used for a feasibility study to identify ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the SPI. That study was prepared on a no-cost basis, thus the amount remains unutilized.

96. As at 31 May 2026, the uncommitted balance (not including the amounts mentioned in para. 95 above) was EUR 618,374. It will increase slightly by the end of the biennium through income from interest and, possibly, the receipt of some core contributions related to prior budget periods. Taking into account the EUR 60,000 that was not utilized during this

biennium, the total available uncommitted balance is EUR 678,374. This amount is EUR 226,240 less than the amount needed to restore the working capital reserve, should it be set to 8.3 per cent.

D. Management of resources other than the core budget

97. Four funds for resources other than the core budget are currently in place under the Convention. In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, the Special Trust Fund supports the participation of representatives of eligible Parties in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, and the Supplementary Fund is for voluntary contributions for activities of the secretariat. There is a separate fund for the voluntary financing of activities of the GM. Lastly, the Trust Fund for Convention Events (the Bonn Fund) consists of the additional annual contribution of EUR 511,292 by the host Government.

98. The resource requirements for the Special Trust Fund for the participation of representatives of eligible Parties in meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies in 2027–2028 is presented below. The status of all four funds is presented in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.3.

Table 5
Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2027–2028 (euros)

Sessions	*Estimated cost*
Twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	1 059 300
Eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties	1 530 100
TOTAL	**2 589 400**

E. After-service health insurance

99. By decision 10/COP.15, the COP authorized the Executive Secretary to draw upon available unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods to set aside funds for after-service health insurance (ASHI), not exceeding the amount of EUR 500,000. Of these funds, EUR 201,261 was used to cover ASHI during the period 1 January 2025 to 31 May 2026, and the currently available balance is EUR 298,739. If the upcoming expenditures remain at similar levels, the balance would be adequate to cover the ASHI expenses in 2026, and at least EUR 150,000 would remain for coming years. That would probably cover most, if not all, of the 2027 ASHI expenditure.

100. The United Nations system entities use a variety of approaches to ASHI. These include the “pay-as-you-go” (core budget expenses paid as they occur), while some have funded the ASHI liabilities fully or partially through a one-time payment, which is the current case for UNCCD. Some use an accrual mechanism, by which a set percentage surcharge of all staff costs is recorded and set aside to ensure that future ASHI payments for retired staff members are collected and recorded during their active service period.

101. In the difficult financial context for the 2027–2028 budget, Parties may wish to avoid any additional charges to the core budget and therefore consider authorizing the secretariat to use any future uncommitted balance or the programme support account for those ASHI expenditures in 2027–2028 that cannot be covered from the funding set aside by COP 15. For long-term ASHI financing liabilities for core funded positions, the COP may wish to request the secretariat to propose a plan at COP 18 for an accrual mechanism, including cost estimates for the staff cost increase as well as an estimate of when the liabilities would be fully funded. Once that state is reached, the accrual rates would be reduced and continuously adjusted to ensure that the ASHI liabilities remain fully funded.

VI. Contingencies

102. Parties may wish to consider the contingency budgets for (a) conference services for meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, in case the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for 2027 and 2028; (b) organizing COP 18 in Bonn, in case no country offers to host the meeting; and (c) organizing CRIC 25 in Bonn, in case no country offers to host the meeting. Detailed information and costing for these contingencies are presented in annex IV.

VII. Update of the financial rules

103. By decision 10/COP.16, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to carry out a review of the financial rules for the COP, with a view to identifying any need for updates deriving from (a) the development of the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules and related policies since the adoption of the financial rules of the COP; (b) proposed modifications needed for an effective integrated budget approach; and (c) options for approaches concerning the payment of contributions for those countries whose financial year does not correspond with the deadline of 1 January; and to present a draft revised set of financial rules of the COP for consideration at COP 17.

104. The secretariat carried out the review, including a comparison with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules and related policies and clarification on the possible need for modifications for an effective integrated budget approach. Furthermore, the secretariat compared the provisions of past COP budget decisions with the content of the financial rules, with the aim of identifying possible inconsistencies, and carried out an editorial check.

105. The resulting proposed update to the financial rules is presented in annex I. The suggested modifications do not entail any major changes; they aim to either align the financial rules with decisions already taken by the COP or to modernize the language.

