



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: Limited
12 October 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 one: proceedings

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Opening of the session	3
A. Opening of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties	3
B. Election of the President	3
C. General statements	3
D. Formal statements session	3
II. Organizational matters	4
A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies	4
B. Election of officers other than the President	5
C. Credentials of delegations	6
D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers	6
E. Committee on Science and Technology	6
F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	7
G. Committee of the Whole	8
H. Attendance	8
I. Documentation	11
III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions	12
IV. High-level segment	13

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A.	Ministerial dialogues.....	13
V.	Gender Caucus	15
VI.	Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties	16
A.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties.....	16
B.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau	16
C.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole	16
D.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	17
E.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology	17
F.	Resolution adopted by the Conference	17
VII.	Conclusion of the session	18
A.	Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session	18
B.	Closing statements	18
Annexes		
I.	Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”	19
II.	Chairpersons’ summaries of the ministerial dialogues of the high-level segment of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties	22
III.	Declaration of civil society organizations attending the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties.....	26
IV.	Summaries of the open-dialogue sessions of the civil society organizations at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties	28
V.	Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Local and Regional Governments	32
VI.	Global Youth Declaration for COP17: Restoring Land, Restoring Hope	36
VII.	Indigenous peoples’ statement to COP17: From Sacred Lands to Shepherding the Future	39
VIII.	Founding Declaration of the Caucus for Local Communities	43
IX.	Report from the Business for Land Forum.....	48
X.	Report from the Gender Caucus.....	53
XI.	Key messages and priorities for action from the High-level Parliamentarians’ Forum.....	60
XII.	Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.....	63

I. Opening of the session

A. Opening of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

1. On 17 August 2026, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) was opened by H.E. Dr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha, Deputy Minister for Environment, on behalf of the COP 16 President. Pursuant to article 22 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the President of COP 16 made a statement.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1 (a))

2. At its 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, the COP elected, by acclamation, H.E. Battsetseg Batmunkh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, as President of COP 17.

3. The incoming President made a statement.

C. General statements

4. Also at the 1st meeting, welcoming remarks were made by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), India (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Paraguay (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), the European Union, Spain (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)), Egypt (on behalf of the League of Arab States) and Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)).

6. Furthermore, a statement was also made by a representative of civil society.

D. Formal statements session

7. On 17 August 2026, during the formal statements session, statements were made by the representatives of the Cook Islands (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), Turkmenistan (on behalf of the Interregional Group Central Asia–Russia), Canada, France, Chile, Ukraine, Brazil, Indonesia, Egypt, Australia, the Republic of Moldova, Suriname, Italy, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Kenya, the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Algeria, Armenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Mexico, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States of America, Guyana, Peru, Pakistan, Sudan, Lesotho, Nigeria, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Azerbaijan.

8. A statement was also made by the representative of the following intergovernmental organization: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

9. Statements were also made by representatives of the following entities of the United Nations system: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

10. The final list of speakers may be consulted on the UNCCD website.¹

¹ See <https://www.unccd.int/cop17/programme/agenda/cop-2nd-meeting>.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 1 (b) and (f))

11. The Conference considered agenda item 1 (b) and (f) at its 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026.

12. Statements were made by the Russian Federation,² Brazil, the United States of America, India and the European Union.

13. The Conference adopted its agenda and the organization of work contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/Rev.1 without the following items:

1. Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention;
2. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;
3. Policy frameworks and thematic issues (only as related to the gender sub-item); and
4. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

and deferred the adoption of those agenda items to a later date on the understanding that additional consultations would take place.

14. The adopted agenda, as orally revised, was as follows:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Credentials of delegations;
 - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers;
 - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
 - (a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

² The statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation may be consulted at the following link: [statement - agenda - Russia - plenary.docx](#).

- (b) Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (c) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan.
3. Policy frameworks and thematic issues (without the gender sub-item).
 4. High-level segment:
Ministerial dialogues.
 5. Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028.
 6. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
 - (b) Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
 7. Report on the session.

15. The Conference resumed its consideration of agenda item 1 (b) at its 12th meeting, on 26 August 2026, and decided to include agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda, titled “Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention”, in the adopted agenda of its seventeenth session.

B. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 1 (c))

16. The Conference considered this agenda item at its 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, and, at its 3rd meeting on 20 August 2026, elected the following officers for its seventeenth session:

Vice-Presidents:

- Mr. Jean Kouakou Kouadio (Côte d’Ivoire)
- Mr. David Payang (Cameroon)
- Ms. Tekura Moeka'a (Cook Islands)
- Ms. Laís Loredó Gama (Brazil)
- Mr. Karomo Browne (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
- Ms. Philippine Dutailly (France)
- Ms. Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot (Switzerland)
- Mr. Ulfat Machanov (Azerbaijan)
- Ms. Biljana Kilibarda (Montenegro)

17. At its 3rd meeting, on 20 August 2026, the Conference appointed Mr. Karomo Browne (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) as Rapporteur of the seventeenth session.

Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

18. At the 14th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Conference elected Mr. Charles Nzavi Lange (Kenya) as Chair of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST).

Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

19. At the 14th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Conference elected Mr. Berexford Jallah (Liberia) as Chair of the forthcoming twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

C. Credentials of delegations

(Agenda item 1(d))

20. At its 13th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Conference considered the report on credentials of delegations, as contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/13, and the recommendations contained therein.

21. At its 13th meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/L.1, approving the report on credentials.

22. The COP, on the basis of the report of the COP Bureau and additional credentials provided by Nepal, accepted the credentials of Parties attending the session.

D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers

(Agenda item 1 (e))

23. At the 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, the President of COP 17 introduced this agenda sub-item.

24. The representative of Azerbaijan made a statement.

25. At its 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, the Conference agreed to accredit as observers the intergovernmental and civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector entities, as listed in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.6.

E. Committee on Science and Technology

26. The seventeenth session of the CST was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Nicholas Webb (United States of America), whose appointment was confirmed by the Committee in line with rule 25 of the rules of procedure of the COP.

27. Welcoming remarks were made by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

28. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the African Group), Indonesia (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II)), the Republic of Moldova (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)) and Uzbekistan (on behalf of the Interregional Group Central Asia–Russia).

29. The Committee held six meetings, from 18 to 28 August 2026.

30. The Committee considered agenda item 1 (a) at its 1st meeting, on 18 August 2026.

31. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the European Union and Australia. A further statement was made by the representative of Brazil.

32. The Committee adopted its agenda and the organization of work contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1 without the following item:

1. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2025–2026:

(a) Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface;

(b) Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook.

and deferred the adoption of that agenda item to a later stage on the understanding that additional consultations would take place.

33. The Committee adopted its tentative schedule of work for the session, as contained in the annex to document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1, as orally revised.

34. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the vacancy for the remaining Vice-Chair from the Group of Central and Eastern European States remained to be filled, and appointed Mr. Chay Asdak (Indonesia) to serve as Rapporteur of the Committee.

35. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Joseph Noel (Grenada) as Facilitator of the contact group.

36. At its 4th meeting, the Committee decided to establish one joint CRIC–CST contact group and appointed the designated CRIC and CST Facilitators as Co-Facilitators.

37. The Committee resumed its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) at its 5th meeting and, following a statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation, decided to include agenda item 2 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda in the agenda of its seventeenth session.

38. At its 6th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming eighteenth session: Ms. Jia Xiaoxia (China), Mr. Melkis Maradiga (Honduras), and Mr. Michael Bruentrup (Germany).

39. The Committee submitted five recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 14th meeting, on 28 August 2026.

F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

40. The twenty-fourth session of the CRIC was opened by Ms. Philippine Dutailly (France) who made a statement.

41. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, also made a statement.

42. Statements were made by the representatives of Angola (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (Annex I)), China (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II)), Brazil (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex III)), Montenegro (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)) and Kyrgyzstan (on behalf of the Interregional Group Central Asia–Russia).

43. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic and IUCN.

44. The Committee held eight meetings, from 17 to 28 August 2026.

45. At the 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(24)/Rev.1, and approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in the annex of the document, as orally revised.

46. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Charles Lange (Kenya) as Facilitator of the contact group.

47. At its 5th meeting, the Committee decided to establish one joint CRIC–CST contact group and appointed the designated CRIC and CST Facilitators as Co-Facilitators.

48. At its 8th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions: Mr. Muhammad Zahrul Muttaqin (Indonesia), Mr. Joseph Noel (Grenada), and Ms. Flora Mak (Canada).

