



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
7 September 2026

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 28 August 2026

Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session

Addendum

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Decision 1/COP.17

Updated financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (e), stating that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies,

Recalling decision 2/COP.1, by which Parties adopted the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat,

Also recalling decisions 10/COP.13, 10/COP.14 and 10/COP.15, by which the financial rules were modified, as well as decisions 23/COP.7 and 3/COP.8, by which developments relevant to the financial rules were presented,

Further recalling decision 10/COP.16, by which the COP requested the Executive Secretary to carry out a review of the financial rules, 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 Conference of the Parties; (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 Conference of the Parties for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/7](#),

Decides to adopt the updated financial rules, as contained in the annex to this decision.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Annex

Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies, the Convention secretariat and the Global Mechanism

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 decided otherwise by the COP.
4. On an extraordinary basis, where significant, unexpected new needs arise that cannot be fully met from approved appropriations, and within a 20 per cent transfer limit between appropriation lines, the Executive Secretary shall consult with the COP Bureau for an interim solution in view of the adoption of decision(s) by the Parties at 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 a core budget by consensus. 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 that, unless specifically authorized by the COP, commitments are covered by related income.
9. The Executive Secretary may make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply. Any such transfers shall be in line with the objectives of the Convention and COP decisions. The Executive Secretary shall report to the COP on any such transfers.
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 paragraph 15 (b) below by the Government hosting the Convention secretariat, and pursuant to paragraph 15 (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, at the earliest opportunity.
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 paragraphs 15 (b) and (c) below, other than those specified in

paragraph 10 above and paragraph 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 according to 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 15 (a) above;

(c) Contributions from States not party 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 from Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

17. Prior to the beginning of each calendar year, the Executive Secretary shall notify each Party of the contribution it is required to pay. Contributions are expected to be paid in full within 30 days of receipt of the notification from the Executive Secretary, or on the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is later. The Executive Secretary shall keep track of and report annually to the COP on the status of outstanding contributions, including any drawdowns from the working capital reserve.

18. If the contributions of any Party have not been received after two or more years, the Executive Secretary shall jointly decide with any Party which has outstanding contributions to develop a payment schedule to permit the relevant Party to pay all outstanding contributions, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party, and to pay future contributions promptly. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Bureau and to the COP at their next meetings on progress under any such schedule. If a payment schedule is not agreed or respected, the COP will consider the matter.

19. Contributions other than those to the core budget shall be used in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed between the Executive Secretary and the contributor, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and in accordance with the financial rules and relevant decisions of the COP. Contributions referred to in paragraphs 15 (b) and (c) above may be

recorded in subaccounts within the relevant trust fund or special account, and their administration shall be reported separately to the COP.

20. 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.

21. 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. Where a Party has followed the applicable payment instructions, any difference due solely to charges levied by an intermediary or receiving bank shall not be recorded as outstanding contributions, and payment procedures shall be resolved by the Party in consultation with the secretariat, in accordance with the present financial rules.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

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

26. The COP, under such terms as may periodically be mutually agreed upon between itself 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.

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

Decision 2/COP.17

Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention,

Noting decisions 3/COP.8, 1/COP.9, 1/COP.10, 22/COP.10, 1/COP.11, 3/COP.12, 13/COP.12, 7/COP.13, 8/COP.13, 2/COP.14, 2/COP.15 and 2/COP.16,

Restating the importance of capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the contribution of appropriate, community-based, replicable and locally adapted innovations and practices that contribute to sustainable land management, land restoration, drought resilience, and combating sand and dust storms,

Having considered document ICCD/CRIC(24)/3 and its conclusions and recommendations,

Acknowledging the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in collaboration with relevant partners, to facilitate and implement targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention,

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

Taking note of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors concerning the role of the Convention as a bridge between science and policy, including the importance of capacity-building, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships and innovation,

Acknowledging the potential interlinkages between capacity-building and other means of implementation and the importance of addressing them in a coherent and integrated manner,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative, other related initiatives, relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other external partners, maximizing efficiency and avoiding duplications, to continue to provide demand-driven capacity-building, taking into account the discussions among Parties at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to consult Parties on an outline for the capacity-building strategy, as requested in decision 2/COP.16, paragraph 4 (a), and prepare a draft for discussion at the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and further consideration at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to mainstreaming capacity-building across Convention institutions and associated initiatives, updating relevant action plans, strengthening coordination, monitoring and impact-oriented delivery, and supporting alignment, as appropriate, with the post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention;
3. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with initiatives such as the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and the International Drought Resilience Alliance, relevant international entities, regional institutions, scientific and technical partners and other relevant stakeholders, to continue strengthening partnership-based capacity-building and technical cooperation;

4. *Invites* Parties and technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building mechanisms under relevant multilateral environmental agreements, within their respective mandates, to promote coordination and collaboration in capacity-building activities for implementing this Convention, leveraging existing expertise and resources and avoiding duplication;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of financial resources and in collaboration with relevant regional and technical partners, to assess lessons learned from the regional support architecture established for the 2026 reporting process, consult with Parties and stakeholders on the most useful components from the support provided by the support hubs and technical advisory institutions during the 2026 reporting process and on future options for context-specific and decentralized capacity-building, while ensuring complementarity with Convention institutions and partners and avoiding the creation of parallel structures, without limiting Parties' access to direct technical support from the secretariat, and prepare consolidated options for consideration by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-fifth session;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat, within its mandate and subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Parties in capacity-building for knowledge management and dissemination;
7. *Encourages* Parties to make full use of tools, guidance and capacity-building opportunities developed under the Convention and associated initiatives and relevant organizations, including those related to national reporting, land degradation neutrality, drought resilience, sand and dust storms, sustainable land management and land restoration, and to identify remaining capacity gaps and priority areas for further support according to national circumstances with the understanding that the use of digital tools is not always mandatory;
8. *Invites* Parties, in line with articles 5, 6 and 20 of the Convention, and taking into account the recommendations from the Resource Mobilization Toolbox as appropriate, to mobilize resources for capacity-building activities that assist Parties in the implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of this decision at the next session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 3/COP.17

Progress made in the mobilization of resources and financial flows for the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Framework

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* Parties, in line with articles 5, 6 and 20, and annex I, article 4 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations from the Resource Mobilization Toolbox, (i) to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Convention, (ii) to consider a comprehensive approach, including through traditional and innovative financial instruments and strengthening the operational capacity of the Global Mechanism to allow it to respond to growing demand from country Parties, and (iii) to invest in Global Mechanism-developed initiatives;
2. *Encourages* Parties' efforts to translate the recommendations contained in their national drought plans and other drought-related policy instruments into concrete investment and support plans, programmes and projects, and to integrate these into national development plans;
3. *Invites* Parties that are members of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership to further develop the Partnership to support its establishment and operationalization, including its Readiness Fund, Investment Facility and Knowledge Bank, and to engage with the Partnership in the development of investable projects for drought resilience;
4. *Also invites* Parties to consider the adoption of the Global Implementation Initiative on Sand and Dust Storms, focused on the Convention's mandate of land and source management;

Action by the Global Mechanism

5. *Requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support the roll-out of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2.0 to additional country Parties, giving priority to those currently on the waiting list;
6. *Invites* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to intensify its collaboration with bilateral partners, regional organizations, multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, with a view to developing multi-country, large-scale projects and programmes for the implementation of the Convention;
7. *Requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with relevant financial and technical partners, to:
 - (a) Finalize the development of a time-bound strategy to increase fund mobilization based on the financial needs assessment of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in order to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention in accordance with decision 13/COP 15;
 - (b) Also finalize the development and deployment of the financing toolbox for resource mobilization, including guidelines on national needs assessments and on financing strategies, sources and mechanisms;
 - (c) Taking into consideration the outcomes of the 2026 national reporting process of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, revise and update the financial needs assessment of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as required, based on the submission of additional and refined targets and plans, and using tools to overcome data gaps to further inform the Global Mechanism's resource mobilization strategy;
 - (d) Further collaborate with other institutions with relevant expertise in this field to assist the Parties to elaborate resource mobilization strategies;
 - (e) Incorporate the results of the 2026 reporting cycle and related case studies into the financing toolbox;

(f) Support country Parties in forging targeted partnerships to mobilize technical and financial support for projects and programmes on drought resilience, and to leverage finance through relevant mechanisms and initiatives, including the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership and the International Drought Resilience Alliance;

(g) Advance innovative financing mechanisms for land restoration and drought resilience, including the Drought Resilience Investment Facility, resilience credits, parametric and index-based insurance products, and performance-based financing instruments, and explore additional opportunities for emerging thematic priorities;

(h) Contribute to building country Parties' capacities to strengthen, in their national context, intersectoral coordination with relevant sectors, policies and plans;

(i) Promote increased coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of enabling activities of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through a more programmatic approach, in collaboration with country Parties, the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility agencies;

(j) Continue to strengthen existing and seek new partnerships that enhance the implementation of the Convention;

(k) Demonstrate integrated decision-support tools that link voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and drought resilience with investment decision-making;

(l) Accelerate efforts to support private sector engagement and promote innovation, including through the implementation of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2021–2030 and the further development of the Business4Land Initiative;

(m) Continue the development and operationalization of the Global Implementation Initiative on Sand and Dust Storms, working with the secretariat and interested Parties and partners through support for land-focused monitoring, source stabilization, science–policy integration, and coordination and capacity-building, including transboundary cooperation, in support of the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2034);

(n) Invites the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to collaborate with the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to commission a comprehensive independent evaluation of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund to inform and guide the operationalization of the Drought Resilience Investment Facility;

8. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism to report to future sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 4/COP.17

Improving the procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decisions 22/COP.11, 7/COP.13, 15/COP.13, 11/COP.14, 11/COP.15 and 4/COP.16,

Having reviewed documents [ICCD/CRIC\(23\)/8](#) and [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/4-ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/7](#),

Welcoming the progress made in preparing for and supporting country Parties throughout the 2026 reporting process, including enhancements to the performance review and assessment of implementation system reporting platform and associated data analytics tools, updated guidance materials, the provision of new high-resolution data sets, the establishment of Support Hubs, strengthened collaboration with technical partners and data providers, and the delivery of targeted capacity-building activities,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Support Hubs, and technical advisory institutions to country Parties for capacity-building and the strengthening of monitoring and reporting capacities,

Recognizing the enhanced support architecture, comprising Support Hubs, technical advisory institutions, the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality flagship initiative and other partners under the coordination of the secretariat, as a significant advancement in providing coordinated, regionally tailored and technically robust support to country Parties,

Also recognizing the limitations of global default data sets, limited observational networks and current methodologies, especially in capturing changes in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and in particular in hyper arid areas and small islands, low lying atolls, and heterogeneous mountainous landscapes;

Further recognizing the substantial progress made in national reporting on land degradation and drought, as well as the unique value of nationally reported data for assessing global and regional status and trends,

Acknowledging that challenges remain, including untimely disbursement of funds, differences in national capacities, long processing times for large data sets, and limited access to high-quality and high-resolution data and imagery of Earth observation, including coverage and accessibility due to gaps in data availability and the application of certain current standardized methodologies,

Recognizing that effective national reporting is dependent upon a variety of factors, noting article 26 of the Convention, and that reporting requirements remain responsive to national circumstances,

Also recognizing that fit-for-purpose reporting, in accordance with national circumstances, incorporates nationally validated data, appropriate spatial and temporal resolutions and national supplementary indicators,

1. *Invites* Parties to actively engage with available support mechanisms and *encourages* Support Hubs and technical advisory institutions to take into account that support remains responsive to regional and national circumstances and aligned with reporting needs;
2. *Also invites* Parties, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, to involve a broad range of relevant stakeholders in the national reporting process and to make full use of the existing features of the performance review and assessment of implementation system that enable more inclusive and narrative reporting, in order to support the meaningful participation of these stakeholders;

3. *Further invites* Parties to submit national reports in a timely manner and consistent with national circumstances and capacities in order to enable comprehensive and credible global assessments of progress towards implementing the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD based primarily on national reporting data;
4. *Encourages* Parties to make nationally reported data available under appropriate open licensing arrangements, where feasible and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances, with a view to maximizing the interoperability, accessibility and impact of such data and enabling the secretariat to generate regional and global aggregate analyses from national reports;
5. *Invites* Parties, in line with articles 5, 6, and 20 of the Convention, and taking into account the recommendations from Resource Mobilization Toolbox, as appropriate, to mobilize resources to support national reporting through the performance review and assessment of implementation system and the interoperable reporting tools, and as appropriate and upon request, the strengthening of national spatial data infrastructures relevant to reporting under the Convention in light of the growing demand for high-resolution and long-time-series data sets for national reporting on land degradation and drought, in order to ensure their sustainable operation and capacity to manage increasing data volumes and complexity, including through cloud-hosted technologies and artificial intelligence, where appropriate;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to continue strengthening coordination across the reporting support architecture, including Support Hubs, technical advisory institutions, and other relevant initiatives, through to the final reporting deadline and thereafter, as needed and subject to the availability of financial resources, in order to ensure the coherence of technical guidance, avoid duplication of effort and enhance collaboration and cooperation across initiatives;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with financial and technical partners, to:
 - (a) Further formalize and operationalize, as appropriate and informed by the assessment of lessons learned from the 2026 reporting process, the roles and functions of Support Hubs and technical advisory institutions as complementary and advisory mechanisms responding to the needs and requests of Parties for the next reporting process, including through the Global Environment Facility-funded Global Support Programme and Umbrella Projects for Enabling Activities while affirming that authorization of access of national reporting information remains subject to Parties' approval;
 - (b) Explore options for the further evolution of Support Hubs and technical advisory institutions beyond national reporting and into longer-term centres of excellence, building on existing regional and subregional institutions and networks and avoiding the creation of parallel structures;
 - (c) Further strengthen and expand peer-driven learning modalities within regional capacity-building efforts by fostering the systematic exchange of practical experiences, challenges and tailored solutions among Parties at different stages of report preparation with a view to enhancing the quality of national reporting and strengthening the coherence and coordination across related reporting processes;
 - (d) Promote the continuity and sustainability of capacity-building efforts and enabling support beyond the 2026 reporting process, including by aligning investments with longer-term national planning and decision-making processes, and by facilitating the continued use of data, tools and institutional capacities developed through reporting;
 - (e) Support Parties through technical cooperation upon their request, and subject to the availability of funds, in strengthening national capacity to generate, manage, analyse, interpret and use national data, Earth observation and geospatial information for monitoring and reporting;

(f) Promote further efficiency of reporting systems and tools, with a view to reducing duplication of reporting and administrative burdens on Parties;

8. *Invites* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Earth Observation community, including its relevant data providers, end users and other technical partners, as appropriate, within their respective mandate capacity and expertise, and using existing mechanisms and resources, to continue structured dialogue and collaboration with a view to identifying and addressing gaps in the accessibility, quality, high spatial resolutions and temporal coverage of data sets used for national reporting, including, as appropriate, through existing dialogue forums;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the twenty-fifth and the twenty-sixth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, in line with its terms of reference as contained in the annex of decision 13/COP.13.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 5/COP.17

Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 5/COP.10 on the procedures for the participation of representatives of business and industry entities in the meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, decision 6/COP.15 on the establishment of the Business4Land Initiative as the principal vehicle for private sector engagement under the Convention, decision 6/COP.16 on private sector participation and the private sector engagement strategy, and decision 19/COP.16 on guidance for the sustainable management of agricultural lands,

Noting decisions 3/COP.16 and 12/COP.16 on the mobilization of resources, the engagement of the private sector and progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the urgency of mobilizing private sector resources, in line with the Convention, capacities and partnerships at speed and scale to address desertification, land degradation and drought,

Acknowledging the devastating impacts of droughts on economies, with cascading impacts on global food systems, supply chains and livelihoods, giving consideration to women,

Welcoming the work of the International Drought Resilience Alliance in supporting the mobilization of strategic financial resources to catalyze the creation of innovative financial instruments and supporting its members in facilitating the engagement of the private sector to achieve drought resilience,

Also welcoming the creation of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership as a strategic investment initiative to unlock public and private investments for drought resilience at the national level,

Noting with appreciation the launch of the Drought Resilience Investment Facility as a blended finance vehicle aimed at mobilizing private investment to build drought resilience,

Recognizing the critical role of the private sector in the achievement of land degradation neutrality and drought resilience,

Welcoming the continued development of the Business4Land Initiative as the main vehicle for private sector engagement and involvement in the implementation of the Convention,

Also welcoming the convening of the eighth Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, meeting as the Business4Land Forum, the first Rangeland Investment Forum and the Fashion4Land Forum on the sidelines of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and the work of the Business4Land Champions' Council in driving senior business leadership for land degradation neutrality and drought resilience,

Further welcoming the partnerships established with the Science Based Targets Network and the Global Reporting Initiative to support the implementation of the Convention, and the cooperation with the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative on private sector capacity-building,

Acknowledging the work of the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative in promoting the development of the land restoration industry,

Noting the progress made in advancing sustainable land management-linked insurance,

Taking note of the participation of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in (i) the consultations with leading agrifood businesses and civil society organizations facilitated by

the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, which have produced the private sector recommendations titled “Policies for Regenerative Landscape Action: A Business Perspective”, contained in the annex to document ICCD/COP(17)/4; and (ii) the work of the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Healthy Soils and Land and its white paper to make the business case for private sector investment in activities relating to healthy lands and soils,

Expressing concern that despite growing momentum, private sector engagement and involvement remains constrained by high perceived and systemic risks, limited project bankability, inadequate capacities and insufficient data and methodologies to measure land health and resilience, weak enabling environments, and persistent gaps in standards and metrics,

Action by Parties

1. *Encourages* Parties to promote, as appropriate, the participation and engagement of the private sector in the implementation of the Convention;
2. *Also encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to consider the development and implementation of measures, including enabling conditions, necessary to facilitate private sector contributions to land degradation neutrality, drought resilience and combating desertification;
3. *Further encourages* Parties to consider supporting the establishment of Business4Land Hubs at national level to mobilize business participation, facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and advance activities aligned with the priorities of the Convention;
4. *Encourages* Parties to facilitate the participation of representatives of business and industry entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, as appropriate, in the meetings and processes of the Convention, in line with the procedures established in decision 5/COP.10, while maintaining the intergovernmental and Party-driven nature of decision-making and ensuring transparency regarding affiliations and potential conflicts of interest;
5. *Invites* Parties to promote, at the national level, the engagement and participation of business and industry entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Business4Land Initiative;
6. *Also invites* Parties to consider the use of blended finance approaches and de-risking instruments, risk-sharing, and investment instruments for land and drought resilience in order to mobilize private capital for the implementation of the Convention while safeguarding public interests and with the understanding that such approaches should be complementary and in line with the Convention;
7. *Further invites* Parties, as appropriate, to engage with the private sector to explore and develop innovative approaches to address desertification, land degradation and drought, including, but not limited to, sustainable bioeconomy, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, sustainable integrated water and land management, and land restoration;

Action by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism

8. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue implementing the Private Sector Strategy and to further develop the Business4Land Initiative as the main vehicle for private sector engagement under the Convention;
9. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in collaboration with relevant partners and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
 - (a) Continue the relevant work on voluntary corporate disclosure and land-related target-setting, including through partnerships with the Science Based Targets Network and the Global Reporting Initiative and through the corporate disclosures and target-setting expert group, with a view to aligning corporate land targets with voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and to developing a monitoring methodology that recognizes corporate contributions to land degradation neutrality;

(b) Continue to expand the drought resilience components of the Business4Land Initiative, ensuring consistency with Party decisions on drought and nationally determined drought priorities and plans;

(c) Continue the collaboration with partnerships to support corporate capacities, upon request, to improve their sustainable land and water management and drought resilience practices;

(d) Continue to support the Business4Land Champions' Council as a high-level platform for senior business leadership on land degradation neutrality and drought resilience, and to support its members in translating corporate sustainability commitments into concrete drought-resilient action;

(e) Continue the engagement of specific value chain sectors critical to achieving the objectives of the Convention;

(f) Develop additional pathways for private sector entities to contribute to flagship initiatives, transformative projects and programmes, and other land degradation neutrality-related landscape initiatives and drought resilience programmes, ensuring meaningful contribution to the Convention's objectives and priorities;

(g) Promote capacity-building and partnerships with the private sector, including by promoting drought resilience technologies in drought affected areas;

(h) Continue to build on blended finance approaches and innovative financial instruments, in coordination with the actions on innovative finance set out in the report by the Global Mechanism in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/2](#) on the mobilization of resources and financing flows, on the understanding that such approaches should be complementary and in line with the Convention;

(i) Facilitate the organization of the Sustainable Land Management and Drought Resilience Business Forum and related forums at future sessions of the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with host countries, accredited business and industry entities, and other relevant partners;

10. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue facilitating the participation of representatives of business and industry entities as appropriate, including from underrepresented regions, in the meetings and processes of the Convention, including through the accreditation procedure established in decision 5/COP.10, and to recommend additional business and industry entities for accreditation by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session;

11. *Requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to support interested affected Parties in preparing country-driven projects and programmes that are suitable for public, concessional and blended financing according to the mandate of the Convention;

12. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to report jointly to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in conjunction with the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, on progress made in the implementation of the present decision, including measurable outputs of the Business4Land Initiative and the engagement of accredited entities.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 6/COP.17

Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 4/COP.16, by which it established the 2024–2026 Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (hereafter termed IWG-FSF #1) and which was tasked with identifying key elements for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention and undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the current indicators under the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Noting that, at its twenty-third meeting in December 2025, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention decided, in line with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, to defer item 4, “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework”, and item 5, “Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance”, to the provisional agenda of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-fourth session during the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties for further consideration and action by Parties,

Having reviewed document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/2](#), taking into account the need for consistent, sustained and comprehensive work on the post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention in a spirit of collaboration and in the interest of the effective functioning of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as a whole,

1. *Takes note* of the final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention and the recommendations, draft vision and key elements contained therein;
2. *Decides* to renew and extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF #1) for the duration of the 2026-2028 biennium (hereafter termed IWG-FSF #2), in line with the terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision.
3. *Adopts* the terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision;
4. *Requests* the UNCCD secretariat to support and facilitate the effective functioning of the IWG-FSF #2, subject to the availability of financial resources, by providing relevant information and support, facilitating its work and arranging its access to expertise as deemed appropriate by its members.
5. *Also requests* the IWG-FSF #2 to:
 - (a) Present an interim report for consultation to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and regional groups at the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Also present its proposal in a final report to Parties for their consideration and action at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Annex I

Terms of reference and mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework #2

I. Scope and mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework #2

1. Conduct a thorough analysis of the current indicators as contained in the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with a view to making them more relevant and responsive for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention, while ensuring that future methodologies are feasible, accessible and within the capacities of Parties, and taking into consideration decision 8/COP.16

2. Develop a draft post-2030 strategic proposal based on the aforementioned analysis, which shall include goals and targets for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention, building on (i) the key elements and draft vision identified in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/2](#), as well as (ii) the statements issued in the plenary of the Committee of the Whole during its consideration of agenda item 3 at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17).

II. Composition

3. The IWG-FSF #2 shall be comprised of the same total number of members as the IWG-FSF #1, ensuring adequate participation of regional representatives supported by technical experts and taking into account geographical balance, namely:

(a) three representatives per United Nations region¹ with policy, scientific and technical expertise.

(b) The regional representatives serving on the IWG-FSF#1, who were identified as members of the IWG-FSF#1 in line with the “Terms of Reference and mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention” (IWG TOR1) would be automatically granted a renewed mandate to participate as member in the IWG-FSF #2, to be confirmed through a letter from their respective regional Chairs within four weeks of the adoption of this decision. In case the region decides to replace one or more representative(s) (including in case a member would no longer be available to serve), a communication of this change shall be shared by its regional Chair to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP Bureau) and the secretariat, and the selection shall follow the procedure referred to in section II.A.

A. Regular nomination process to fill in seats of regional representatives

4. If necessary, a new regional representative(s) shall be nominated by their respective regional group, through their regional Chair, on the basis of nominations received from their national governments.

5. In this case, the regional Chair(s) shall facilitate the selection to fill the representatives, assessed against an agreed set of criteria used in the context of the selection of IWG-FSF #1 members, with due regard for policy, scientific and technical expertise, as well as geographic balance. The regional Chair shall share the proposed candidate(s) to their respective regional group for consideration.

¹ Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; Central and Eastern Europe; and Western European and Other Countries.

6. Following a two-week regional silence procedure, the proposed candidate(s) shall be considered consensually endorsed. If the silence procedure is broken, the ad hoc nomination process described in Section II.B shall be initiated. The overall duration of the regular nomination process, including the communication of the final names of the proposed regional representatives filling vacant seats by their respective regional Chair(s) or respective COP Bureau members to the secretariat and the COP Bureau, shall be no later than 10 weeks after the adoption of this decision.

7. Five additional experts will form part of the IWG-FSF #2, comprising three independent scientists and two technical experts, and comprising one representative from an international organization and one representative from an accredited civil society organization, taking into account geographical balance.

8. Unless otherwise decided by the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), all additional experts already participating in the IWG-FSF#1 would be automatically granted a renewed mandate to participate as a member in the IWG-FSF #2. In case the CST and CRIC Bureaux decide to replace one or more experts, the selection shall follow the procedure established in the COP Bureau-approved terms of reference, as mandated by decision 4/COP.16.

B. Ad hoc nomination process to fill in seats originally allocated to regional representatives

9. In a situation where a region is unable to renew the mandate of IWG-FSF #1 members (see para. 3 (b)) or propose a number of regional representatives to fill the seats to complete its allocated regional quota (see Section II.A) upon expiry of the regular regional nomination process, with a view to overcome potential deadlock and to ensure comprehensive work of the IWG in accordance with paragraph 3 (b) and Section II.A, an ad hoc Selection Committee composed of the Presidents of each of the UNCCD COP 16 and COP 17, and COP 18 Presidency shall be called upon, with support from the secretariat, to:

(a) Within four weeks, organize an open call for expression of interest for independent expert candidates within the region under consideration no later than three weeks after the provided deadline that a region is not able to confirm (para. 3 (b)) or appoint (Section II.A), inviting the submission of applications within four weeks of its launch that respond to the criteria contained in annex II;

(b) Within four weeks, create a list of candidates on the basis of the call for expression of interest, assess candidates and proceed with the final selection of the required number of independent experts from that region, in line with the set of criteria contained in annex II, with no more than one expert per country.

10. Those experts selected according to Section II.B (on the basis of annex II) shall act in a personal capacity and ensure that their ability to provide contributions and views reflect specific regional experiences and geographically contextualized expert perspectives. As full members of the IWG-FSF #2, their contributions and views shall be considered on an equal basis with those of all other members, consistent with the approach applied in the IWG-FSF #1.

11. Once all procedures for the establishment of IWG-FSF#2 are finalized, their names shall be published on the UNCCD website and communicated to all Parties through the national focal points (NFPs).

III. Working modalities

12. Unless otherwise agreed by the IWG-FSF #2, the group shall have three in-person meetings, subject to availability of resources: one at the beginning of its work, a second after the intersessional session (CRIC 25), and a final meeting at the end of its work to finalize its report scheduled to be submitted to COP 18. In addition, the IWG-FSF#2 shall meet online,

either in full or in smaller subgroups, on particular aspects of its work programme, and it shall also actively communicate through email exchanges.

13. The secretariat shall facilitate the meetings of the IWG-FSF #2 and communication among its members. The IWG-FSF #2 is also encouraged to regularly consult with Parties, via NFPs, regional Chairs, science and technology correspondents, and relevant stakeholders, online or physically through its members with the support of the secretariat, as requested, to seek broad technical input and ensure transparency of the process and buy-in from all Parties and relevant actors.

14. In cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the IWG-FSF#2, selected among and by its members, the secretariat shall coordinate and assist in the organization and preparation of the agenda of its meetings, issue notices and provide any other support deemed necessary by its members. Additionally, it shall offer technical assistance, addressing questions related to the functioning of the Convention and leveraging its in-depth knowledge to facilitate discussions.

Annex II

Criteria for selection

1. Experts applying to become members of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF) shall demonstrate capabilities in policy, scientific or technical expertise in relation to the matters of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by fulfilling at least three of the following criteria:

(a) An advanced university degree (Masters or PhD) and a strong academic and/or professional background in any of the following fields: desertification, land degradation, drought, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, climate science, or environmental monitoring; or

(b) Substantive relevant professional experience in scientific research, science-policy analysis, or programme implementation in areas related to land degradation, desertification or drought; sustainable land management or ecosystem restoration; indicator development and monitoring, or reporting frameworks; multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), conventions or governance; or strategic policy development; or

(c) Substantive evidence of significant, peer-reviewed publications in international journals, technical assessments, or contributions to intergovernmental processes; or

(d) Experience in strategic policy development, indicator design or data analysis, or related technical/scientific assessments at international, regional or national levels; or

(e) Experience in providing policy, scientific or technical advice to decision makers and/or practitioners at global, regional, national and/or subnational levels in thematic areas relevant to the UNCCD; or

(f) Understanding of the UNCCD processes/procedures, related United Nations and/or intergovernmental processes, and/or MEAs.

2. In addition, the expert shall:

(a) Have full professional fluency in English (the working language of the IWG-FSF) (oral and written);

(b) Be willing to commit the time and effort necessary to contribute to the work of the IWG-FSF.