106. With regard to point (c) in paragraph 103, the secretariat conducted brief research to learn about the practices in other United Nations system entities. This research did not result in possible approaches that would offer flexibility for scheduling the payment of contributions to the core budget. However, the United Nations Financial Regulation 3.5 provides some, albeit minor, flexibility: "Contributions and advances shall be considered as due and payable in full within 30 days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary-General […] or on the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is later."[10] If applied to the UNCCD, this approach would offer a few extra days for payment in cases where the secretariat sends payment notifications later than 2 December.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

107. This programme budget proposal presents the integrated, results-based resource requirements for the work programmes of the secretariat and the GM for the biennium 2027–2028. The COP may therefore wish to:

(a) Approve a programme budget for the biennium;

(b) Adopt the indicative scale of contributions for 2027–2028;

(c) Set the level of the working capital reserve to 8.3 per cent;

(d) Take note of the requirements for voluntary contributions to the Special Trust Fund for the participation of representatives of eligible Parties in meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies in 2027–2028;

(e) Approve a contingency for conference services in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for 2027 and 2028; and

[10] Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

(f) Adopt the updated financial rules.

Annex I

Proposed update to the financial rules

1. These financial rules govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), its subsidiary bodies, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM), and are based on, and consistent with, the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

2. On matters not specifically covered herein, the appropriate United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules apply.

3. The UNCCD financial period is a biennium consisting of two consecutive calendar years, unless the COP decides otherwise.

4. On an extraordinary basis, where significant, unexpected new needs arise that cannot be met fully from approved appropriations, the Executive Secretary may consult with the COP Bureau for an interim solution, subject to reporting to the next COP.

5. The Executive Secretary shall prepare and present to the COP an integrated, results-oriented programme budget for each budget period, covering the secretariat and the GM, consistent with COP mandates. The budget shall be prepared and approved in euros.

6. The proposed programme budget is transmitted to all Parties no later than 90 days before the opening of the session of the COP at which the budget is to be adopted.

7. After considering the programme budget proposal of the Executive Secretary, the COP adopts by consensus a core budget. The budget shall be adopted prior to the commencement of the financial period that it covers.

8. Adoption of the core budget by the COP authorizes the Executive Secretary to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the COP, commitments shall be covered by related income.

9. The Executive Secretary may effect transfers among appropriation lines to address programme changes, up to limits which the COP may set, informing the COP of such transfers at its next session.

10. A General Fund for the Convention is established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the Executive Secretary. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 15 (a) below, along with any additional contributions to offset core budget expenditures that are made pursuant to paragraphs 15 (b) below by the Government hosting the Convention secretariat and pursuant to paragraph15 (c) below by the United Nations, shall be credited to the General Fund. All core budget expenditures made pursuant to paragraph 8 above shall be charged to the General Fund.

11. Within the General Fund, a working capital reserve is established at a level determined by the COP to ensure liquidity in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions and/or other available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income, as soon as possible.

12. A Supplementary Fund is established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the Executive Secretary. The Supplementary Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraph 15 (b) and (c) below, other than those specified in paragraphs 10 above and 13 below, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 18 below, for:

(a) Support for the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the COP;

(b) The facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

13. A Special Fund is established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the Executive Secretary. The Special Fund shall receive contributions to support the participation of representatives of affected developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

14. In the event that the COP decides to terminate a fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least six months before the date of termination so decided. For the General Trust Fund, the COP shall decide, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met. For other Trust Funds, such decisions shall be agreed between the Executive Secretary and the contributors to those funds.

15. The resources of the COP shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the COP, and based on the most recent scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted by the General Assembly;

(b) Other contributions made by Parties in addition to those made pursuant to subparagraph (a) above;

(c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources;

(d) The uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned;

(e) Miscellaneous income attributed to the fund concerned.

16. The COP shall, in adopting the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 15 (a) above, make adjustments to take account of contributions of Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

17. Contributions to the core budget for each calendar year shall be payable on or before 1 January of that year. Prior to the beginning of each calendar year, the Executive Secretary shall notify each Party of the contribution it is required to pay. The Executive Secretary shall maintain and report annually to the COP on the status of assessed contributions and arrears, including any drawdowns from the working capital reserve.

18. Contributions other than those to the core budget shall be used in accordance with terms and conditions agreed between the Executive Secretary and the contributor, consistent with the objectives and financial policies of the Convention. Earmarked contributions may be recorded in subaccounts within the relevant trust fund or special account, and their administration shall be reported separately to the COP.

19. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 15 (a) above from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made pro rata temporis for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

20. All contributions shall be paid in euros, United States dollars or equivalent in a convertible currency into a bank account to be designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

21. The Executive Secretary shall promptly acknowledge all pledges and contributions and regularly inform the Parties on the status of payments to the core budget. At each COP, the Executive Secretary will also inform the Parties of the status of pledges and payments of contributions to other Trust Funds.

22. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the Convention secretariat. The resulting income shall be credited to the appropriate fund or funds referred to in paragraphs 10, 12 and 13 above.

23. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.

24. The United Nations shall provide Parties with an audited statement of accounts for each year of the financial period.

25. The COP, under such terms as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon between it and the United Nations, shall reimburse the United Nations from the funds referred to in paragraphs 10, 12 and 13, for the purposes of services rendered, including the administration of the relevant fund by the United Nations, to the COP, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat.

26. Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the COP by consensus.

Annex II

Standard staff costs

[English only]

The standard staff costs are calculated based on the actual salary costs of the current United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification staff, deriving from the average payroll for the period January to March 2026. In line with the United Nations regulations and rules, the standard staff costs include a small amount for entitlements, in addition to the salary costs.

Standard staff costs for 2027–2028

Grade	*2025–2026 cost per position per year*	*2027–2028 cost per position per year*	*Variance*
USG	246 419	297 176	50 757
D-2	213 277	266 085	52 808
D-1	202 686	199 307	(3,379)
P-5	186 069	265 531	79 462
P-4	168 449	197 400	28 951
P-3	148 180	182 025	33 845
P-2	126 268	131 032	4 764
GS	78 700	106 398	27 698

Comparison of the 2027–2028 and the 2025–2026 standard staff costs

Grade			*Proposed positions 2027–2028*		*Variance Positions*	*Variance Budget*
USG	1.00	492 838	1.00	594 352	0.00	101 514
D-2	1.00	426 554	1.00	532 170	0.00	105 616
D-1	1.00	405 372	1.00	398 614	0.00	-6 758
P-5	8.00	2 977 104	8.00	4 248 496	0.00	1 271 392
P-4	9.00	3 032 082	9.00	3 948 000	1.00	915 918
P-3	8.00	2 370 880	8.00	2 912 400	0.00	541 520
P-2	3.00	757 608	3.00	786 192	0.00	28 584
GS	14.00	2 203 600	14.00	2 979 144	0.00	775 544
Total	**45.00**	**12 666 038**	**46.00**	**16 399 368**	**1.00**	**3 733 330**

Annex III

UNCCD staff by programme and by expected result

[English only]

A. Distribution of the proposed core budget posts of the secretariat by programme and of the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2027–2028

Category	*EO*	*GBLA*	*CERP*	*GPARC*	*STI*	*AS*	*GM*	***Total***	*Variance from 2026*
Under-Secretary-General	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Director	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00
Professional	1.00	2.00	4.00	6.00	7.00	0.00	9.00	29.00	1.00
Subtotal	**3.00**	**2.00**	**4.00**	**6.00**	**7.00**	**0.00**	**10.00**	**32.00**	**1.00**
General Service	2.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	4.00	14.00	0.00
Total	**5.00**	**2.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**9.00**	**0.00**	**14.00**	**46.00**	**1.00**

Abbreviations: AS = Administrative Services, CERP = Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, EO = Executive Office, GBLA = Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs, GM = Global Mechanism, GPARC = Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation, STI = Science, Technology and Innovation.

B. All posts of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism by programme

	*Approved core budget 2025–2026**	*Proposed core budget 2027–2028*	*Other resources*	*Programme support*
A. Management and governance:				
- Executive Office	5.00	5.00	*1.00*	*2.00*
- Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs	2.00	2.00	*3.00*	*1.00*
B. Secretariat programmes:				
- Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation	8.00	8.00	*1.00*	*1.00*
- Communications, External Relations and Partnerships	8.00	8.00	*0.00*	*1.00*
- Science, Technology and Innovation	8.00	9.00	*2.00*	*1.00*
C. Global Mechanism	14.00	14.00	*8.00*	*0.00*
D. Special programmes:				
- Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office			*10.00*	
E. Administrative Services	0.00	0.00	*1.70*	*13.3*
TOTAL	**45.00**	**46.00**	***26.70***	***19.3***

