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 annex[7] to decision 24/COP.16, as well as the progress made at the seventeenth session of the Conference of Parties, as contained in the annex[8] 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-ofsociety 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.]

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