Decision 7/COP.17

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 5, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention, and that the Global Environment Facility is a financial mechanism of the Convention,

Noting decision 9/COP.16,

Taking note of the support of the Global Environment Facility towards the effort to implement the Convention

Noting that the continued land degradation may undermine progress towards the achievement of strategic objective 1 of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its voluntary targets by 2030,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2024 to 15 April 2026, as published on their website² and referred to in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/INF.1](#);
2. *Welcomes* the 100 per cent utilization rate as of June 2026³ of the available funding for the land degradation focal area in the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility and the integrated programming of resources of other Global Environment Facility trust fund windows through the Global Environment Facility's integrated programmes, providing opportunities for enhanced coordination and cooperation, and co-benefits among all focal areas through multifocal area programming, including the continued 3:1 ratio of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources to matching incentives for the ninth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility;
3. *Notes* the initial pledges of USD 3.9 billion to the Global Environment Facility for its ninth replenishment cycle, which is currently, as of August 2026, 27 per cent lower than the replenishment level of the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility, and *also notes* the relative decrease of the financial allocation to the Land Degradation Focal Area of the ninth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility compared to the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility, and *invites* additional contributions to the ninth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility;
4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to consider strengthening its support for countries in programming and accessing land degradation focal area resources to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;
5. *Also invites* the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to continue to support Parties in meeting their reporting requirements in a timely manner, including continuing support for enhancing interoperability among geospatial platforms and tools that countries may wish to utilize for reporting, monitoring and assessment purposes;
6. *Further invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue enhancing knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices to combat desertification and land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought and sand and dust storms, including through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database;

² The GEF report to UNCCD COP 17 can be consulted at the following link:
<https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-unccd-cop17>.

³ [GEFScorecard_June 2026_06_30.pdf](#).

7. *Notes with appreciation* the Global Environment Facility's support for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative, and *invites* continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;
8. *Welcomes* the Global Environment Facility's attention to drought mitigation and adaptation in its programming strategies, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen its efforts in this regard to support countries to address their desertification, land degradation and drought priorities;
9. *Notes* that the land degradation focal area Strategy under the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, continues to contribute towards countries' efforts to the implement their national drought plans and other drought-related policies and *requests* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to continue to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems, and capacity-building;
10. *Takes note of* the Global Environment Facility's inclusion of a drought vulnerability sub-index as an element of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources formula of the ninth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility and also *notes* the new drought-related indicators in the results management framework for its ninth replenishment cycle.
11. *Welcomes* the new Drylands and Drought Management Integrated Program included in the Programming Directions for the ninth cycle of the Global Environment Facility and *encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue with the integrated approach of funding drought-related projects and programmes through various Global Environment Facility funding windows, including through the Small Grants Program and Blended Finance Program, to support Parties in addressing the interconnected challenges of drought while recognizing that blended finance, as an approach that combines public and private resources, should complement, and not substitute for, public international financial resources;
12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the scale up of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2.0 by providing support to Parties who wish to be part of this programme and moving decisively to programmatic support linking the setting and refinement of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to implementation and financing with monitoring and reporting;
13. *Also invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session by presenting a more results-oriented report, including on options to improve the long-term impact of projects and programmes financed through the Global Environment Facility;
14. *Requests* the secretariat, according to the applicable rules of procedure, to ensure that any draft decision on collaboration with the Global Environment Facility is circulated at least six weeks prior to the sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 8/COP.17

Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its amendments,⁴

Also recalling decisions 1/COP.16 and 10/COP.16,

Noting the action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session to address the continued zero nominal growth budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the steady increase in salary costs which have affected the sustainability of finances of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to carry out the work assigned to them by the Conference of the Parties,

Noting with concern the amount of outstanding contributions to the core budget during the biennium 2025–2026,

Noting with appreciation the measures taken by the secretariat for early engagement of Parties in the consideration of the 2027–2028 budget,

Welcoming with appreciation the integrated results-based budget approach proposed by the secretariat, with a view to enhancing the transparency of the financial management of the secretariat,

Having considered the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the programme and budget,

A. Programme budget for the biennium 2027–2028

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the biennium 2027–2028 in the amount of EUR 17,744,748 for the purposes specified in table 1 below;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for its biennial contribution to the core budget of EUR 1,022,584 and its special contribution of EUR 1,022,584 (Bonn Fund) as the host Government to the secretariat;
3. *Approves* the staffing table for the programme budget, as contained in table 2 below;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary, in implementing the programme and budget, and within available resources, to give due consideration to maintaining adequate capacity for functions that foster an enabling environment, including capacity-building and legal advice;
5. *Decides* to set the level of the working capital reserve to 12 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure in the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2027–2028 contained in the annex to this decision;
7. *Urges* all Parties to the Convention to note paragraphs 17 and 18 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties and to promptly pay their contributions to the core budget;
8. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines, as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on any such transfers;

⁴ See decision 2/COP.1, annex; decision 10/COP.13; decision 10/COP.14; decision 10/COP.15 and decision 10/COP.16.

9. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to establish lower-level positions in addition to the approved staffing table, as set out in table 2 below, within a budget for staff costs not to exceed EUR 13,070,388; and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the positions established and filled;
10. *Invites* the General Assembly to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the years 2027 and 2028, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;
11. *Approves* a contingency budget as set out in table 3 below, amounting to EUR 2,477,300 for conference servicing, to be added to the programme budget for the biennium 2027–2028 in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget;
12. *Decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for the purpose expressed in paragraph 10 does not reach this amount, the balance will be covered from the contingency budget for conference servicing;
13. *Takes note of* the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 1,772,540, as set out in table 4 below, in the event that the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, Germany;
14. *Also takes note of* the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 803,430, as set out in table 5 below, in the event that the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is held in Bonn, Germany;
15. *Further takes note of* the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 6 below, and *invites* Parties to make contributions to this Fund;
16. *Encourages* Parties to facilitate engagement by the secretariat with potential alternative donors to the Special Trust Fund, including private bodies, to assist in funding the participation of developing country Parties in sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to continue to monitor and report the availability of voluntary contributions to the Special Trust Fund;
18. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach;
19. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2029–2030, presenting three budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; (b) a zero real growth scenario; and (c) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario, and also report on any unspent balances;
20. Recognizing the need to ensure that available resources are used in the most cost-effective, efficient and results-oriented manner, *requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to oversee, and the secretariat to make arrangements for, an independent external functional review of its staff, posts, structure and internal organization, with a view to identifying opportunities to enhance operational efficiency, streamline functions and ensure greater alignment between the formal structure and the functioning of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;
21. *Also requests* the secretariat to present the provisional terms of reference to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties within two months following the closing of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and make the arrangements for the functional review in time for having its findings and recommendations presented at the next session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
22. *Further requests* the secretariat, building on the feedback received at the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to integrate the findings and

recommendations of the functional review into the programme and budget scenarios to be presented at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

B. Financial performance of the Convention trust funds

23. *Takes note* of the audited financial statements for the secretariat and Global Mechanism for 2022, 2023 and 2024, and of the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2025–2026, and the status of contributions as at 18 August 2026;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform Parties on the latest audit reports as soon as they are available and to implement recommendations therein; and report on the implementation status at sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

25. *Expresses appreciation* to Parties that have paid their contributions to the core budget; and *calls upon* Parties that have not yet done so to pay without delay their contributions to the core budget, bearing in mind that contributions are expected on or before 1 January of each year;

26. *Requests* the secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions to the core budget as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due and to publish and keep up to date the information on the status of contributions to the Convention Trust Funds, and to keep the Parties updated;

27. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to draw upon available uncommitted balances to partially cover expenditures concerning the commissioning of the functional review requested in paragraph 20, up to an amount not exceeding EUR 50,000 including the related programme support costs;

28. *Urges* Parties that have not yet paid their contributions to the core budget for 2026 and prior years to do so without delay or conditionalities, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to publish and keep up to date the information on the status of contributions to the Convention Trust Funds, and to keep the members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties updated, so that they can provide information on unpaid contributions and their consequences at the regional meetings;

29. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue engaging Parties with outstanding contributions from past years with a view to the Parties entering into a voluntary plan to pay the outstanding contribution and to continue to report on the implementation of any arrangements regarding outstanding contributions;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods that have been received during the biennium 2027–2028;

31. *Also requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Headquarters, to explore possibilities to facilitate payment procedures and minimize transaction costs incurred by Parties in transferring their contributions;

32. *Expresses appreciation* for the contributions received from Parties to the Supplementary Fund, the Special Fund and the extrabudgetary funds of the Global Mechanism, as presented in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.7;

C. Evaluation reports

33. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the independent evaluations and assessments summarized in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.2, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to use these recommendations in planning and conducting their work;

34. *Takes note* of the proposed 2027–2028 workplan of the Evaluation Office and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on the outcomes of the evaluations that will be conducted during this biennium and on the action taken to meet the pending recommendations of earlier evaluations.

Table 1
Resource requirements by subprogramme
(euros)

	2027	2028	Total budget
A. Management and governance:			
- Executive Office, Governing Bodies and Legal Affairs	1 332 925	1 332 925	2 665 850
B. Secretariat programmes:			
- Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation	1 540 390	1 540 390	3 080 780
- Communications, External Relations and Partnerships	1 145 092	1 145 092	2 290 184
- Science, Technology and Innovation	1 358 798	1 358 798	2 717 596
C. Global Mechanism	1 703 042	1 703 042	3 406 084
D. Special programmes:			
- Group of 20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office	0	0	0
E. Administrative services	771 412	771 412	1 542 824
Subtotal (A-E)	7 851 659	7 851 659	15 703 318
Programme support cost (13%)	1 020 715	1 020 715	2 041 430
IV. Working capital reserve	-	-	-
TOTAL (I - IV)	8 872 374	8 872 374	17 744 748
Income			
Contributions from the host Government	511 292	511 292	1 022 584
Indicative contributions	8 361 082	8 361 082	16 722 164
Total income	8 872 374	8 872 374	17 744 748

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Approved budget 2025–2026			Proposed 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	7.00	2.00	9.00
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	21.00	10.00	31.00
Subtotal General Services category	10.00	4.00	14.00	10.00	4.00	14.00
TOTAL	31.00	14.00	45.00	31.00	14.00	45.00

Table 3
Contingency budget for conference servicing (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2027–2028</i>
United Nations meetings services	1 993 000
Programme support costs	259 090
TOTAL	2 252 090

Table 4
Resource requirements for hosting the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn (euros)

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

Table 5
Resource requirements for hosting the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (euros)

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

Table 6
Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2027–2028 (euros)

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
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

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Annex

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for 2027–2028

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Afghanistan	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Albania	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Algeria	0.087	0.085	7 091	7 091	14 182
Andorra	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Angola	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Argentina	0.490	0.478	39 939	39 939	79 878
Armenia	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Australia	2.040	1.989	166 278	166 278	332 556
Austria	0.626	0.610	51 025	51 025	102 050
Azerbaijan	0.034	0.033	2 771	2 771	5 542
Bahamas	0.015	0.015	1 223	1 223	2 446
Bahrain	0.050	0.049	4 075	4 075	8 150
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Barbados	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Belarus	0.043	0.042	3 505	3 505	7 010
Belgium	0.773	0.754	63 007	63 007	126 014
Belize	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Benin	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.018	0.018	1 467	1 467	2 934
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.014	0.014	1 141	1 141	2 282
Botswana	0.013	0.013	1 060	1 060	2 120
Brazil	1.411	1.376	115 009	115 009	230 018
Brunei Darussalam	0.019	0.019	1 549	1 549	3 098
Bulgaria	0.071	0.069	5 787	5 787	11 574
Burkina Faso	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Burundi	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Cambodia	0.008	0.008	652	652	1 304
Cameroon	0.014	0.014	1 141	1 141	2 282

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Canada	2.543	2.479	207 278	207 278	414 556
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Chad	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Chile	0.374	0.365	30 484	30 484	60 968
China	20.004	19.501	1 630 507	1 630 507	3 261 014
Colombia	0.197	0.192	16 057	16 057	32 114
Comoros	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Congo	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Costa Rica	0.063	0.061	5 135	5 135	10 270
Côte d'Ivoire	0.024	0.023	1 956	1 956	3 912
Croatia	0.088	0.086	7 173	7 173	14 346
Cuba	0.122	0.119	9 944	9 944	19 888
Cyprus	0.035	0.034	2 853	2 853	5 706
Czechia	0.344	0.335	28 039	28 039	56 078
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Denmark	0.531	0.518	43 281	43 281	86 562
Djibouti	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Dominica	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Dominican Republic	0.069	0.067	5 624	5 624	11 248
Ecuador	0.065	0.063	5 298	5 298	10 596
Egypt	0.182	0.177	14 835	14 835	29 670
El Salvador	0.013	0.013	1 060	1 060	2 120
Equatorial Guinea	0.008	0.008	652	652	1 304
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Estonia	0.045	0.044	3 668	3 668	7 336
Eswatini	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
European Union	2.500	2.500	209 027	209 027	418 054
Fiji	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Finland	0.386	0.376	31 463	31 463	62 926
France	3.858	3.761	314 462	314 462	628 924
Gabon	0.011	0.011	897	897	1 794
Gambia	0.001	0.001	84	84	168

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Georgia	0.009	0.009	734	734	1 468
Germany	5.692	5.549	463 950	463 950	927 900
Ghana	0.025	0.024	2 038	2 038	4 076
Greece	0.280	0.273	22 823	22 823	45 646
Grenada	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Guatemala	0.046	0.045	3 749	3 749	7 498
Guinea	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Guyana	0.011	0.011	897	897	1 794
Haiti	0.006	0.006	489	489	978
Honduras	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Hungary	0.223	0.217	18 177	18 177	36 354
Iceland	0.035	0.034	2 853	2 853	5 706
India	1.106	1.078	90 149	90 149	180 298
Indonesia	0.579	0.564	47 194	47 194	94 388
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.386	0.376	31 463	31 463	62 926
Iraq	0.131	0.128	10 678	10 678	21 356
Ireland	0.472	0.460	38 472	38 472	76 944
Israel	0.609	0.594	49 639	49 639	99 278
Italy	2.813	2.742	229 285	229 285	458 570
Jamaica	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Japan	6.930	6.756	564 858	564 858	1 129 716
Jordan	0.021	0.020	1 712	1 712	3 424
Kazakhstan	0.131	0.128	10 678	10 678	21 356
Kenya	0.037	0.036	3 016	3 016	6 032
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Kuwait	0.222	0.216	18 095	18 095	36 190
Kyrgyzstan	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.006	0.006	489	489	978
Latvia	0.050	0.049	4 075	4 075	8 150
Lebanon	0.022	0.021	1 793	1 793	3 586
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Liberia	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Libya	0.040	0.039	3 260	3 260	6 520
Liechtenstein	0.009	0.009	734	734	1 468

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Lithuania	0.081	0.079	6 602	6 602	13 204
Luxembourg	0.073	0.071	5 950	5 950	11 900
Madagascar	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Malawi	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Malaysia	0.326	0.318	26 572	26 572	53 144
Maldives	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Mali	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Malta	0.020	0.019	1 630	1 630	3 260
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Mauritania	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Mauritius	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Mexico	1.137	1.108	92 676	92 676	185 352
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Monaco	0.011	0.011	897	897	1 794
Mongolia	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Montenegro	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Morocco	0.059	0.058	4 809	4 809	9 618
Mozambique	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Namibia	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Naoero	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Nepal	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.298	1.265	105 799	105 799	211 598
New Zealand	0.302	0.294	24 616	24 616	49 232
Nicaragua	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Niger	0.004	0.004	326	326	652
Nigeria	0.150	0.146	12 226	12 226	24 452
Niue	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
North Macedonia	0.008	0.008	652	652	1 304
Norway	0.653	0.637	53 225	53 225	106 450
Oman	0.115	0.112	9 374	9 374	18 748
Pakistan	0.123	0.120	10 026	10 026	20 052
Palau	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Panama	0.086	0.084	7 010	7 010	14 020
Papua New Guinea	0.009	0.009	734	734	1 468