49. The Committee submitted six recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 14th meeting, on 28 August 2026.

G. Committee of the Whole

50. At its 1st meeting, on 17 August 2026, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole (COW) and to allocate to the Committee the agenda items listed in paragraph 16 of the COP 17 agenda contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/Rev.1, as orally amended (see paragraph 14 above).

51. At its 12th meeting, the Conference decided to allocate to the COW agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda, titled “Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention”.

52. Also at its 1st meeting, the Conference designated Mr. Khalid Cherki (Morocco) as Chair of the COW. The Committee held seven meetings, from 17 to 28 August 2026.

53. At its 1st meeting, the Committee established two contact groups: (a) contact group 1 on programme and budget matters; and (b) contact group 2 on COW matters other than the programme and budget. The Committee appointed the Chair of the COW as the Facilitator of contact group 1 on programme and budget matters until a Facilitator was proposed, and Ms. Marine Collignon (France) as the Facilitator of contact group 2 on COW matters other than the programme and budget.

54. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee appointed Mr. Poojanraj Khurun (Mauritius) as the Facilitator of contact group 1 on programme and budget matters.

55. The Committee submitted eleven recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 28 August 2026.

H. Attendance

56. The seventeenth session of the COP was attended by representatives of the following 168 Parties to the Convention:

Algeria	Bulgaria
Angola	Burkina Faso
Antigua and Barbuda	Burundi
Argentina	Cabo Verde
Armenia	Cambodia
Australia	Cameroon
Austria	Canada
Azerbaijan	Central African Republic (the)
Bahamas (the)	Chad
Bangladesh	Chile
Belarus	China
Belgium	Colombia
Belize	Comoros (the)
Benin	Cook Islands (the)
Bhutan	Costa Rica
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Côte d'Ivoire
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cuba
Botswana	Cyprus
Brazil	Czechia

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the)	Kazakhstan
Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)	Kenya
Djibouti	Kiribati
Dominican Republic	Kuwait
Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan
Egypt	Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)
El Salvador	Lebanon
Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho
Eswatini	Liberia
Ethiopia	Libya
European Union	Lithuania
Fiji	Luxembourg
Finland	Madagascar
France	Malawi
Gabon	Malaysia
Gambia (the)	Maldives
Georgia	Mali
Germany	Malta
Ghana	Marshall Islands (the)
Grenada	Mauritania
Guatemala	Mauritius
Guinea	Mexico
Guinea-Bissau	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Guyana	Mongolia
Haiti	Montenegro
Honduras	Morocco
Hungary	Mozambique
Iceland	Namibia
India	Naoero
Indonesia	Nepal
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Nicaragua
Iraq	Niger (the)
Ireland	Nigeria
Israel	Norway
Italy	Oman
Jamaica	Pakistan
Japan	Palau
Jordan	Palestine (State of)

Panama	Switzerland
Papua New Guinea	Syrian Arab Republic (the)
Paraguay	Tajikistan
Peru	Thailand
Philippines (the)	Timor-Leste
Poland	Togo
Portugal	Tonga
Qatar	Tunisia
Republic of Korea (the)	Türkiye
Republic of Moldova (the)	Turkmenistan
Russian Federation (the)	Tuvalu
Rwanda	Uganda
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ukraine
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	United Arab Emirates (the)
Sao Tome and Principe	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)
Saudi Arabia	United Republic of Tanzania (the)
Senegal	United States of America (the)
Serbia	Uruguay
Seychelles	Uzbekistan
Sierra Leone	Vanuatu
Slovenia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Solomon Islands	Viet Nam
Somalia	Yemen
South Africa	Zambia
South Sudan	Zimbabwe
Spain	
Sri Lanka	
Sudan (the)	
Suriname	

57. The session was also attended by observers from the following States not Party to the Convention: Holy See

58. The following 38 United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Department of Public Information

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Europe

Food and Agriculture Organization

Global Environment Facility

Green Climate Fund

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
 International Fund for Agricultural Development
 International Labour Office
 International Organization for Migration
 International Telecommunication Union
 International Trade Centre
 Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity
 UN Habitat
 UN Water
 UN Women
 United Nations Development Coordination Office
 United Nations Capital Development Fund
 United Nations Development Coordination Office
 United Nations Development Programme
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 United Nations Environment Programme
 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
 United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
 United Nations Office for Project Services
 United Nations Population Fund
 United Nations Secretariat
 United Nations University
 United Nations Volunteers
 World Bank
 World Food Programme
 World Health Organization
 World Meteorological Organization

59. The session was also attended by representatives of 50 intergovernmental organizations and 333 CSOs.

I. Documentation

60. The documents submitted for the consideration of the COP at its seventeenth session are listed in annex XII to the current report.