C. All posts of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism by expected result

Expected results	*Proposed core budget 2027–2028*	*Other resources*	*Programme support*
1. Improved enabling environment to reduce desertification and land degradation	7.00	*3.00*	*0.00*
2. Increasing regeneration of rangelands and agricultural lands	2.00	*0.00*	*0.00*
3. An accelerated pipeline of flagships, programmes and projects	3.00	*5.00*	*0.00*
4. Improved preparedness for and resilience to the impacts of drought	3.00	*1.00*	*1.00*
5. UNCCD being an active partner in global collaboration on sand and dust storms	1.00	*0.00*	*0.00*
6. Secure tenure and gender equality integrated into UNCCD implementation	0.00	*1.00*	*0.00*
7. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to support security and stability	0.00	*2.00*	*0.00*
8. UNCCD decision-making and implementation guided by up-to-date science-policy information	2.00	*3.00*	*0.00*
9. An updated UNCCD performance review and assessment of implementation system	5.00	*1.00*	*1.00*
10. A bigger profile for the UNCCD on the global agenda through strategic communication	4.00	*1.00*	*0.00*
11. Growth in strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement	2.00	*2.00*	*0.00*
12. Enhanced private sector engagement with the UNCCD and on land issues	3.00	*1.00*	*0..00*
13. Enhanced resource mobilization by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism	5.00	*0.00*	*1.00*
14. Effective support to the governing bodies	2.00	*3.00*	*2.00*
15. Effective management and coordination of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism	7.00	*2.00*	*1.00*
16. Administration of the secretariat and the GM efficient and operating in accordance with United Nations rules	0.00	*1.70*	*13.3*
17. Digital transformation	0.00	*0.00*	*0.00*
TOTAL	**46.00**	***26.70***	***19.3***

Annex IV

Contingencies

[English only]

Contingency budget for conference servicing approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations

The General Assembly of the United Nations has in its past decisions approved a provision for conference services (interpretation, document reproduction and other related services) as part of the regular budget of the United Nations for meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies. If the General Assembly decides not to continue this practice, Parties would have to assume the costs of this provision. The following contingency budget has therefore been prepared for consideration by the COP.

It is assumed that the intersessional Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) will meet for a total of five working days in the biennium. The provision will be required for corresponding meeting services, allowing for a total of ten meetings with interpretation for the CRIC session as well as the translation, processing and distribution of a total estimated 700 pages of pre-session, 60 pages of in-session and 70 pages of post-session documentation.

It is also assumed that the COP will meet for a total of two consecutive weeks in 2028. The provision will be required for corresponding meeting services, allowing for two simultaneous meetings with interpretation at any time during the session of the COP (that is, 20 meetings per week) and the translation, processing and distribution of an estimated 2,000 pages of pre-session, 150 pages of in-session, and 200 pages of post-session documentation. The full cost of these requirements, estimated at EUR 2,477,300, may be found in table 1.

Table 1
Contingency budget for conference servicing (euros)

Object of expenditure	*2027–2028*
United Nations meetings services	2 192 300
Programme support costs	285 000
TOTAL	2 477 300

Contingency budget for hosting the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany

In the event that the eighteenth session of the COP is held in Bonn, an additional amount of EUR 1,772,540 (see table 2) will be required to cover the costs relating to logistical arrangements, including the renting of the conference venue, installation of communication systems, contracting of local staff, provision of security equipment and personnel, and rental of equipment and supplies.

Table 2
Resource requirements for hosting the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn (euros)

Object of expenditure	*2027–2028*
Incremental costs	1 437 900
Contingencies	130 300
Subtotal	**1 568 620**
Programme support costs	203 920
TOTAL	**1 772 540**

Contingency budget for hosting the session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Bonn, Germany

In the event that the twenty-fifth session of the CRIC is held in Bonn, an additional amount of EUR 803,430 (see table 3 below) will be required to cover the costs relating to logistical arrangements, including renting of the conference venue, installation of communication systems and contracting of local staff, provision of security equipment and personnel, and rental of equipment and supplies.