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Paraguay	0.023	0.022	1 875	1 875	3 750
Peru	0.145	0.141	11 819	11 819	23 638
Philippines	0.198	0.193	16 139	16 139	32 278
Poland	0.831	0.810	67 734	67 734	135 468
Portugal	0.328	0.320	26 735	26 735	53 470
Qatar	0.245	0.239	19 970	19 970	39 940
Republic of Korea	2.349	2.290	191 465	191 465	382 930
Republic of Moldova	0.006	0.006	489	489	978
Romania	0.358	0.349	29 180	29 180	58 360
Russian Federation	2.094	2.041	170 680	170 680	341 360
Rwanda	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Samoa	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
San Marino	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Saudi Arabia	1.217	1.186	99 197	99 197	198 394
Senegal	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Serbia	0.040	0.039	3 260	3 260	6 520
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Singapore	0.479	0.467	39 043	39 043	78 086
Slovakia	0.149	0.145	12 145	12 145	24 290
Slovenia	0.077	0.075	6 276	6 276	12 552
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Somalia	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
South Africa	0.251	0.245	20 459	20 459	40 918
South Sudan	0.005	0.005	408	408	816
Spain	1.895	1.847	154 460	154 460	308 920
Sri Lanka	0.038	0.037	3 097	3 097	6 194
State of Palestine	0.011	0.011	897	897	1 794
Sudan	0.008	0.008	652	652	1 304
Suriname	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Sweden	0.822	0.801	67 000	67 000	134 000

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment^b</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2027–2028</i>	<i>2027 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>2028 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
Switzerland	1.029	1.003	83 873	83 873	167 746
Syrian Arab Republic	0.006	0.006	489	489	978
Tajikistan	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Thailand	0.341	0.332	27 795	27 795	55 590
Timor-Leste	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Togo	0.002	0.002	163	163	326
Tonga	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Trinidad and Tobago	0.033	0.032	2 690	2 690	5 380
Tunisia	0.018	0.018	1 467	1 467	2 934
Türkiye	0.685	0.668	55 834	55 834	111 668
Turkmenistan	0.036	0.035	2 934	2 934	5 868
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Uganda	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
Ukraine	0.074	0.072	6 032	6 032	12 064
United Arab Emirates	0.574	0.560	46 786	46 786	93 572
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3.991	3.891	325 303	325 303	650 606
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	815	815	1 630
United States of America	22.000	21.447	1 793 200	1 793 200	3 586 400
Uruguay	0.079	0.077	6 439	6 439	12 878
Uzbekistan	0.024	0.023	1 956	1 956	3 912
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	84	84	168
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.069	0.067	5 624	5 624	11 248
Viet Nam	0.159	0.155	12 960	12 960	25 920
Yemen	0.003	0.003	245	245	490
Zambia	0.006	0.006	489	489	978
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.007	571	571	1 142
Total	102.513	100.000	8 361 082	8 361 082	16 722 164

^a Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 28 August 2026.

^b In accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/249.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Decision 9/COP.17

Programme of work for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 22 and 23 of the Convention,

Also noting decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of engaging development partners, as appropriate, in the interactive sessions of the intersessional session,

Recognizing that regional meetings, including physical ones, play an important role in reviewing progress and make useful contributions to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for the Parties to review and discuss:

(a) Inputs from regional meetings in preparation for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

(b) Implementation of the Convention using the indicators adopted to track progress towards the strategic objectives contained in the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(c) Update on the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts;

(d) Reporting on strategic objective 5;

(e) Procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(f) Exchange of information through interactive dialogues on actions on the ground related to the implementation of sustainable land management practices, restoration and rehabilitation practices, the promotion of alternative livelihoods, and the development of drought risk management, monitoring and early warning systems;

(g) Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues such as sand and dust storms and other policy frameworks, as identified by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session;

(h) Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance;

(i) Special segment: Caucus convenings;

(j) Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations languages, at least six weeks prior to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the items contained in paragraph 1 above, as well as any additional items necessitated by decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 10/COP.17

Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Serbia to host the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and to meet the additional costs;
2. *Decides* that the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention shall be held in Belgrade, Serbia in 2027 at a date to be determined;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Serbia to prepare for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with the Government of Serbia.

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 11/COP.17

Activities of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with interest the work of the Science-Policy Interface for the 2025–2026 biennium across its mandated activities,

Invites Parties that wish to do so to consider, as appropriate, and in line with national circumstances, priorities and needs, the information and conclusions in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#).

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 12/COP.17

Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decision 19/COP.16,

Recalling article 2 of the Convention, stating that achieving the objective of the Convention will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus, inter alia, on the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level,

Also recalling article 18 of the Convention on the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology,

Recognizing that agricultural lands and soils are central to achieving land degradation neutrality, food security and nutrition, their interlinkages with biodiversity and climate, and that their degradation undermines their productive capacity, the provision of ecosystem services and the resilience of rural livelihoods,

Also recognizing that the drivers and nature of land and soil degradation differ across countries and regions, and that countries with limited land areas might face particular challenges that may require targeted measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation,

Having noted document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/4 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to apply the land degradation neutrality response hierarchy on agricultural lands and soils, prioritizing the avoidance of degradation, followed by the reduction of ongoing degradation and the reversal of past degradation through restoration and rehabilitation, and, where appropriate, to embed related assessment, planning and monitoring within existing integrated land use planning and other relevant national processes, in line with national priorities;
2. *Invites* Parties to design and implement national legal and policy frameworks, in line with national priorities and circumstances, that promote soil health and generate enabling conditions for the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders;
3. *Also invites* Parties to pursue evidence-based approaches to sustainable land management practices, including, but not limited to, sustainable bioeconomy, nature-based solutions and or ecosystem-based approaches, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, sustainable integrated land management and land restoration, among other approaches, in order to avoid, reduce and reverse the degradation of agricultural lands and soils while facilitating access to finance and knowledge for smallholders and other land users;
4. *Further invites* Parties to recognize and enhance the participation of the private sector as a contributor to the sustainable management and restoration of agricultural lands and soils, including by taking into account relevant private sector activities and business models when designing policies, monitoring, reporting and data frameworks and financial mechanisms, where appropriate, in line with national priorities;
5. *Invites* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, under their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, and *also invites* other relevant partners to assist interested Parties in identifying key enabling conditions for scaling private sector contributions and public-private partnerships for the sustainable management of agricultural lands and soils;
6. *Further invites* Parties, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, to consider innovative and forward-looking analyses of how environmental drivers and land suitability may change over time, and their potential impact on agriculture, producers and other stakeholders, and, where appropriate, to use such analyses to anticipate

future production needs and conditions, identify adaptation pathways and guide investments in land use, infrastructure and support services for sustainable agriculture;

7. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, under their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, to continue supporting Parties, upon their request, to improve the sustainable management of agricultural lands and soils to address desertification, land degradation and drought in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and needs while promoting cooperation and coordination with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, within their respective mandates;

8. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other technical partners to support Parties, upon their request, in strengthening national assessments, mapping agricultural lands and soils, monitoring systems to effectively track changes in the conditions of agricultural lands and the health of soils, and measuring progress made in sustainable land management, identifying potential areas for restoration and investment;

9. *Also invites* the Global Mechanism, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other technical partners, as well as Parties, in line with articles 5, 6 and 20 of the Convention, and taking into account the recommendations from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Resource Mobilization Toolbox, to support Parties in mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, following a country-driven approach and other financial partners;

10. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue to strengthen their collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements, within their respective mandates, and to continue exploring work through the Joint Liaison Group to promote sustainable land management;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties under policy frameworks.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 13/COP.17

Procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Acknowledging with appreciation the voluntary financial and in-kind contributions made by Parties and other stakeholders to support the work of the secretariat on the science agenda of the Convention, including the activities of the Science-Policy Interface,

Noting with appreciation the feasibility study on ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the Science-Policy Interface provided in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.2](#),

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to renew the membership of the Science-Policy Interface for effective delivery of its 2027–2030 quadrennium work programme, following the guidance and criteria established in decision 20/COP.16, and in the terms of reference of the Science-Policy Interface, as well as the need to reflect different geographical and ecological conditions and all knowledge systems, through an improved process with more transparency and an improved assessment methodology for selection;
2. *Adopts* the initial procedures of the Science-Policy Interface annexed to this decision and *requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to update the full version of these procedures linked in footnote 3 and footnote 4 of document [ICCD\(COP17\)/CST/5](#) accordingly;^{5,6}
3. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface, for the quadrennium 2027–2030 and as specified in the agreed initial procedures, to prepare a fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook on the global assessment of land degradation, desertification and drought;
4. *Decides* that the Science-Policy Interface shall prepare a scoping report setting out the proposed outline of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, to be presented to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-fifth session for consideration and scoping recommendations by Parties;
5. *Also decides* that the Science-Policy Interface shall refine the scoping report accordingly and submit it to the Committee on Science and Technology at its eighteenth session for approval;
6. *Tasks* the secretariat to conduct a feasibility study to assess the budget implications and time required to negotiate text for the Summary for Policymakers of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook of varying lengths, from one to five days of negotiations, at the nineteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, as specified in the agreed initial procedures. Based on these assessments, and recognizing the need to negotiate other draft decisions, the Committee on Science and Technology, at its eighteenth session, will determinate the length of the Summary for Policymakers;
7. *Decides* that, for the purposes of the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface, a flagship report is defined in agreement with table 3 in the annex to this decision;
8. *Also decides* that the status and consideration of the Summary for Policymakers are determined in accordance with table 3 in the annex to this decision;

⁵ See <https://www.unccd.int/resources/manuals-and-guides/procedures-receiving-and-prioritizing-requests-spi-work-programme>.

⁶ See <https://www.unccd.int/resources/manuals-and-guides/procedures-preparation-unccd-flagship-reports-and-fast-track>.

9. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to develop and issue an open call in line with, but not limited to, document ICCD/COP17/CST.INF2, within six months of the closing of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, for Parties and relevant organizations to submit offers to host the technical support unit for the scientific assessment for and development of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook over the 2027–2030 quadrennium, complementing the technical and administrative support provided by the secretariat and the scientific leadership provided by the Science-Policy Interface for the development of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification flagship reports;
10. *Also requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, to submit the full list of received proposals and a summary information document with an indicative ranking of the proposals, including a footnote reference to the full proposals as well as the applied criteria for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology at its eighteenth session;
11. *Decides* that any technical support unit shall only be hosted or operationalized with an explicit decision by the Conference of the Parties defining its terms of reference and *requests* the secretariat, with support of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, to prepare a respective information document for the consideration of the Committee on Science and Technology at its eighteenth session;
12. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue to foster partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and to invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening and, where appropriate, formalizing their collaboration within the approved work programme, subject to oversight by the Committee on Science and Technology;
13. *Requests* the secretariat to continue mobilizing voluntary contributions, partnership arrangements and in-kind contributions to support the work of the Science-Policy Interface, and to consider how this external resource mobilization could be further enhanced for the future four-year work programmes of the Science-Policy Interface, with full transparency, no earmarking that influences scientific priorities or conclusions, and regular reporting to the Committee on Science and Technology;
14. *Encourages* Parties, international, regional and financial organizations, private sector entities, scientific institutions and funds, and civil society organizations to consider contributing financially to enable the Science-Policy Interface to carry out its work in an optimal, effective manner;
15. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Annex

Tables

Table 1

Summary of the key elements requested in decision 20/COP.16 for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface

<i>Section in this document</i>	<i>Decision 20/COP.16 Paragraph</i>	<i>Element for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface requested in decision 20/COP.16</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
I. Introduction			
II. Working modalities: Membership and governance			
	12	Renewal of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) membership	Committee on Science and Technology (CST) Bureau
	14	Election by the current independent scientists of the SPI of the next Co-Chair to serve in the next quadrennium	SPI Co-Chairs
	15	Updating the terms of reference for members and observers of the SPI for the next quadrennium	CST Bureau
III. Procedures			
	6(a)	Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the SPI for its work programme	CST Bureau for preparation CST for approval
	6(b)(c)	Procedures for the preparation of flagship reports and for the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice	CST Bureau for preparation CST for approval
IV. Technical support			
	18	Feasibility study to identify ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the SPI, including the possible use of one or more external technical support units provided by partners	Secretariat
V. Cooperation			
	4	Coordination with other intergovernmental science-policy bodies	SPI
	20	Exploration of the creation of a Global Science-Policy Alliance on Land	CST Bureau for exploring CST for approval

<i>Section in this document</i>	<i>Decision 20/COP.16 Paragraph</i>	<i>Element for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface requested in decision 20/COP.16</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
VII. Financial implications			
	7	Estimates of the financial implications associated with providing technical support to the SPI proposed in paragraph 18, including implementing the procedures listed in paragraph 6 (a)–(c)	Secretariat
	16	Mobilizing voluntary contributions, partnership arrangements and in-kind contributions to support the work of the SPI	Secretariat

Table 2 (with editor suggestions for organization)

Initial procedures for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Science-Policy Interface

Purpose of the procedures: To guide how requests are received and prioritized for inclusion in the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) work programme, including requests for flagship reports and related thematic assessments, as well as fast-track assessments, information products and advice.

Types of SPI outputs covered: Requests may relate to: (a) flagship reports, including the Global Land Outlook (GLO) and similar flagship products; (b) fast-track assessments; (c) information products; and (d) advice.

Flagship reports, as mentioned in decision 20/COP.16, are comprehensive, high-impact products, addressing key topics relevant to the Convention's mandate. These reports represent authoritative, science-based, thematic assessments, such as the Global Land Outlook. Their results are summarized in Parties' agreed SPMs.

Fast-track assessments, information products and advice are not adopted or approved by the CST and shall not constitute guidance adopted under the Convention; and the status of each fast-track assessment, information product and advice shall be stated on its face, and should be transmitted for information only.

Flagship reports

Submission of requests for flagship-report topics by Parties: In response to a call issued by the secretariat, Parties may submit requests on priority scientific and technical matters for possible inclusion in the SPI work programme for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Joint submissions, including through regional groups, are encouraged, thereby enabling Parties to articulate shared regional priorities in a coordinated manner.

Other inputs to flagship-report topics: Inputs and suggestions may also be received in response to the same call, as appropriate, from other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations bodies, as well as from other relevant stakeholders, including scientific organizations, Indigenous peoples and local communities and civil society for consideration by the CST.

Information to accompany requests for flagship-report topics: Requests, inputs and suggestions should be accompanied by information on, inter alia, their relevance to the implementation of the Convention and to the SPI mandate, urgency, policy relevance, geographic scope, expected complexity, existing gaps and added value, availability of literature and expertise, potential impacts and beneficiaries, and indicative financial and human resource requirements and duration.

Indicative timing for flagship-report requests: Requests, inputs and suggestions for consideration by the CST are to be submitted to the secretariat approximately 9 to 12 months before the relevant session of the CST.

Purpose of the procedures: To guide how requests are received and prioritized for inclusion in the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) work programme, including requests for flagship reports and related thematic assessments, as well as fast-track assessments, information products and advice.