III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session

(Agenda item 1 (f))

61. The Conference held two open dialogue sessions under agenda item 1 (b) and (f) at its 3rd and 8th meetings, on 20 and 25 August 2026.
62. Ms. Ellen Oturu-Okoedion (Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania) moderated the first open dialogue session held on 20 August 2026 titled "Civil society contributions on pastoralism, rangelands and financing for healthy land".
63. An opening ceremony was performed by the Council of Elders (Mongolia).
64. Introductory remarks were made by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, and the President of COP 17.
65. A keynote statement was made by Mr. Matti Goldberg (Woodwell Climate Research Center).
66. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Mr. Basele Stephen (Pastoralist Goals Foundation of Kenya), Ms. Garima Rajpal (The ClimAct Initiative of India), Ms. Tatiana Mijaela Blanco Quiroga (Asociación Comunitaria Poopó Uru Uru Team of the Plurinational State of Bolivia), Ms. Hanieh Moghani (Center for Environment and Sustainable Development Studies and Application of the Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms. Laurie Marker (Cheetah Conservation Fund of Namibia) and Mr. Anders Oskal (World Reindeer Herders of Norway).
67. Statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Armenia, Brazil, Iraq, Maldives, Peru, Turkmenistan, Australia, China, Yemen, Senegal, Uruguay, Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe.
68. Statements were made by representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (also on behalf of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.
69. Statements were also made by representatives of civil society.
70. In the ensuing discussion, the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed from the floor.
71. The second open dialogue session with civil society representatives, titled "Drought resilience, territories and water", was moderated by Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim.
72. A presentation was made by Mr. Byambasuren Pürevdagva (Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar).
73. A keynote statement was made by Mr. Paul Hallett (British Society of Soil Science).
74. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Mr. Gustavo Sánchez Valle (Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales), Mr. Innocent Antoine Houedji (Youth Initiative for Land in Africa), Mr. Mohammed Alzuhairi (Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Development), Ms. Marie Bouysse (Coalition Eau), Ms. Cécile Ndjebet (Women's Network for Community Management of Forests), Ms. Irish Baguilat (Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development) and Mr. Patrice Burger (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales).
75. Statements were made by representatives of the European Union, Brazil (also on behalf of Brazil, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay), Panama and Australia, as well as IUCN.

76. Statements were also made by the representatives of the National Environmental Youth Council, the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales.

77. The panellists responded to comments made and questions posed from the floor.

78. The UNCCD Goodwill Ambassador Baaba Maal made a statement.

79. In line with decision 23/COP.17, the declaration made by the representative of the CSOs attending COP 17 and the summary of discussions held during the two open dialogue sessions with CSO can be found in annexes III and IV to the current report.

IV. High-level segment

(Agenda item 6)

A. Ministerial dialogues

(a) Innovative financial mechanisms for healthy land and drought resilience

80. H.E. Togmidyn Dorjkhand, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, made opening remarks.

81. Opening remarks were also made by H.E. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

82. The high-level ministerial dialogue was moderated by Ms. Lukwesa Burak.

83. Commitments were announced by the following speakers: Mr. Scott Morris (Asian Development Bank (Financing Investments and Eradicating Land Degradation and Desertification/Green Inclusive Regional Agribusiness Fund)), Mr. Anthony Nyong (African Development Bank (Zambezi and Southern African Development Community Great Green Wall Initiative)), Ms. Grethel Aguilar (IUCN (Global EbA Fund)), H.E. Martine Schommer (Government of Luxembourg (Drought Resilience Investment Facility Commitment and Foundation)), Ms. María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho (Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (on behalf of the International Drought Resilience Alliance)), Mr. Johann Saathoff (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (CompensACTIONS Phase 2)) and H.E. Ina Marčiulionytė (Delegation of the European Union to Mongolia (Thrivelihoods)).