Table 3
Resource requirements for hosting the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (euros)

Object of expenditure	*2027–2028*
Incremental costs	651 700
Contingencies	59 300
Subtotal	711 000
Programme support costs	92 430
TOTAL	**803 430**

Annex V

Science-Policy Interface: Cost estimates for 2027–2030

[English only]

1. By decision 20/COP.16, the secretariat was requested to provide estimates of the financial implications associated with:

(a) The procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) for its work programme, including thematic assessments forming the basis of Global Land Outlook (GLO) products or similar flagship reports;

(b) Procedures for the preparation of flagship reports, including scoping of report outlines, which should include provisions for considering Parties' views, thematic assessments of scientific as well as Indigenous and traditional knowledge, independent scientific reviews, and the preparation and approval by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of summaries for policymakers;

(c) Procedures for the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice in response to requests from the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the CST as well as from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism

2. By the same decision, the secretariat was requested to prepare a feasibility study to identify ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the Science-Policy Interface, including the possible use of an external technical support unit(s) provided by partners, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and to report the findings of the study to CST 17. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/INF.2. It outlines a SPI technical support unit (TSU) that would assist the SPI in carrying out the tasks listed in points (a) to (c) above by the following:

(a) Providing technical and scientific support to the SPI for the preparation of high-quality products, including thematic assessments forming the basis of GLO products and similar flagship reports, preparing fast-track assessments, information products and advice, and providing technical guidance, data syntheses and science-policy briefs;

(b) Supporting the development and implementation of an outreach strategy and stakeholder engagement, ensuring SPI products reach and resonate with diverse audiences.

3. Below are the costs estimates, as requested by the COP, for the four-year work programme (2027–2030) of the SPI, divided into the two budget periods of 2027–2028 and 2029–2030. In line with the above, most of the costs would be either for the SPI meetings, activities of the TSU, or the production of reports. It should be noted that the staff and the basic operating costs of the TSU are expected to be covered from sources other than the UNCCD budget.

Science-Policy Interface: cost estimates for 2027–2028

Cost items	*Cost (euros)*	*Total*
Two in-person meetings of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)		
Participants: 25 independent scientists, 5 CST Bureau members, 5 SPI observers (32 supported participants) *- GLO4 authors (1 report chair, 3 coordinating lead authors, 6 lead authors, 23 contributing authors, 2 review editors, 1 science writer)* *- Fast track assessments (1 chair, 2 lead authors, 5 contributors)* *- Coordination activities (2 co-leads, 4 contributors)*	240,000	
Meeting logistics (venue, technical support)	12,000	
First meeting to develop GLO4 summary for policymakers (back-to-back with GLO4 author meeting)	5,500	**257,500**
Online meetings for GLO4 post-scoping: national focal points, science and technology correspondents and UNCCD accredited stakeholders	10,000	
Webinar on the GLO4 assessment: Indigenous and local knowledge	10,000	**20,000**
Technical support unit assistance	200,000	**200,000**
Sub-total for 2027–2028		**477,500**
13% programme support cost (rounded to nearest 100)		62,100
Total for 2027–2028		**539,600**

Science-Policy Interface: cost estimates for 2029–2030

Cost items	*Cost (euros)*	*Total*
Two in-person meetings of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)		
Participants: 25 independent scientists, 5 CST Bureau members, 5 SPI observers (32 supported participants)	240,000	
Meeting logistics (venue, technical support)	12,000	
Second meeting to develop GLO4 summary for policymakers (back-to-back with GLO4 author meeting)	5,500	**257,500**
Online dialogue workshops with national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms and networks (prior to GLO4 external reviews), regional meeting support	20,000	**20,000**
Production of the summary for policymakers (editing, design, translation, printing)	19,000	
Production of the GLO 4 report (editing, design, translation, printing)	55,000	
Promotion of the report (social media materials, launching)	31,600	**105,600**
Technical support unit assistance	237,500	**237,500**
Sub-total for 2029–2030		**620,600**
13% programme support cost (rounded to nearest 100)		80,700
Total for 2029–2030		**701,300**

Annex VI

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention for 2027

[English only]

Close to the end of 2027, the United Nations General Assembly is expected to adopt the next United Nations scale of assessment for 2028–2030. Once that decision is adopted, the revised United Nations scale of assessments will be applied to calculate the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification contributions for 2028. Parties will be informed of their 2028 contributions as soon as the General Assembly decision is available.