Compilation and initial analysis of flagship-report requests: The secretariat compiles submissions received and prepares them for the attention of the CST Bureau, including an overview of their scope, thematic coverage and indicative resource implications.

Prioritization of flagship-report requests: The CST Bureau requests the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) to consider and prioritize the submissions against the relevance to the Convention and the SPI mandate, urgency, feasibility and resource implications; late submissions may be considered on an exceptional basis.

Reflection of Parties' views in prioritization: For thematic assessments forming the basis of GLO products or similar flagship reports, the CST Bureau consults with regions in order to receive feedback on Parties' views before, with the support of the secretariat, defining the topics to be proposed for inclusion in the SPI work programme. This provides a specific channel through which regional groups can help shape the prioritization of themes for the SPI's flagship work.

Role of regional groups: Regional groups provide an important means for Parties to articulate shared priorities in the request and prioritization process, including through joint submissions, regional consultations on thematic assessments for flagship reports, and coordination around requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice.

Outcome of the prioritization process: A report is prepared containing, inter alia, a prioritized list of topics, information on scientific and policy relevance and financial implications, identification of areas of convergence across submissions, and analysis of thematic linkages and cross-cutting issues for consideration by the CST Bureau.

Transmission of recommendations to Parties: At least six months before a session of the CST, the CST Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, prepares recommendations on the SPI work programme based on the prioritization report. The secretariat processes these recommendations and makes them available to Parties at least six weeks before the session of the CST, in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure, for consideration and decision.

Fast-track assessments and information products

Treatment of urgent issues through fast-track work: Where the prioritization of requests reveals priority topics requiring urgent attention, the CST may determine that they should be addressed by the SPI through a fast-track assessment or another information product in line with the procedure for fast-track assessments, information products and advice.

Who may request fast-track assessments, information products and advice: Fast-track assessments, information products and advice, as defined above, may be requested by the Bureaux of the COP, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the CST, as well as by the secretariat and the GM, in accordance with decision 20/COP.16. Parties may raise such requests through the COP, CRIC and CST Bureaux, including through consultations within regional groups, or directly with the secretariat or the GM in order to initiate the process.

Timing and nature of fast-track requests: Requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice may be raised at any time in order to respond to relevant or urgent needs, including, inter alia, implementation of COP decisions, emerging issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought, time-sensitive funding and partnership opportunities, and identified gaps in existing assessments or reports.

Information to accompany fast-track requests: Fast-track requests are accompanied by information on the nature of the requested deliverable (fast-track assessment, information product or advice), justification for its urgency, relevant decisions, scope, objectives and key questions to be addressed, and the proposed delivery timeline and expected outputs.

Feasibility assessment of fast-track requests: Upon receiving a request, the secretariat coordinates with the SPI Co-Chairs to conduct a brief feasibility assessment, taking into account the SPI workload, compressed timelines, availability of resources and expertise, and the urgency of the request; the same approach applies where the secretariat initiates a request.

Possible outcomes of the feasibility assessment: The SPI may: (a) meet the request within the SPI; (b) meet the request with the support of a partner organization and/or other appropriately specialized experts; or (c) decline the request where the necessary expertise, time or resources are not available; where external support is needed, the SPI and secretariat identify suitable partners and may establish a task team.

Communication with requesting entities: The outcome of the feasibility assessment is communicated to the requesting entity as soon as possible, and requesting entities are kept informed of progress in the review and prioritization of their requests.

Table 3 (with editor suggestions for organization)

Initial procedures for the preparation of flagship reports and for the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice

Purpose of the procedures: Guides the preparation of flagship reports such as the Global Land Outlook, and the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice, in accordance with decision 20/COP.16.

Types of Science-Policy Interface (SPI) outputs covered: The procedures apply to flagship reports, including associated Summaries for Policymakers (SPM), as well as to fast-track assessments, information products and advice.

Flagship reports, as mentioned in decision 20/COP.16, are comprehensive, high-impact products, addressing key topics relevant to the Convention's mandate. These reports represent authoritative, science-based, thematic assessments, such as the Global Land Outlook. Their results are summarized in Parties' agreed SPMs.

Fast-track assessments, information products and advice are not adopted or approved by the CST and shall not constitute guidance adopted under the Convention; and the status of each fast-track assessment, information product and advice shall be stated on its face, and should be transmitted for information only.

Flagship reports

Scientific leadership and institutional roles: The SPI takes the scientific lead in the preparation of flagship reports, while the secretariat supports process management, communication and publication, and the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) helps ensure that the process remains aligned with the mandate of the Convention and the needs of Parties.

How Parties shape flagship reports:

ALT. from small cons group. Parties shape flagship reports through the prior process for identifying and prioritizing themes for the SPI work programme (see table 2), through their feedback during the review of the report including the scoping and through their feedback during the UNCCD Parties review, and through CST consideration and approval of SPMs by detailed, line-by-line negotiation and agreement by consensus during regular CST sessions. The regular CST session prior to the approval session of the SPM, will decide on the length of the SPM recommended by the secretariat, based on a requested feasibility study.

Flagship report team and oversight: For each flagship report, the SPI identifies a report chair, coordinating lead authors and review editors, while a steering committee oversees scoping, drafting, review and preparation of the SPM, with participation from the SPI and the secretariat.

Basis of assessments: Flagship reports should be scientifically balanced and policy-relevant, drawing on publicly available and peer-reviewed literature as well as other accessible sources, including Indigenous and traditional knowledge, in accordance with the agreed procedures on literature use and knowledge inclusion.

Purpose of the procedures: Guides the preparation of flagship reports such as the Global Land Outlook, and the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice, in accordance with decision 20/COP.16.

Scoping of flagship reports: The preparation of flagship reports begins with an initial and a final scoping phase to define the scope, objectives, policy questions, chapter structure, methodologies, timetable, budget, communications approach and expected outputs of the report.

Contribution of Parties and stakeholders to scoping and content: In line with decision 20/COP.16, Parties' views are taken into account in the preparation of flagship reports, while the procedures also provide for the inclusion of relevant scientific, technical, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and other contributions, where appropriate.

Preparation of draft flagship reports: SPI coordinating lead authors, with support from contributing authors, prepare a zero-order draft and a first-order draft, with support of the secretariat and under the oversight of the CST Bureau, to ensure that the report is scientifically robust and accessible to policy audiences.

Internal SPI review: Before external review, the SPI undertakes an internal review of the first-order draft of the flagship report in order to verify scientific accuracy, consistency of concepts and terminology, and traceability of evidence and sources.

Independent scientific review: The first-order draft of a flagship report is subject to independent scientific review by external experts selected for relevant expertise, gender balance and geographical representation, and all comments are to be recorded and addressed through the review process.

UNCCD stakeholder review: Flagship reports are also subject to review by UNCCD stakeholders, including Parties (represented by national focal points and science and technology correspondents), accredited civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations and relevant caucuses and fora, in accordance with modalities established by the secretariat.

Review principles: The review process is intended to ensure that flagship reports are balanced, comprehensive, transparent and grounded in the best available scientific, technical and socioeconomic knowledge, with broad participation and due consideration of all substantive comments.

Summaries for Policymakers: Each flagship report includes an SPM that distils the main findings, key messages and policy-oriented recommendations emerging from the report, which is prepared and revised in parallel with the successive draft stages of the report.

Approval by the CST: In accordance with decision 20/COP.16, approval of UNCCD flagship report SPM at a session of the CST signifies that the material has been subject to a detailed scientific and policy review process (including national focal points and science and technology correspondents) prior to publication, with its recommendations subject to a line by line discussion and agreement within the draft decision corresponding to the respective SPM during the respective session of the CST.

Publication and dissemination of flagship reports: Following completion of the advance final draft, the secretariat coordinates copyediting, design, possible translation, proofreading and publication, with the format of publication determined according to the most appropriate and accessible means of dissemination.

Error correction: If a possible error is identified after publication, the secretariat requests the SPI Co-Chairs to investigate the matter and, where necessary, oversee corrective action so that any approved correction is reflected without undue delay in publicly available versions.

Fast-track assessments and information products

Preparation of fast-track assessments and information products: Once a request for a fast-track assessment has been received and accepted through the agreed feasibility process (see table 2), the SPI Co-Chairs and the secretariat consult with the requesting entity to prepare a scoping document, after which a draft is prepared, reviewed by the requesting entity and finalized within the agreed timeline.

Review of fast-track assessments and information products: Fast-track assessments and information products will be reviewed internally by the SPI to ensure scientific quality. If the entity requesting the product believes that further review is needed, an additional independent scientific review may also be conducted to further ensure the accuracy and integrity of the final report or information product.

Purpose of the procedures: Guides the preparation of flagship reports such as the Global Land Outlook, and the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice, in accordance with decision 20/COP.16.

Fast-track assessments provide concise findings, conclusions and recommendations or options for decision-makers, while information products may adopt different formats depending on the nature of the request and the agreed purpose of the output.

"Information products" mean rapid-response, concise and targeted outputs synthesizing available scientific and technical knowledge on specific issues.

"Advice" means expert [guidance] [opinion] and technical input provided by the SPI in response to specific requests to address well-defined questions in a concise and timely manner, drawing on existing knowledge and scientific sources, without constituting an information product.

Provision of advice: Where a request for advice is accepted, the SPI, with the support of the secretariat, provides a formal response to the requesting entity within a short timeframe (days or weeks), with the possibility of further clarification if needed.

Role of Parties in fast-track work: Parties may shape fast-track work through requests brought forward under the agreed request procedures and through their role in the governing bodies of the Convention (see table 2), while the resulting outputs are designed to respond to specific and often time-sensitive needs.

Policy-oriented recommendations for consideration of the CST: Following decision 21/COP.16, the secretariat shall present a list and, where relevant and appropriate, links to fast-track assessments and information products, including, where appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations, at subsequent sessions of the CST.

Updating these procedures

Updating the procedures:

The CST may update the procedures each cycle as appropriate.

Decision 14/COP.17

Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Also recalling decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the 2027–2030 quadrennium,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#),

1. *Provisionally adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the 2027–2030 quadrennium, as contained in the annex to this decision, pending its update by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology with the assistance of the secretariat, according to decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface, and following these priorities:

(a) The Science-Policy Interface scientifically leads the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, including the scoping;

(b) The Science-Policy Interface supports the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice; and

(c) The Science-Policy Interface cooperates with other scientific bodies;

2. *Invites* Parties and technical and scientific institutions to provide, on a voluntary basis, data, expertise, knowledge and technical assistance to support the activities of the Science-Policy Interface for this quadrennium;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the agendas of the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology an item for the consideration of priorities for science-policy guidance, with the aim of enabling Parties to provide feedback on the work of the Science-Policy Interface, with particular attention to contributing to the content of each flagship report;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present a synthesis report on the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook at the nineteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(b) Also present a list and, where relevant and appropriate, links to fast-track assessments and information products, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations, at both the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(c) Further present a synthesis report of the Science-Policy Interface coordination activities, including, when appropriate, a summary of key messages relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification drawn from the assessment reports approved in the processes of other intergovernmental science bodies during the 2027–2030 quadrennium, at the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology.

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium

[English only]

Table 1
Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface 2027–2030 work programme

<i>Objective/Deliverable</i>	<i>Activities</i>
1. Contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 4) following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	With respect to GLO 4, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will, inter alia: (a) Serve on its steering committee; (b) Contribute to its scoping; (c) Contribute to its authorship; (d) Ensure its quality assurance and scientific integrity; (e) Serve as its review editor; and (f) Contribute to its communications planning and promotion.
2. Produce fast-track assessments and information products following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	The SPI will respond to requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice resulting from the work of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties, Committee on Science and Technology and Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism.

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface over the 2027–2028 biennium

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) within the framework of its rolling work programme up to 2030 and in accordance with the procedures established in the memorandum of cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on developments relevant to the UNCCD regarding the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, including: (a) The methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity (spatial planning assessment); (b) The second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (second global biodiversity assessment). The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports and will conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the analysis.
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its seventh assessment cycle (AR7).	The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of two AR7 contributions: (a) The contribution of Working Group II to the AR7 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and (b) The contribution of Working Group III to the AR7 on Mitigation of Climate Change.
3. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
on Soils (ITPS) within the framework of its work programme.	
4. Cooperate with the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP IRP) within the framework of its mission.	The SPI will cooperate with the UNEP IRP on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the UNEP IRP, within the framework of its mission to provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance to the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle, and to contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
5. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which aims to achieve globally comparable monitoring of land governance by 2030.	The SPI will provide inputs to GLII and UNCCD efforts to ensure harmonization of land governance indicators and land degradation indicators, as relevant to both GLII and the UNCCD.
6. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, on scientific issues related to drought.	The SPI will collaborate with the IDMP, on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the IDMP, on efforts to support governments and other stakeholders at all levels with the implementation of integrated drought management by providing technical and management guidance and by sharing scientific knowledge and best practices.

Decision 15/COP.17

Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 23 and 24 of the Convention,

Noting decisions 13/COP.8 and 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operations of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling decision 19/COP.12 on improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science

and Technology, in particular paragraph 4 on the organization of its future sessions,

Noting decision 20/COP.16 on the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface and decision XX/COP.17 on the procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface,

Bearing in mind the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Taking note of the programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, which focused on the operationalization of Science-Policy Interface processes and mechanisms and on facilitating thematic dialogue between Parties and the Science-Policy Interface,

1. *Decides* that the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should focus, inter alia, on the operationalization of the four-year work programme of the Science-Policy Interface adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session, including progress related to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, fast-track assessments, information products, and coordination activities with relevant intergovernmental scientific bodies, institutions and networks;

2. *Also decides* that the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should facilitate a focused thematic dialogue between Parties, involving the participation of the science and technology correspondents and the Science-Policy Interface in emerging scientific and technical issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention, taking into account inputs provided by Parties through intersessional meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention pursuant to decisions XX/COP.17 (Procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface) and YY/COP.17 (Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium);

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation, including progress reports, relevant scientific and technical outputs, a set of clear and concise recommendations arising from work as mandated by the Conference of the Parties and, where appropriate, draft decisions for consideration by Parties, in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 16/COP.17

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, for consideration and decision by Parties, as contained in documents ICCD/COP(16)/20 and ICCD/COP(16)/24,

Also acknowledging decision 24/COP.16,

1. *Decides* to continue discussions at the eighteenth session of the Conference of Parties based on the progress made at the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties, as contained in the annex⁷ to decision 24/COP.16, as well as the progress made at the seventeenth session of the Conference of Parties, as contained in the annex⁸ to this decision, with a view to adopting a decision on the proactive management of drought at all levels;
2. *Also decides* that the Conference of the Parties will include drought as a stand-alone agenda item of the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session and at each ordinary session thereafter;
3. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue supporting Parties in implementing the Convention as it relates to drought, through existing tools and innovative mechanisms, and to hold participatory consultations, subject to the availability of resources, on the proactive management of drought at all levels, during the intersessional period, including in parallel with the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to inform the discussions referred to in paragraph 1;
4. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to report on the progress made in implementing this decision to the Conference of Parties at its eighteenth session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

⁷ Annex I.

⁸ Annex II.