84. Presentations were made by the following panellists: H.E. João Paulo Capobianco (Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil), H.E. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha (Deputy Minister for Environment of Saudi Arabia), H.E. Bernice Swarts (Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa), Mr. Liming Zhang (Vice-Administrator of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China), Mr. Guangzhe Chen (Vice-President for Planet of the World Bank Group), Ms. Gelsomina Vigliotti (Vice-President of the European Investment Bank) and Ms. Gim Huay Neo (Managing Director of the Centre for Nature and Climate at the World Economic Forum).

85. Statements were made by representatives of Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, India, Côte d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Botswana, the State of Palestine, Bhutan, Tajikistan, Madagascar, Chad, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Solomon Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uganda, Senegal, Zimbabwe, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, the Marshall Islands, Kenya, Nigeria, Eswatini, Tuvalu, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mali and Sierra Leone.

86. The high-level dialogue continued with statements delivered by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Uruguay, Mauritania, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Czechia, Indonesia, Ireland, the Lao Peoples's Democratic Republic, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Burundi, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, the Dominican Republic, Belarus, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Thailand, Zambia, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, the Sudan, Algeria, Togo, Israel, Guatemala, Mexico, Oman, Guinea, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan and France.

87. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples, the UNDP, the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, the Pastoralist Goals Foundation and CGIAR.

(b) Drought resilience

88. H.E. Nyamtaishir Nomtoibayar, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, made opening remarks.

89. Opening remarks were also made by H.E. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

90. Mr. James Famiglietti, Professor at the University of Arizona, delivered the keynote address.

91. The two panel discussions were moderated by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, former Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

92. Presentations were made during the first panel discussion by the following panellists: H.E. Osama Ibrahim Faeqeha (Deputy Minister for Environment of Saudi Arabia), H.E. Barbara Pompili (Ambassador for the Environment of France), H.E. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi (Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates), H.E. Martine Schommer (Special Envoy for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg), H.E. Hani Sewilam (Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt), and Ms. María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho (Director-General of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification of Spain).

93. Presentations were also made during the second panel discussion by the following panellists: H.E. Moses Vilakati (Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of the African Union), Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach (Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme), Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Ms. Åsa Regnér (Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Ms. Valerie Hickey (Director for Environment at the World Bank Group).

94. Statements were made by the representatives of Namibia, Senegal, Bhutan, Tunisia, Eswatini, Angola, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Madagascar and Uganda.

95. Statements were also made by the representatives of India, Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana, the State of Palestine, Chad, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Tuvalu, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Mali, China, Montenegro, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Azerbaijan, Uruguay, Mauritania, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Czechia, Indonesia, Ecuador, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Burundi, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Chile, Algeria, Togo, Hungary, Mexico, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Korea, Portugal, Italy, Guatemala, Kiribati, Iraq, Panama, Zambia, the European Union, Nepal, Viet Nam, Guinea, Yemen and Kuwait.

96. Further statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development on behalf of CSOs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund, the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples, the UNDP, the International Water Management Institute, the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries and CGIAR.

(c) Restoration of rangelands and well-being of pastoralist communities

97. The ministerial dialogue was co-chaired by H.E. Wynter Boipuso Mmolotsi, Minister of the Environment and Tourism of Botswana, and H.E. Oscar Caputi, Vice-Minister of Environment of Uruguay.

98. Keynote addresses were delivered by Ms. Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,

and Ms. Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

99. Statements were made by the representatives of Mongolia, Namibia, Lesotho, Fiji, India, Bhutan, Tajikistan, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Uganda, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Chad, Mali, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Kenya, Pakistan, Japan, Türkiye, Comoros, Mauritania, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Iceland, the Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Dominican Republic, China, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Spain, Mexico, Sudan, Iraq, Burundi, Egypt, the European Union, France, Nepal, Viet Nam and Qatar.

100. Statements in their national capacities were made by the Co-Chairs, the representatives of Botswana and Uruguay.

101. Statements were also made by the representatives of Timor-Leste, Cuba, Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Zambia.

102. Further statements were made by representatives of the UNDP, IFAD, IOM, the Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflicts Transformation, IUCN, Steppes Without Borders on behalf of civil society, the International Development Law Organization and the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations.

103. In line with decision 21/COP.17, the Chairpersons' summaries of the high-level ministerial dialogues may be found in annex II to the current report.