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Afghanistan	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Albania	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Algeria	0.087	0.085	7 091	**8,810**	1,719
Andorra	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Angola	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	163	**203**	40
Argentina	0.490	0.478	39 939	**49,620**	9,681
Armenia	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Australia	2.040	1.989	166 278	**206,582**	40,304
Austria	0.626	0.610	51 025	**63,392**	12,367
Azerbaijan	0.034	0.033	2 771	**3,443**	672
Bahamas	0.015	0.015	1 223	**1,519**	296
Bahrain	0.050	0.049	4 075	**5,063**	988
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Barbados	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Belarus	0.043	0.042	3 505	**4,354**	849
Belgium	0.773	0.754	63 007	**78,278**	15,271
Belize	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Benin	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.018	0.018	1 467	**1,823**	356
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.014	0.014	1 141	**1,418**	277
Botswana	0.013	0.013	1 060	**1,316**	256
Brazil	1.411	1.376	115 009	**142,886**	27,877
Brunei Darussalam	0.019	0.019	1 549	**1,924**	375
Bulgaria	0.071	0.069	5 787	**7,190**	1,403
Burkina Faso	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Burundi	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Cambodia	0.008	0.008	652	**810**	158
Cameroon	0.014	0.014	1 141	**1,418**	277
Canada	2.543	2.479	207 278	**257,519**	50,241
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Chad	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Chile	0.374	0.365	30 484	**37,873**	7,389
China	20.004	19.501	1 630 507	**2,025,721**	395,214
Colombia	0.197	0.192	16 057	**19,949**	3,892
Comoros	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Congo	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Costa Rica	0.063	0.061	5 135	**6,380**	1,245
Côte d'Ivoire	0.024	0.023	1 956	**2,430**	474
Croatia	0.088	0.086	7 173	**8,911**	1,738
Cuba	0.122	0.119	9 944	**12,354**	2,410
Cyprus	0.035	0.034	2 853	**3,544**	691
Czechia	0.344	0.335	28 039	**34,835**	6,796
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Denmark	0.531	0.518	43 281	**53,772**	10,491
Djibouti	0.002	0.002	163	**203**	40
Dominica	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Dominican Republic	0.069	0.067	5 624	**6,987**	1,363
Ecuador	0.065	0.063	5 298	**6,582**	1,284
Egypt	0.182	0.177	14 835	**18,430**	3,595
El Salvador	0.013	0.013	1 060	**1,316**	256
Equatorial Guinea	0.008	0.008	652	**810**	158
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Estonia	0.045	0.044	3 668	**4,557**	889
Eswatini	0.002	0.002	163	**203**	40
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
European Union	2.500	2.500	209 027	**259,692**	50,665
Fiji	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Finland	0.386	0.376	31 463	**39,089**	7,626
France	3.858	3.761	314 462	**390,683**	76,221
Gabon	0.011	0.011	897	**1,114**	217
Gambia	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Georgia	0.009	0.009	734	**911**	177
Germany	5.692	5.549	463 950	**576,405**	112,455
Ghana	0.025	0.024	2 038	**2,532**	494
Greece	0.280	0.273	22 823	**28,354**	5,531
Grenada	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Guatemala	0.046	0.045	3 749	**4,658**	909
Guinea	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Guyana	0.011	0.011	897	**1,114**	217
Haiti	0.006	0.006	489	**608**	119
Honduras	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Hungary	0.223	0.217	18 177	**22,582**	4,405
Iceland	0.035	0.034	2 853	**3,544**	691
India	1.106	1.078	90 149	**112,000**	21,851
Indonesia	0.579	0.564	47 194	**58,633**	11,439
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.386	0.376	31 463	**39,089**	7,626
Iraq	0.131	0.128	10 678	**13,266**	2,588
Ireland	0.472	0.460	38 472	**47,797**	9,325
Israel	0.609	0.594	49 639	**61,671**	12,032
Italy	2.813	2.742	229 285	**284,861**	55,576
Jamaica	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Japan	6.930	6.756	564 858	**701,772**	136,914
Jordan	0.021	0.020	1 712	**2,127**	415
Kazakhstan	0.131	0.128	10 678	**13,266**	2,588
Kenya	0.037	0.036	3 016	**3,747**	731
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Kuwait	0.222	0.216	18 095	**22,481**	4,386
Kyrgyzstan	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.006	0.006	489	**608**	119
Latvia	0.050	0.049	4 075	**5,063**	988
Lebanon	0.022	0.021	1 793	**2,228**	435
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Liberia	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Libya	0.040	0.039	3 260	**4,051**	791
Liechtenstein	0.009	0.009	734	**911**	177
Lithuania	0.081	0.079	6 602	**8,202**	1,600
Luxembourg	0.073	0.071	5 950	**7,392**	1,442
Madagascar	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Malawi	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Malaysia	0.326	0.318	26 572	**33,013**	6,441
Maldives	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Mali	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Malta	0.020	0.019	1 630	**2,025**	395
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Mauritania	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Mauritius	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Mexico	1.137	1.108	92 676	**115,139**	22,463
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Monaco	0.011	0.011	897	**1,114**	217
Mongolia	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Montenegro	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Morocco	0.059	0.058	4 809	**5,975**	1,166
Mozambique	0.002	0.002	163	**203**	40
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Namibia	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Nauru	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Nepal	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Netherlands	1.298	1.265	105 799	**131,443**	25,644
New Zealand	0.302	0.294	24 616	**30,582**	5,966
Nicaragua	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Niger	0.004	0.004	326	**405**	79
Nigeria	0.150	0.146	12 226	**15,190**	2,964
Niue	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
North Macedonia	0.008	0.008	652	**810**	158
Norway	0.653	0.637	53 225	**66,126**	12,901
Oman	0.115	0.112	9 374	**11,646**	2,272
Pakistan	0.123	0.120	10 026	**12,456**	2,430
Palau	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Panama	0.086	0.084	7 010	**8,709**	1,699