Annex I

This annex does not reflect consensus among Parties but reflects progress made at COP 16.

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought

[English Only]

The Conference of the Parties,

Deeply concerned about the increase in the intensity, frequency, duration and spatial extent of drought, and that their impacts are exacerbated by unsustainable human activities related to land and water resources management and by climate change, contributing directly and indirectly to large-scale devastating impacts on every continent of the planet over the last decade;

Recognizing the need for decisive action to urgently build drought resilience and the need for proactive integrated and holistic approaches and coordinated action to prevent immense human suffering and ecological damage;

Acknowledging that droughts are closely linked to other environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, desertification; deforestation, and land degradation and sand and dust storms, and that synergistic and integrated action is key to tackling all of them in an effective and efficient manner,

Recognizing that sustainable land management, sustainable integrated water resources management, climate change adaptation, nature-based-solutions and / or ecosystem based approaches are key to building resilience to drought,

Recognizing the need for proactive and integrated drought management approaches including strengthening resilience and enhance adaptation to drought,

Commending the Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and their partners for their efforts to advance policy development, global cooperation, resource mobilization and transformative projects to address drought in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Noting with appreciation the report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, for consideration & decision by Parties as contained in document [ICCD/COP/16/20](#),

Highlighting the political value of UNGA and UNEA resolutions that promote proactive drought management;

1. *Welcomes* the Riyadh Political Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its 16th Session, and its messages on drought and encourages Parties to enhance their measures to proactively mitigate the effects of drought and to integrate measures to address drought in all relevant policies in line with the Riyadh Political Declaration of COP16 of the UNCCD;
2. *Decides* to launch the process of the [global framework] [protocol] [XX] on proactive drought management, and to that end establishes an ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties to negotiate [XX] with the aim of adopting a [legally binding] [non legally binding] international instrument at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties.
3. *Decides* that the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental working group shall be open to all Parties to the UNCCD, international organizations, Civil Society Organizations and other key stakeholders in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.
4. *Decides* that at its first meeting, the ad hoc open ended working group shall elect 2 Co Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country from amongst its members.

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene the first meeting of the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental working group in the first half of 2025 to prepare for the work of the working group and to discuss in particular timetable and organization of the work.
6. The Executive Secretary shall, at the request of the Co-Chairs, convene five to six inperson meetings of the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group, as well as virtual consultations as appropriate, with the ambition of completion three months before COP 18.
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to ensure the necessary support of the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to the ad-hoc open ended intergovernmental working group.
8. Also *decides* that the ad-hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group is to develop [XX] on Drought under the UNCCD, which could contain provisions on the following elements, inter alia:
 - (a) To specify the objectives of the [XX]; (, pending [XX])
 - (b) To promote national, regional and international cooperative measures to enhance proactive drought management, especially in developing countries;
 - (c) To develop, update, and implement national drought plans, encompassing the three pillars of integrated drought management, reflecting country- driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the [XX]; (, pending [XX])
 - (d) To specify national reporting, as appropriate;
 - (e) To periodically assess the progress of the implementation of the [XX], as well as the effectiveness of the [XX] in achieving its objectives; (, pending [XX])
 - (f) To promote scientific and socio-economic assessments related to drought;
 - (g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising, education and information exchange;
 - (h) To promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication, and promoting complementarity of action;
 - (i) To encourage action on drought by all stakeholders, including the private sector, and to promote cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels;
 - (j) To outline potential arrangements for capacity-building and technical cooperation, technology transfer,
 - (k) Arrangements for resource mobilisation and allocation,
 - (l) To promote research and development of sustainable, affordable, innovative and cost-efficient approaches;
 - (m) [[Facilitate implementation and [address] [compliance] with the provision of the [XX].]] (Pending [XX])
[Alt (m) Facilitate implementation of the [XX]] (Pending [XX])
 - (n) To consider any other aspects that the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group may consider relevant;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD as a priority action to provide the necessary support to developing countries to allow for effective and meaningful participation in the work of the ad-hoc open-ended Intergovernmental working group meeting
10. *Invites* governments and other stakeholders to provide extra budgetary resources to support the implementation of the present decision;
11. *Calls* on Parties to promote the integration of proactive drought management within the work under the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Assembly and other relevant fora and processes;

12. *Encourages* Parties to adopt integrated, proactive, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches, especially inclusive of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, for the development and implementation of all drought management policies and actions which draws upon the best available science.
13. *Encourages* Parties to take into account the need for gender-responsive drought management policies and measures, strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in areas affected by drought.
14. *Invites* regional and multilateral financial institutions, multilateral environmental funds, donor countries and agencies, private sector institutions and all stakeholders, to mobilize and allocate financial resources and enhance capacity building in line with relevant provisions of the UNCCD and technical cooperation for African countries without neglecting other affected developing countries in other regions, to proactively address and mitigate against drought and enhance resilience to its adverse effects.
15. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility, to enhance efforts to enable United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Parties to implement their national drought plans and drought resilience initiatives, including by:
 - (a) Request an expansion in GEF-9 (2026-2030) of the objective of GEF-8 land degradation focal area strategy (2022-2026) that focuses on the impacts of drought, and to develop it in a way that supports a more proactive management of drought by beneficiary countries;
 - (b) Substantial and additional financial resources allocated to the land degradation focal area objective focused on drought to support programming for the proactive management of drought, enhance global and regional cooperation and harness the synergetic potential of addressing drought;
 - (c) Taking into consideration drought resilience as an element in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)
 - (d) Consider renaming the 'Land Degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation' Focal Area to 'Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought' to better reflect the growing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought and the importance of funding for addressing drought.
 - (e) Consider adding relevant drought-related core indicators to the Global Environmental Benefits of the GEF-9.
16. *Encourages* Parties, with the support of the Global Mechanism, the GEF and other financial institutions, to increase their efforts in national coordination to ensure appropriate allocation of funding towards proactive drought management to secure optimal flows towards existing and future projects.
17. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to:
 - (a) Increase its efforts to support the Parties to implement their national drought plans, in particular by mobilising adequate, predictable and timely financial resources and enhancing their access to finance, notably by supporting the development of tailored financing proposals, at regional and national levels, and through capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing.
 - (b) Collaborate with the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other relevant sources of funding to identify opportunities to mainstream proactive drought management into their project pipeline and achieve synergies with existing and emerging funding streams.
18. Support the identification of financing needs and opportunities for drought risk reduction and resilience-building activities, notably in line with the article 20 of the Convention.

19. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to promote regional collaboration on drought policies and strategies to support national action;
20. *Encourages* Parties, with the support of regional and international institutions and other relevant stakeholders, depending on available resources, to establish accessible, inclusive and effective monitoring, early warning and action systems that support drought resilient ecosystems, societies and economies;
21. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue developing refining and promoting the tools for tracking drought impacts and the communities of learning and practice, including by exploring a feasibility of a merger with other similar communities of learning and practice to advance the co-learning as well as support intra and inter-regional cooperation for drought management; and encourages Parties and other stakeholders to make use of these tools and communities.
22. *Encourages* Parties, regional organizations and other stakeholders working on drought to share their knowledge and experiences of relevant, innovative and transformative tools for inclusion in the Drought Toolbox, and requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to further update and enhance the functionality and dissemination of the Drought Toolbox as well as continue related capacity-building;
23. *Encourages* Parties to collaborate with the secretariat of the UNCCD to assess the effectiveness of strategic actions addressing drought;
24. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with relevant partners and processes, to continue to foster global high-level awareness of, and commitment to, enhancing drought resilience.
25. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to leverage synergies with the other Rio Conventions, including through the Rio Convention Joint Liaison Group, and other relevant multilateral agreements aiming to foster solutions to enhance drought resilience;
26. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

Annex II

This annex does not reflect consensus among Parties but reflects progress made at COP 17

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought

[English Only]

[The Conference of the Parties,

PP1

Recognizing that drought is a global challenge, with increasing intensity, frequency, duration and spatial extent, [and that their impacts are exacerbated by [unsustainable human activities.] [inter alia unsustainable land and water resources managements and by climate change] [, contributing directly and indirectly to large scale devastating impacts on every continent of the planet over the last decade] and significant impacts on people and the environment across all continents;

PP2

Option 1: *[Recognizing the need for decisive action to urgently build drought resilience and the need for proactive integrated and holistic approaches and coordinated action to prevent immense human suffering and ecological damage;]*

Option 2: *[Recognizing the need for urgent, proactive, integrated and coordinated action to strengthen drought resilience to reduce, environmental, social and economic impact]*

PP3

Option 1: *[Acknowledging that droughts are closely linked to other environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, desertification; deforestation, and land degradation and sand and dust storms, and that synergistic and integrated action is key to tackling all of them in an effective and efficient manner,]*

Option 2: *[Acknowledging that drought is closely linked to [environmental challenges such as] [desertification,] [sand and dust storms] land degradation, water scarcity, [climate change] [biodiversity loss and other environmental challenges] [loss of biological productivity [diversity] [loss], and that [joint] integrated [and holistic] action can contribute to addressing these challenges effectively]*

PP3bis: *Recognizing that strengthening drought resilience is essential for food security, [human health] agriculture, resilient economies, communities, and livelihoods, and sustainable land and water management;*

PP4

Option 1. *[Recognizing that sustainable land [and water resources] management, and [sustainable] integrated water resources management, climate change adaptation, nature-based-solutions and / or ecosystem-based approaches are key to building resilience to drought,]*

PP5

Option 1: *[Recognizing the need for proactive, [holistic] [systemic] and integrated drought management approaches at all levels including measures to strengthen resilience and enhance adaptation to drought,] (PP5 and PP2 to be possibly merged)*

PP5bis: *[Recognizing that the impacts of drought [affect all populations.] [are socio-economically uneven and disproportionately affect indigenous peoples, [and] local communities, women and youth, family farmers, and small holders, among other populations in vulnerable situations, thereby requiring targeted measures to address this differentiated [structural] [structured] impacts.]]*

PP5bis alt: *[Recognizing that the impacts of drought affect all populations, are socio-economically uneven and disproportionately affect populations in vulnerable situations.*

PP5 ter: *Underlining the decisive role of governments at all levels, producers, landholders, land users and the private sector in managing drought risk [at the point where it is experienced,] [and reiterating the importance of this role of action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnerships in the framework of the integrated approach with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas]*

PP6

Commending the Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and their partners for their efforts to advance policy development, global cooperation, resource mobilization and transformative projects to address drought in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

PP6 bis: *Convinced also that anticipatory investment in resilience yields substantially greater returns than reactive emergency expenditure,*

PP6 ter: *[Recognizing the [complementary] role of private investment [without prejudice to Article 6 of the Convention] [[agricultural] [relevant] [technology] and innovation, best practices in strengthening drought resilience, and the importance of enabling environments that encourage such investment,] [including through joint development and transfer of technology for developing countries on concessional and preferential terms,]*

PP6 quar: *[Noting that considerable financing for drought resilience is presently available including [3.9 billion dollars from GEF9] , 12.15 billion dollars in the [Global Riyadh Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP), and 400 million dollars from the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF)] and insufficiently drawn upon,]*

PP6 quar alt: *[Noting [the financing needs assessments which includes the issue of drought, for the UNCCD implementation] [with concern the considerable financing gap [of 278 billion dollars for the implementation of the UNCCD and including] for drought resilience] and recalling [the obligations established by the] article 6 [and 20] of the Convention]*

PP7

Taking note of the report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, for consideration & decision by Parties as contained in document [ICCD/COP/16/20](#),

PP8

PP8 alt: *[Highlighting [the value of relevant resolutions adopted under other conventions that promote proactive drought management;]*

OP1

Option 1: *[Welcomes] [notes] the Riyadh Political Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its 16th Session, [and its messages on drought and encourages Parties to enhance their measures to proactively mitigate the effects of drought and to integrate measures to address drought in all relevant policies in line with the Riyadh Political Declaration of COP16 of the UNCCD;]*

For Paras 2-10, which are linked to launching a process on drought, a number of options were highlighted regarding its objective and format. It was suggested to build the discussion on the common principles to be identified by the contact group, several proposals were made. Based on the discussion in the contact group, a further text could be elaborated if requested.

OP2

Option 1: *[Decides to launch the process of the [global framework] [protocol] [XX] on proactive drought management, and to that end establishes an ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties to negotiate [XX] with the aim of adopting a [legally binding] [non legally binding] international instrument at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties.]*

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Decides to establish, on a voluntary basis, a Pilot Implementation Mechanism on Drought, with a view to effectively assessing and strengthening the implementation of the existing provisions of the Convention related to drought at the national level, identifying implementation gaps and their underlying causes, including financial, capacity, technical, institutional and coordination gaps, and facilitating timely, practical and tailored solutions to address them;*

Decides that the Pilot Implementation Mechanism shall build upon and make use of existing provisions, processes, information and tools under the Convention, including national reporting, national drought plans, the Drought Toolbox, relevant monitoring and assessment tools, and the support provided by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, without creating new reporting requirements or additional reporting burdens for participating Parties;

Also *decides that the experience and concrete evidence generated through the Pilot Implementation Mechanism shall inform consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session of remaining implementation gaps, the effectiveness of existing arrangements under the Convention, and whether additional arrangements or an instrument are necessary and, if so, the most appropriate form and functions of such arrangements or instrument.*]

OP3:

Option 1: [*Decides that the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental working group shall be open to all Parties to the UNCCD, international organizations, Civil Society Organizations and other key stakeholders in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.*]

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Requests the secretariat, within its existing mandate and subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen its periodic review of the implementation of drought-related provisions of the Convention, including through the Pilot Implementation Mechanism, by systematically identifying, in cooperation with participating Parties, implementation gaps and their underlying causes, and proactively facilitating appropriate technical assistance, capacity-building, knowledge, tools and other available support to address such gaps;*

Also *requests the secretariat to systematically document the implementation gaps identified, the support provided and the extent to which such gaps could be addressed through existing provisions, mechanisms, tools and resources under the Convention, with a view to informing the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on remaining implementation needs and possible options for addressing them.*]

OP4:

Option 1: [*Decides that at its first meeting, the ad hoc open ended working group shall elect 2 Co Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country from amongst its members.*]

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Requests the secretariat to periodically inform Parties of the results of the implementation review conducted under the Pilot Implementation Mechanism, including the implementation gaps identified, their underlying causes, the support provided to participating Parties and progress made in addressing such gaps, at intervals to be determined by the secretariat, taking into account its available resources and capacity to conduct the review.*]

OP5:

Option 1: [*Requests the Executive Secretary to convene the first meeting of the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental working group in the first half of [20xx] to prepare for the work of the working group and to discuss in particular timetable and organization of the work.*]

Option 2: *no text*

Option 3: [*Requests the Executive Secretary to operationalize the Pilot Implementation Mechanism, in accordance with paragraphs 2–4 above, and to determine its working*

arrangements, taking into account available resources and existing processes and tools under the Convention.]

OP6:

Option 1: [The Executive Secretary shall, at the request of the Co-Chairs, convene five to six in-person meetings of the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group, as well as virtual consultations as appropriate, with the ambition of completion three months before COP XX.]

Option 2: no text

Option 3: [Requests the secretariat to implement the Pilot Implementation Mechanism during the intersessional period leading to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to generating sufficient practical experience and evidence to inform the consideration by Parties of remaining implementation gaps and needs.]