V. Gender Caucus

(Agenda item 1 (f))

104. The Conference held the Gender Caucus under the theme "Enhancing women herders and pastoralists' contribution to stewardship and resilience".

105. The President of COP 17 made opening remarks and invited H.E. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland, to chair the meeting.

106. Opening remarks were also made by H.E. Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho Pereira (Minister of Environment of Angola), H.E. Alicia Jaramillo Cabo (Vice-Minister of Environment and Marine Coastal Affairs of Ecuador), Ms. Yasmine Fouad (Executive Secretary of the UNCCD), Ms. Åsa Regnér (Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Ms. Chinguundari Navaan-Yunden (National Security and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mongolia) and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw (former Executive Secretary of the UNCCD).

107. The UNCCD Goodwill Ambassador Baaba Maal gave a musical performance.

108. The panel discussions were moderated by Ms. Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Co-Lead of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Working Group on Pastoralism and Gender and Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Colorado State University in the United States of America.

109. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Ms. Debbie Dowden (Pastoral Leader and Rangelands Advocate and Director of Australian Women in Agriculture), Ms. Hannah Longole (Executive Director of the Ateker Cultural Center in Uganda), Ms. Bhavana Rabari (President of the Pastoral Women Alliance of Gujarat and Programme Officer at the Maldhari Rural Action Group in India), Ms. Hajia Alima Sagito-Saeed (Executive Director of Savannah Women Integrated Development Agency in Ghana), Ms. Grace Scorey (Pastoral Women's Council in the United Republic of Tanzania) and Ms. Tamara Crantschaninov (Director and Founder of Vena Public Management Consulting in Brazil).

110. Statements were made by representatives of the European Union, Zimbabwe, Canada, Panama, Spain, Benin, Australia, Eswatini, Sudan and Uganda, as well as UN-Women and UNDP.

111. Further statements were made by representatives of Landesa and the Association des Femmes Peuples Autochtones du Tchad (on behalf of the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples).

112. In line with decision 17/COP.17, the report from the Gender Caucus can be found in annex X to the current report.

VI. Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties

113. At its 13th and 14th meetings on 28 August 2026, the Conference adopted 33 decisions and one resolution.

A. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties

114. At the recommendation of the President of its seventeenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 17/COP.17 Report from the Gender Caucus
- 21/COP.17 High-level segment
- 22/COP.17 Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”³
- 23/COP.17 Open dialogue sessions with civil society organizations attending the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 24/COP.17 Declaration of the Youth Forum
- 25/COP.17 Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples
- 27/COP.17 Declaration of the Mayors’ Forum
- 28/COP.17 Declaration of the Local Communities
- 29/COP.17 High-level Parliamentary Forum at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau

115. At the recommendation of the Bureau of the COP at its seventeenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 32/COP.17 Credentials of delegations

C. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

116. At the recommendation of the COW, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 1/COP.17 Updated financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies, and the Convention secretariat
- 5/COP.17 Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 6/COP.17 Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention

³ The statement made by Türkiye in relation to this Declaration may be found at the following link: [Türkiye Declaration.docx](#)

- 8/COP.17 Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028
- 16/COP.17 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought
- 18/COP.17 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms
- 19/COP.17 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure
- 20/COP.17 Rangelands and pastoralists
- 26/COP.17 Report from the Business for Land Forum
- 30/COP.17 Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 31/COP.17 Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

D. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

117. At the recommendation of the CRIC, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 2/COP.17 Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention
- 3/COP.17 Progress made in the mobilization of resources and financial flows for the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Framework
- 4/COP.17 Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties
- 7/COP.17 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility
- 9/COP.17 Programme of work for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 10/COP.17 Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

E. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

118. At the recommendation of the CST, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 11/COP.17 Procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface
- 12/COP.17 Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium
- 13/COP.17 Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 14/COP.17 Activities of the Science-Policy Interface
- 15/COP.17 Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands

F. Resolution adopted by the Conference

119. At its 13th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Conference adopted the following resolution at the recommendation of Algeria:

- 1/COP.17 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Mongolia

VII. Conclusion of the session

A. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session

(Agenda item 9)

120. At its 13th meeting, on 28 August 2026, the Conference adopted the draft report on its seventeenth session (ICCD/COP(17)/L.6) and authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

B. Closing statements

121. At the 14th meeting of the COP, on 28 August, statements were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States and in its national capacity), the European Union, Paraguay (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Türkiye, India (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States), Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States), the Cook Islands (on behalf of the Group of Pacific States), Armenia, Spain (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)), Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Cameroon and the Russian Federation.