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Papua New Guinea	0.009	0.009	734	**911**	177
Paraguay	0.023	0.022	1 875	**2,329**	454
Peru	0.145	0.141	11 819	**14,684**	2,865
Philippines	0.198	0.193	16 139	**20,051**	3,912
Poland	0.831	0.810	67 734	**84,152**	16,418
Portugal	0.328	0.320	26 735	**33,215**	6,480
Qatar	0.245	0.239	19 970	**24,810**	4,840
Republic of Korea	2.349	2.290	191 465	**237,873**	46,408
Republic of Moldova	0.006	0.006	489	**608**	119
Romania	0.358	0.349	29 180	**36,253**	7,073
Russian Federation	2.094	2.041	170 680	**212,051**	41,371
Rwanda	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Samoa	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
San Marino	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Saudi Arabia	1.217	1.186	99 197	**123,240**	24,043
Senegal	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Serbia	0.040	0.039	3 260	**4,051**	791
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Singapore	0.479	0.467	39 043	**48,506**	9,463
Slovakia	0.149	0.145	12 145	**15,089**	2,944
Slovenia	0.077	0.075	6 276	**7,797**	1,521
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Somalia	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
South Africa	0.251	0.245	20 459	**25,418**	4,959
South Sudan	0.005	0.005	408	**506**	98
Spain	1.895	1.847	154 460	**191,899**	37,439
Sri Lanka	0.038	0.037	3 097	**3,848**	751
State of Palestine	0.011	0.011	897	**1,114**	217
Sudan	0.008	0.008	652	**810**	158
Suriname	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
Sweden	0.822	0.801	67 000	**83,240**	16,240
Switzerland	1.029	1.003	83 873	**104,202**	20,329

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [a]	*United Nations scale of assessment* [b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2026–2027*	*2026 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*2027 indicative contributions (EUR)*	*Variance (EUR)*
Syrian Arab Republic	0.006	0.006	489	**608**	119
Tajikistan	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Thailand	0.341	0.332	27 795	**34,532**	6,737
Timor-Leste	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Togo	0.002	0.002	163	**202**	39
Tonga	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Trinidad and Tobago	0.033	0.032	2 690	**3,342**	652
Tunisia	0.018	0.018	1 467	**1,823**	356
Turkey	0.685	0.668	55 834	**69,367**	13,533
Turkmenistan	0.036	0.035	2 934	**3,645**	711
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Uganda	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
Ukraine	0.074	0.072	6 032	**7,494**	1,462
United Arab Emirates	0.574	0.560	46 786	**58,127**	11,341
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3.991	3.891	325 303	**404,152**	78,849
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	815	**1,013**	198
United States of America	22.000	21.447	1 793 200	**2,227,848**	434,648
Uruguay	0.079	0.077	6 439	**8,000**	1,561
Uzbekistan	0.024	0.023	1 956	**2,430**	474
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	84	**104**	20
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.069	0.067	5 624	**6,987**	1,363
Viet Nam	0.159	0.155	12 960	**16,101**	3,141
Yemen	0.003	0.003	245	**304**	59
Zambia	0.006	0.006	489	**608**	119
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.007	571	**709**	138
Total	**102.513**	**100.000**	**8 361 082**	**10 387 667**	**2,026,585**