OP7:

Option 1: [Requests the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to ensure the necessary support of the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to the ad-hoc open ended intergovernmental working group.]

Option 2: no text.

Option 3: [Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure, subject to the availability of resources, the necessary support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for the implementation of the Pilot Implementation Mechanism, including for the identification of implementation gaps and the facilitation of appropriate responses to address them.]

OP8:

Option 1: [8. Also decides that the ad-hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group is to develop [XX] on Drought under the UNCCD, which could contain provisions on the following elements, inter alia:]

- [(a) To specify the objectives of the [XX]; (, pending [XX])
- (b) To promote national, regional and international cooperative measures to enhance proactive drought management, especially in developing countries;
- (c) To develop, update, and implement national drought plans, encompassing the three pillars of integrated drought management, reflecting country- driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the [XX]; (, pending [XX])
- (d) [To specify national [voluntary, streamlined and non-duplicative] reporting, as appropriate];
- (e) [To periodically assess the progress of the implementation of the [XX], as well as the effectiveness of the [XX] in achieving its objectives; (, pending [XX]) [in a facilitative and non-punitive manner]
- (f) [To promote scientific and socio-economic assessments related to drought;]
- (g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising, education and information exchange;
- (h) To promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication, and promoting complementarity of action;
- (i) To encourage action on drought by all stakeholders, including the private sector, and to promote cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels;
- (j) To outline potential arrangements for capacity-building and technical cooperation, technology transfer,
- (k) Arrangements for resource mobilisation and allocation,

(l) To promote research and development of sustainable, affordable, innovative and cost-efficient approaches;

(m) [[Facilitate implementation and [address] [compliance] with the provision of the [XX].]] (Pending [XX])

[Alt (m) Facilitate implementation of the [XX]] (Pending [XX])]

[(n) To consider any other aspects that the ad hoc open ended Intergovernmental Working Group may consider relevant;]

Option 2: no text.

Option 3: *chapeau (Further discussion on the chapeau might be needed to clarify who would be requested to take such action: UNCCD secretariat, intersessional group, the conference of Parties, the Parties etc).*

(a) To promote national, regional and international cooperative measures to enhance proactive drought management, especially in developing countries;

(b) To develop, update, and implement national drought plans, encompassing the three pillars of integrated drought management, reflecting country- driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the [XX]; (, pending [XX])

(e) [To promote scientific and socio-economic assessments related to drought;]

(f) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising, education and information exchange;

(i) To encourage action on drought by all stakeholders, including the private sector, and to promote cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels;

(l) To promote research and development of sustainable, affordable, innovative and cost-efficient approaches;

Option 4: *[Decides that the Pilot Implementation Mechanism shall assess, on a voluntary basis and in cooperation with participating Parties, the effective implementation of existing drought-related provisions, processes and tools under the Convention, including, as appropriate:*

(a) National approaches to proactive drought management and resilience;

(b) National, regional and international cooperation to enhance proactive drought management;

(c) The development, updating and implementation of national drought plans, encompassing the three pillars of integrated drought management and reflecting country-driven approaches;

(d) The availability and effective use of drought monitoring and early warning systems that provide actionable information for decision-makers;

(e) The effectiveness of whole-of-government approaches and integrated land and water management in strengthening drought resilience;

(f) Scientific and socio-economic assessments related to drought and the use of relevant science, technology and knowledge;

(g) Awareness-raising, education, information and knowledge exchange;

(h) Cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity of action;

(i) The participation of relevant stakeholders in proactive drought management at the national and local levels;

(j) Capacity-building, technical cooperation and technology transfer needs and the extent to which existing support is effectively addressing them;

(k) Financial needs, access to and effective use of existing financial resources for proactive drought management;

(l) Research and development of sustainable, affordable, innovative and cost-efficient approaches; and

(m) Other implementation gaps identified by participating Parties and the extent to which they can be addressed through existing provisions, processes, tools and resources under the Convention.]

OP9

Option 1: [9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD as a priority action to provide the necessary support to developing countries to allow for effective and meaningful participation in the work of the ad-hoc open-ended Intergovernmental working group meeting]

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Requests* the Executive Secretary, as a priority action and subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the effective and meaningful participation of developing country Parties in the Pilot Implementation Mechanism and their access to the technical and other available support necessary to address identified implementation gaps.]

OP10

Option 1: [10. *Invites* governments and other stakeholders to provide extra budgetary resources to support the implementation of the present decision;]

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Invites* governments and other stakeholders to provide, on a voluntary basis, extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the Pilot Implementation Mechanism and the provision of assistance to participating Parties in addressing identified implementation gaps.]

OP11

Option 1: [11. *Calls* on Parties to promote the integration of proactive drought management within the work under the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Assembly and other relevant fora and processes;]

Option 2: *no text.*

Option 3: [*Encourages* Parties to promote proactive drought management, as appropriate, within relevant international fora and processes, and to share relevant experiences and lessons learned through the Pilot Implementation Mechanism;]

OP12

Option 1: [12. *Encourages* Parties to adopt integrated, proactive, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches, especially inclusive of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, for the development and implementation of all drought management policies and actions which draws upon the best available science. [as well as national data and national circumstances]

Option 2: *Encourages* Parties to adopt integrated, proactive, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches.

Option 3: *no text.*

OP13:

Option 1: [13. *Encourages* Parties to take into account the need for gender-responsive drought management policies and measures, strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in areas affected by drought.]

Option 2: *no text*

OP14

Option 1: [14. *Invites* regional and multilateral financial institutions, multilateral environmental funds, donor countries and agencies, private sector institutions and all stakeholders, to mobilize and allocate financial resources and enhance capacity building in line with relevant provisions of the UNCCD and technical cooperation for African countries without neglecting other affected developing countries in other regions, to proactively address and mitigate against drought and enhance resilience to its adverse effects.]

Option 2: [*Encourages* Parties, financing institutions, technical bodies and other actors to reorient their drought-related efforts from emergency response toward anticipatory resilience;]

OP15

Option 1: [15. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility, to enhance efforts to enable United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Parties to implement their national drought plans and drought resilience initiatives, including by:]

[(a) Request an expansion in GEF-9 (2026-2030) of the objective of GEF-8 land degradation focal area strategy (2022-2026) that focuses on the impacts of drought, and to develop it in a way that supports a more proactive management of drought by beneficiary countries;

(b) Substantial and additional financial resources allocated to the land degradation focal area objective focused on drought to support programming for the proactive management of drought, enhance global and regional cooperation and harness the synergetic potential of addressing drought;

(c) [Taking into consideration drought resilience as an element in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)]

(d) Consider renaming the ‘Land Degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation’ Focal Area to ‘Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought’ to better reflect the growing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought and the importance of funding for addressing drought.

(e) Consider adding relevant drought-related core indicators to the Global Environmental Benefits of the GEF-9.]

Option 2: paragraph to be updated taking into account the outcome of the GEF9 replenishment

Option 3: [*Invites* Parties to make fuller use of the financial resources already available for drought resilience, including the Drought Resilience Investment Facility, the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, international and regional financial institutions, bilateral partners and private capital;]

Option 4: [Placeholder for a preambular paragraph welcoming the GEF9 replenishment to replace OP15]

OP16

Option 1. [16. *Encourages* Parties, with the support of the Global Mechanism, the GEF and other financial institutions, to increase their efforts in national coordination to ensure appropriate allocation of funding towards proactive drought management to secure optimal flows towards existing and future projects.]

Option 2: [*Encourages* Parties, with the support of the Global Mechanism, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant financial institutions, to strengthen national coordination and make effective use of available financial resources for proactive drought management, including to address financial and implementation gaps identified through the Pilot Implementation Mechanism;]

OP17

Option 1: [17. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Increase its efforts to support the Parties to implement their national drought plans, in particular by mobilising adequate, predictable and timely financial resources [technology and innovation] and enhancing their access to finance, notably by supporting the development of tailored financing proposals, at regional and national levels, and through capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing.

(b) Collaborate with the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other relevant sources of funding to identify opportunities to mainstream proactive drought management into their project pipeline and achieve synergies with existing and emerging funding streams.

(c) Support the identification of financing needs and opportunities for drought risk reduction and resilience-building activities, notably in line with the article 20 of the Convention.]

Option 2: *only keep 17 and 17a, with further discussions on the exact wording. Delete 17 b and c.*

[17. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Increase its efforts to support the Parties to implement their national drought plans, in particular by mobilising adequate, predictable and timely financial resources [technology and innovation] and enhancing their access to finance, notably by supporting the development of tailored financing proposals, at regional and national levels, and through capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing.]

OP18

Option 1: [18. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to promote regional [and international] collaboration on drought policies and strategies to support national action;]

OP19

Option 1: [19. *Encourages* Parties, with the support of regional and international institutions and other relevant stakeholders, depending on available resources, to establish accessible, inclusive and effective monitoring, early warning and action systems that support drought-resilient ecosystems, societies and economies,]

Option 2: paragraph 19, with additional language related to the specific circumstances of desert steppe areas and the needs of pastoralist in relation to EWS.

Option 3: [*Encourages* Parties to establish or strengthen drought early warning and monitoring systems that deliver timely, accessible and decision-relevant information to policymakers, land managers and agricultural producers;]

OP20

Option 1: [20. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue developing refining and promoting the tools for tracking drought impacts and the communities of learning and practice, including by exploring a feasibility of a merger with other similar communities of learning and practice to advance the co-learning as well as support intra and inter-regional cooperation for drought management; and encourages Parties and other stakeholders to make use of these tools and communities.]

Option 2: [*Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to develop, adopt and periodically revise national drought plans, and invites Parties to draw upon the Drought Toolbox and other technical resources of the secretariat for this purpose;

Encourages Parties to build monitoring, evaluation and learning components into their national drought plans, so that measures may be refined or discontinued on the basis of demonstrated results;

Invites Parties to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices concerning national drought resilience through the Drought Toolbox;

Invites Parties, in exchanging experiences pursuant to paragraph 12 above, to include information on the methodologies, indicators and data sources used to assess the effectiveness of national drought measures, with a view to improving the comparability and utility of such information;

Requests the secretariat, within available resources, to continue to assist Parties upon request in developing and implementing national drought plans, including through the Drought Toolbox;]

OP21

Option 1: [21. *Encourages* Parties, regional organizations and other stakeholders working on drought to share their knowledge and experiences of relevant, innovative and transformative tools for inclusion in the Drought Toolbox, and requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to further update and enhance the functionality and dissemination of the Drought Toolbox as well as continue related capacity-building;]

Option 2: *No text.*

OP22

Option 1: [22. *Encourages* Parties to collaborate with the secretariat of the UNCCD to assess the effectiveness of strategic actions addressing drought;]

OP23

Option 1: [23. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with relevant partners and processes, to continue to foster global high-level awareness of, and commitment to, enhancing drought resilience.]

OP24

Option 1: [24. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to leverage synergies with the other Rio Conventions [and the processes deriving from the 2026 UN water conference] [within their respective mandate], including through the Rio Convention Joint Liaison Group, and other relevant multilateral agreements aiming to foster solutions to enhance drought resilience;]

Option 2: *No text.*

Option 3: [*Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to strengthen coordination with relevant conventions, multilateral environmental agreements and international processes, with a view to identifying and facilitating access to existing sources of financing, technical assistance, tools and other forms of support that could contribute to addressing implementation gaps identified through the Pilot Implementation Mechanism]

OP24 bis: [*Encourages* Parties to strengthen the drought resilience of national and regional food systems, including through improved agricultural productivity, diversification of production and more robust supply chains;

OP24 ter. *Encourages* Parties to avoid unnecessary restrictions on trade in agricultural inputs, drought-resilient seed varieties and technologies that support drought resilience;

OP24 quar. *Encourages* Parties to adopt policies that better align land use with land potential in drought-affected areas, and that advance soil health, rangeland condition and sound grazing management;

OP24 quint. *Encourages* Parties to engage private sector actors, agricultural technology providers and investors, including through platforms such as Business4Land, in the design and implementation of national drought resilience measures;]

OP25

Option 1: [25. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.]

]

Decision 17/COP.17

Report from the Gender Caucus

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report from the Gender Caucus and its contributions to the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Decides* to include the report from the Gender Caucus as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 18/COP.17

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms

The Conference of Parties,

Noting decisions 31/COP.13, 25/COP.14, 26/COP.15 and 27/COP.16,

Also noting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 2/21, 4/10 and 6/7, and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 70/195, 71/219, 72/225, 73/237, 74/226, 75/222, 76/211, 77/171, 78/158, 79/212 and 80/143,

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2025–2034 as the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms through resolution 78/314,

Noting that sand and dust storms are a global challenge of increasing frequency, intensity and duration in some areas, with impacts on, inter alia, infrastructure, transport, communications, agriculture, ecosystems and human health, and transboundary impacts that require international technical and scientific cooperation,

Recognizing that effective sand and dust storm management responses must address both (1) natural sources, in terms of risk mitigation, adaptation, response and recovery for affected communities, ecosystems and economic sectors; and (2) anthropogenic sources, where source prevention and reduction are key strategic priorities, subject to the availability of financial and technical resources to address these sources,

Acknowledging that sustainable land and water management, agroforestry, reforestation and other regenerative practices, as well as nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and other activities for combating desertification, land degradation and drought, are key components of proactive efforts to mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms and adapt and build resilience to them,

Underscoring that efforts to combat the negative impacts of sand and dust storms need to be strengthened through enhanced regional, interregional and international cooperation, including voluntary cooperation on monitoring, forecasting, early warning, scientific knowledge and capacity-building, within the respective mandates of relevant institutions and agreements, while avoiding duplication and additional reporting burdens (i.e. leveraging synergies among relevant multilateral agreements), as well as through national and regional coordination tools and instruments developed to implement them,

Stressing the importance of science–policy dialogue to contribute to the development of further voluntary guidance and strategies to address sand and dust storms, including for the establishment and enhancement of in-situ monitoring of source areas and early warning systems, coupled with data collection and scientific evaluation,

Welcoming the update of the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, including (i) the revised module on source detection and the addition of a searchable inventory of source management practices, as significant advances in the dissemination of knowledge-based approaches and methods; as well as (ii) practical guidance and tools for more effective sand and dust storm management,

Also welcoming the progress made on developing the Global Implementation Initiative on Sand and Dust Storms,

Noting the international early warning initiative for sand and dust storms, launched by Saudi Arabia during the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Riyadh in 2024, in support of the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2025–2034,

Welcoming with appreciation contributions received to support the implementation of the international early warning initiative for sand and dust storms through the World

Meteorological Organization Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System Trust Fund,

Noting the Interregional Initiative to Combat Sand and Dust Storms in Western Asia with the support of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, as well as the Middle East Green Initiative,

1. *Urges* Parties, as appropriate, and in accordance with national circumstances, priorities, needs and legislations, to:

(a) Enhance policy coherence and sectoral coordination to more effectively address sources and impacts of sand and dust storms, specifically by designing and implementing integrated land management projects and programmes that attract the necessary technical and financial resources, including making use of the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox;

(b) Strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional initiatives that address sand and dust storms linked to desertification, land degradation and drought, including through source area monitoring and the enhanced mitigation of their negative impacts, taking note of the regional and subregional nature of the impacts and with particular attention to involving people in vulnerable situations, giving consideration to women and girls;

(c) Increase their efforts to better understand the differentiated socioeconomic impacts of sand and dust storms on populations, including on people in vulnerable situations, notably by disaggregating relevant data and developing corresponding indicators through their national statistics offices and systems, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and regional and multilateral financial institutions, technical agencies and organizations, institutions and other relevant stakeholders to provide technical and financial support to source and affected country Parties to design and implement national and regional policies and action plans, including early warning systems, in order to cope with sand and dust storms linked to desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets;

3. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their mandated activities under the Convention, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Strengthen cooperation with other United Nations entities and programmes, within the framework of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, as well as with regional and international organizations and other relevant partners, donors and civil society stakeholders, to continue developing and implementing the Global Implementation Initiative on Sand and Dust Storms;

(b) Continue updating and improving the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, including through enhanced collaboration with the relevant scientific community and regional and international institutions;

(c) Further engage in advocacy, awareness-raising and related communication activities for the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2034);

(d) Collaborate with the World Meteorological Organization and its Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System and support the implementation of the international early warning initiative for sand and dust storms;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their mandated activities under the Convention, to present for consideration at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties a report on progress made in implementing this decision.