122. A statement was made by a representative of UN-Women.

123. Statements were also made by the representatives of CSOs, the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and the Youth Caucus.

124. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, made a statement.

125. H.E. Battsetseg Batmunkh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and President of COP 17, made a closing statement and declared closed the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Annex I

Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

“Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”

[English Only]

Ministers and Representatives, gathered at the high-level segment of the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held from 17th to 28th August 2026 in Ulaanbaatar, under the theme “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope” reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the objectives and principles of the Convention and to advancing sustainable development for present and future generations,

Reaffirming the strong commitment to multilateralism and to the UNCCD as the primary international framework for cooperation on desertification, land degradation and drought, and implementation of its mandates,

Recognizing interconnected challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought that threaten ecosystems, food and water resources management, public health, livelihoods, cultural heritage, economic prosperity, social stability and sustainable development,

Acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought represent complex environmental, social and economic challenges and recognizing that the cost of inaction is high, while timely investments in land restoration, sustainable rangeland management, soil and water conservation, water resources management and drought resilience can generate substantial economic, social and environmental benefits,

Recalling the outcomes of previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and recognizing the growing momentum toward a more coordinated global approach to addressing desertification, land degradation, drought, and sand and dust storms and their far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, climate, food security, water resources, sustainable development, and human well-being,

Noting all the initiatives catalyzed under the Riyadh Action Agenda, including the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership,

Further recognizing that land restoration, sustainable land and rangeland management, soil and water conservation and integrated water resources management are essential for drought resilience and Land Degradation Neutrality; and that healthy land, resilient rangelands and sustainable management of water resources are foundations of resilient societies and economies,

Emphasizing the importance of promoting cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements,

Further noting the critical role of rangelands and pastoral systems in promoting synergies in building drought resilience, conserving biodiversity, supporting sustainable food production and integrated water resources management, sustaining livelihoods and preserving cultural heritage,

Welcoming the **Global Pastoralist and Indigenous Pastoralists’ call to action: Our Lands, Our Territories, Our Heritage, Our Future** issued in Ulaanbaatar in August 2026,

Therefore, Ministers and Representatives, gathered for the high-level segment at the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, reaffirm our strong resolve to:

1. *Promote* the development of an ambitious Future Strategic Framework beyond 2030 that fosters Land Degradation Neutrality and drought resilience, supported by sustainable financing for the full implementation of the Convention and for effective functioning of the Secretariat;
2. *Call* for stronger support for country-led implementation through increased policy coherence and voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets, national drought plans, land restoration strategies, sustainable land management policies in alignment with the sustainable food security, system pathways and principles of agroecology and relevant sectoral strategies, including extractive activities such as responsible mining;
3. *Encourage* Parties to strengthen cooperation and coordination to further promote effective and efficient actions to implement the Convention and continue advancing efforts toward effective global cooperation on drought resilience through initiatives and voluntary partnerships, such as Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, Drought Resilience Investment Facility, International Drought Resilience Alliance and its Observatory, as well as on sand and dust storm source control, and restoration efforts under the UNCCD;
4. *Further call upon* Parties and relevant stakeholders for increased and accessible financial flows, including from international, domestic, public and private sources, to support country-led land restoration, sustainable land and rangeland management, soil and water conservation, integrated water resources management and drought resilience, particularly in developing countries;
5. *Resolve* to placing people at the center of land restoration, rangeland management, soil and water conservation, water resources management and drought resilience efforts by strengthening livelihood diversification, social protection, anticipatory action, restoration-based employment and local value chains, while promoting transformative approaches and recognizing women, youth, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities as key actors in implementing the Convention and ensuring their full and effective and meaningful participation, including through their Caucuses;
6. *Further encourage* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and needs to promote responsible and inclusive land and rangeland governance, including secure and equitable access to rangelands and water resources, pastoralist mobility, including through the Steppe Action Agenda, as an important enabling condition for sustainable land management, rangeland conservation and restoration and drought resilience, and promote “as appropriate” the establishment of the International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists, recognizing the needs of groups in marginalized and vulnerable situations;
7. *Call* for the strengthening of the central role of science, evidence and knowledge, including Indigenous and local knowledge in the UNCCD, continuing to improve the support provided by the Science Policy Interface and enhancing the collaboration with other scientific bodies;
8. *Further encourage* Parties to scale up integrated land, rangeland and water management approaches that protect surface and groundwater resources, including through international cooperation, improve soil health, restore vegetation cover, strengthen drought-resilient pastoral and agricultural systems, and promote measures to reduce pressure on dryland ecosystems and sand and dust storms source mitigation;
9. *Invite* Parties, relevant institutions and partners to support the implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration entitled “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope” through the mobilization

