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 na7tional 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