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 19/COP.17

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure

The Conference of Parties,

Noting decisions 26/COP.14, 27/COP.15 and 28/COP.16,

Also noting that the Gender Action Plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its roadmap highlight the strengthening of women's land rights and access to natural resources as a priority for action,

Further noting the targets on responsible land governance, secure land tenure and access to natural resources contained in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the related indicator in its monitoring framework,

Recognizing that tenure insecurity remains a significant development challenge for many countries, and requires policy and operational frameworks that mobilize stakeholders and finance, create enduring partnerships and harness synergies that support responsible land governance in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,

Also recognizing that tenure security empowers land users to be responsible stewards by incentivizing their adoption of and investment in long-term sustainable land and water management, drought resilience-building and other land restoration practices, and supports smallholder farmers, family farmers, pastoralists and other rural groups in accessing knowledge and technologies, extension services, credit and markets,

Welcoming the launch of the Land Tenure Toolbox, which provides easy access to relevant documents and resources on land tenure and desertification, land degradation and drought, including information and case studies on accountability and grievance mechanisms related to land tenure,

Noting that strengthening tenure security contributes to enhancing resilience among populations affected by desertification, land degradation and drought, in particular Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, pastoralists, people with disabilities, people of African descent and other people in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing the diversity of national land tenure and land governance systems, including statutory, customary, communal, collective and other nationally recognized arrangements, as appropriate, and *emphasizing* that the implementation of tenure-related activities under the Convention should respect Member State sovereignty, and be undertaken in accordance with national laws, policies and institutions,

1. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national legislation and governance systems, as well as applicable international obligations, to continue integrating relevant land tenure considerations, including customary and communal rights of access to and use of associated natural resources, such as water, trees and grazing resources, into their plans and activities to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and giving consideration to women and girls as well as people in vulnerable situations;
2. *Also encourages* Parties, where appropriate, to support and/or facilitate inclusive and participatory dialogues on land tenure at all levels, from local to national, building on all forms of available knowledge, including partnering with civil society organizations with the aim of improving the livelihoods of all people in vulnerable situations;
3. *Further encourages* Parties that have hosted such dialogues to submit, on a voluntary basis, reports on dialogues and related key national-level activities to the secretariat;
4. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties, relevant United Nations entities, international financial organizations and private sector institutions to support (i) the design

and implementation of land tenure administration systems to improve responsible governance of tenure, taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and (ii) the delivery of requested national consultations for integrating land tenure into land degradation neutrality;

5. *Also invites* Parties, in accordance with national laws and circumstances, to increase their efforts to better understand the differentiated impacts of land tenure insecurity on populations, including by giving consideration to women and girls, and people in vulnerable situations, notably by disaggregating relevant data and developing corresponding indicators through their national statistics offices and systems, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with their national circumstances, to consider nominating focal points for land tenure with a view to coordinating the integration of land tenure into their plans and activities, and without prejudice to existing focal point frameworks within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue:

(a) Exploring the ways and means, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other key partners, to support Parties that wish to integrate land tenure considerations, including women's land rights, into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality initiatives, as well as the achievement of drought resilience, including by providing land tenure capacity-building in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation and reporting context for relevant actors, such as, but not limited to, national focal points, land tenure focal points, and reporting officers;

(b) Also exploring, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners, ways and means to support interested Parties in integrating tenure considerations, including the legitimate tenure and resource use rights of women and youth, into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality initiatives in accordance with national laws and circumstances;

(c) Raising awareness of the importance of responsible and inclusive land governance for combating desertification, land degradation and drought;

(d) Engaging with Parties, United Nations entities, civil society organizations and other key partners, taking into account cultural circumstances, where appropriate, to reach stakeholders from global to local level, with the aim of improving the livelihoods of all people in vulnerable situations;

(e) Considering the options developed by the Technical Reference Group for the report "The status of land tenure and governance" to use existing global and national indicators and data relevant to land governance and tenure security to inform future United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting processes; and

(f) Launching a consultative and participatory process to facilitate the review and update of relevant action plans, initiatives and toolboxes related to land tenure, giving consideration to the land rights of women and youth, with a view to strengthening their implementation and ensuring their alignment with the Convention's processes beyond 2030;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support the convening of all four caucuses of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification while observing geographical representation as an important mechanism to enrich discussions on land tenure and the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their mandated activities under the Convention, to report on the progress made in implementing this decision to the Conference of Parties at its eighteenth session.

14th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 20/COP.17

Rangelands and pastoralists

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decision 29/COP.16,

Also noting the multifaceted importance of rangelands for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, pastoralists and other groups in vulnerable situations, and *emphasizing* the need to promote sustainable land and water management practices in rangelands to support their livelihoods, cultures and resilience,

Welcoming emerging scientific evidence on the critical importance of sustainable rangeland management, including rotational grazing for preserving rangeland soil, land, water and biological diversity, and the value of pastoral commons collectively managed by a local community, local governments or a higher public entity as supplementary resources in times of droughts or wildfires, available for seasonal rotation and as biological reserves, and acting as an insurance policy in times of stress and adaptation to the seasonality and variability of rangeland productivity,

Recognizing the critical role of pastoralists as stewards of rangeland ecosystems and the importance of pastoral mobility, including transboundary mobility, where appropriate, as a key adaptation and resilience strategy that can contribute to sustainable rangeland management, ecosystem recovery and resilience,

Appreciating the efforts of the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, donors, Parties, partners and civil society stakeholders, in the context of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, to advance knowledge and raise awareness of the value of healthy rangelands and their sustainable management, and the critical stewardship role of pastoralists and rangeland communities in sustaining local livelihoods, food security and nutrition, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and national economies, while also delivering regional and global benefits that depend on the health and productivity of these vast landscapes,

Welcoming national measures being taken to restore, conserve and sustainably manage rangelands, while preserving rights of use and traditional pastoral mobility, and to enhance climate resilience,

Noting the Ulaanbaatar Declaration 2026, the Kathmandu Declaration of Pastoralist Women, and the Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists, and *inviting* Parties to draw upon them, as appropriate, in accordance with national circumstances,

1. *Invites* all United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders to contribute to the momentum generated by the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, including by committing to implement sustainable rangeland management, conservation and restoration activities, secure tenure and inclusive rangeland governance, including projects and programmes that foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and empower pastoralist and rangeland communities, including mobile pastoralists, to continue their stewardship of these vast landscapes;
2. *Recognizes* the Coalition of Rangeland States as a strategic implementation partner for decision 29/COP.16, and *encourages* strengthened collaboration between the Coalition, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Mechanism, the Science-Policy Interface, regional organizations, research institutions, development partners and civil society, subject to the availability of resources, to conserve, sustainably manage and restore rangelands, while at the same time enhancing food security and nutrition, water availability, livelihood and drought resilience, and economic opportunities;
3. *Encourages* Parties to develop and implement policies and legal frameworks for the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of rangelands, as a way to halt its degradation and accelerate the restoration of degraded rangelands, while ensuring

consistency and coherence with national strategies and plans to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, and biodiversity loss;

4. *Invites* Parties, donors, partners, civil society and other stakeholders to support the Rangelands Flagship Initiative;

5. *Also invites* Parties to improve tenure security in rangelands in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;

6. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their mandated activities under the Convention, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue:

(a) Raising awareness and demonstrating the value of healthy rangelands, and their sustainable management, for people, especially for women and youth, nature, climate and economies through, inter alia, the development of strategic communication products and outreach campaigns, including exploring with country Parties the possibility of establishing an International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists;

(b) Building the evidence base to address knowledge and data gaps, including those related to steppe and mountain rangelands through, inter alia, the development of good practice guidance, tools and other capacity-building measures, and to inform the design of projects and programmes that conserve, sustainably manage, and restore rangelands, taking into account the knowledge accumulated by pastoralists;

(c) Developing a pipeline of rangeland projects and programmes that improve food security and nutrition, drought resilience, local livelihoods, the engagement of women and youth, education and the stewardship of rangeland resources, including the sustainable use and conservation of locally adapted livestock breeds through, inter alia, public–private partnerships, sustainable supply chains and community-based projects and programmes;

(d) Raising awareness and demonstrating the importance of pastoralists and other stakeholder practices for combatting desertification, land degradation and drought, and promoting ecosystem conservation, water and soil conservation, fire prevention and the conservation of genetic resources and climate resilience in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought;

(e) Continue engaging the private sector in the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of rangelands and the empowerment of pastoralists, including through the Business4Land Initiative, thereby fostering long-term responsible investment; and

(f) Provide support to Member States, upon request, for the formation of a country-led Coalition of Rangeland States, utilizing funds already committed under the Global Environment Facility–United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Mongolia COP17 Legacy Project;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their mandated activities under the Convention, to report on the progress made in implementing this decision to the Conference of Parties at its eighteenth session.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 21/COP.17

High-level segment

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the organization of the high-level ministerial dialogues on 24, 25 and 26 August 2026,

1. *Takes note* of the Chairpersons' summaries with appreciation and gratitude;
2. *Decides* to include the Chairpersons' summaries as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 22/COP.17

Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”, with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”, as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 23/COP.17

Open dialogue sessions with civil society organizations attending the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration made by the representative of the civil society organizations attending the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the discussions held during the two open dialogue sessions with civil society organizations on 20 August 2026, titled “Civil society contributions on pastoralism, rangelands and financing for healthy land”, and 25 August 2026, titled “Civil society contributions on pastoralism, rangelands and financing for healthy land”,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Declaration;
2. *Also takes note* of the summary of discussions from the two open dialogue sessions with the civil society;
3. *Decides* to include the Declaration and the summary of discussions as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 24/COP.17

Declaration of the Youth Forum

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the Youth Forum, which took place on 18 and 19 August 2026, as well as the high-level event held on Land and People Day, titled “Youth, Land and Livelihoods: Building the next Generation of Land Stewards”, on 26 August 2026;
2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Youth Forum with appreciation;
3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Youth Forum as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 25/COP.17

Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of Land and People Day and the relevant events focusing on Indigenous Peoples, including the high-level event titled “From Sacred Lands to Shepherding the Future”, and the open dialogue sessions with civil society held on 20 and 24 August 2026;
2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples with appreciation;
3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 26/COP.17

Report from the Business for Land Forum

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the contributions from the Business for Land Forum and *takes note* of its report with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the report from the Business for Land Forum as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 27/COP.17

Declaration of the Mayors' Forum

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the Mayors' Forum, which took place on 21 August 2026;
2. *Takes note* of the resulting Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Local and Regional Governments with appreciation;
3. *Decides* to include the Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Local and Regional Governments as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

Decision 28/COP.17

Declaration of the Local Communities

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of Land and People Day and the relevant events focusing on Local Communities, including the high-level event titled “Seats at the Table: A High-Level Dialogue of Local Communities for Land and People Day”, and the open dialogue sessions with civil society held on 20 and 24 August 2026;
2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Local Communities with appreciation;
3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Local Communities as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

13th plenary meeting

18 August 2026

Decision 29/COP.17

High-level Parliamentary Forum at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the High-level Parliamentarians' Forum titled "From Commitment to Action: Parliamentary Leadership to Address Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought", which took place on 25 August 2026 at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Takes note* of the key messages and priorities for action from the High-level Parliamentarians' Forum and its contributions to the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Decides* to include them as an annex to the proceedings (part one) of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 30/COP.17

Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Noting decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5, 29/COP.6, 30/COP.7, 27/COP.8, 35/COP.9, 38/COP.10, 39/COP.11, 34/COP.12, 35/COP.13, 32/COP.14, 33/COP.15 and 36/COP.16 on its programme of work,

Taking into consideration the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its eighteenth session and, if necessary, its nineteenth session:

(a) 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

- (i) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
- (ii) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Post-2030 strategic framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(c) Promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(d) Policy frameworks and thematic issues, including the sub-items: migration, gender, sand and dust storms, land tenure, and rangelands and pastoralists;

(e) Policy framework: drought;

(f) Programme and budget for the biennium 2029–2030;

(g) Procedural matters:

(i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and business engagement strategy;

2. *Also decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including ministers, civil society organizations, the business community, the scientific community and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them;

3. *Further decides* to convene all four caucuses, while observing geographical representation;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Invite Parties to make submissions on possible ways to increase the effectiveness and time-efficiency of processes and ways of working of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, without prejudice to the rules of procedures and their terms of reference, respectively;

(b) Consult Parties on a consolidated list of these submissions to be considered by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-fifth session, as appropriate;

(c) Prepare a report on these consultations, in consultation with the Bureaux, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session under agenda item 1 (g);

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to prepare an annotated provisional agenda, in agreement with the President of the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, taking into consideration provisions contained in the relevant decisions taken during that conference and all the agenda items above;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue the implementation of all Conference of the Parties decisions related to the agenda items above, including relevant action plans, and to present for consideration at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties the reports on progress made;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate, in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat to circulate, in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, one document for each governing body (Conference of the Parties, Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, Committee on Science and Technology) with all respective draft decisions prepared for Parties' consideration and further adoption and to ensure that the draft decisions are clearly written and properly formatted.

*14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Decision 31/COP.17

Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling rule 3 of the rules of procedure,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Egypt to host the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Decides* that the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Egypt, in 2028, at a date to be determined;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Egypt with a view to concluding a legally binding agreement at the international level for that Government to host the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Egypt, and to meet the additional costs.

13th plenary meeting

28 August 2026

Decision 32/COP.17

Credentials of delegations

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/13](#) on the credentials of delegations and the recommendation contained therein,

Decides to approve the report.

*13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026*

Resolution 1/COP.17

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Mongolia

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Ulaanbaatar, from 17 to 28 August 2026, at the invitation of the Government of Mongolia,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of Mongolia for having made it possible for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Ulaanbaatar and for the excellent facilities placed at its disposal;
2. *Requests* the Government to convey to the people of Mongolia the profound gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

13th plenary meeting
28 August 2026