of voluntary actions, partnerships, private sector engagement under the Business for Land Initiatives and the creation of national and regional Business for Land Hubs, financing, technical cooperation, knowledge exchange and sharing experiences and lessons learned;

10. *Call upon* Parties, international organizations, financial institutions, development partners, and other relevant actors and stakeholders to join efforts in advancing the Land Degradation Neutrality and accelerating inclusive implementation at all levels.

Annex II

Chairpersons' summaries of the ministerial dialogues of the high-level segment of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

[English Only]

Ministerial Dialogue: Innovative financial mechanisms for healthy land and drought resilience

This ministerial dialogue was officially opened and chaired by Mr. Togmid Dorjkhand, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia representing the COP 17 Presidency highlighting the significant finance gap for addressing DLDD and placing investment and finance at the heart of the COP17 deliberations. Keynote remarks were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Ms. Yasmine Fouad. These opening remarks framed land not only as an environmental concern but as the economic infrastructure underpinning food, water, jobs, public revenue and stability because when land fails, the costs are borne by the state treasury through increased subsidies, emergency relief, displacement and security deployments. The speakers called for repurposing of agricultural subsidies alongside incentives such as environmental taxes, payments for ecosystems services and debt instruments; for portfolios of sufficient scale, underpinned by revenue models with multiple benefits, risk-sharing and local currency financing and for the conversion of national drought plans into drought investment plans and the integrating of land finance across the Rio Conventions.

The chair opened the next segment by announcing the launch of the Rangelands Flagship Initiative as a key pillar of Mongolia's legacy as COP17 President. The Initiative seeks to mobilize resources for sustainable rangeland management and restoration and establish a country-led Coalition of Rangelands States. It also aims to create the Eurasian Center for Climate Resilient Drylands as a regional hub for science, innovation, and investment. Mongolia committed to sector-wide sustainable finance principles, a green taxonomy, and a target of 10% 'green lending' by 2030. Other stakeholders including the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Luxembourg, Spain, Germany, and the European Union all announced new financial commitments in support of UNCCD-related projects and programmes spanning drought resilience, ecosystem-based adaptation, food system resilience and the restoration of dryland landscapes. Overall, the dialogue welcomed pledges totalling USD 1.3 billion, including the Rangelands Flagship Initiative portfolio of 45 projects worth USD 1.2 billion.

This was followed by a moderated discussion with ministerial representatives of Brazil, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the People's Republic of China as well as high-level participants from the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the World Economic Forum, that explored why land remains outside mainstream budgets and portfolios despite a strong investment case. Participants noted that the binding constraints on greater investment are often mandate, instruments, pipeline or risk appetite. They underlined that treating land as a capital asset requires making restoration bankable, improving revenue visibility and providing policy certainty stressing the need to reflect on how public and concessional finance can be most effectively deployed. Over 60 Parties and 10 representatives of international organizations then delivered statements during the full day dialogue. Most speakers referred to the UNCCD financial needs assessment for 139 country Parties and over 350 national action plans, which estimates that USD 355 billion are required annually up to 2030, against a current investment of USD 77 billion, representing an annual gap of USD 278 billion. Set against an estimated USD 878 billion a year in losses from inaction, the investment case was presented as an eight-to-one return, with potential benefits of USD 1.8 trillion a year. The cost of inaction was put at three times the cost of restoration.

Many speakers noted the significant contraction in official development assistance in 2025 and that roughly half of low-income countries are at high risk of debt distress. There was consensus though that the finance needed for sustainable land management cannot be delivered through grants alone. The discussion turned to how countries tax, spend, and borrow; whether public resources crowd in private capital rather than substitute for it. Many Parties indicated how they prioritized domestic fiscal measures in the form of incentives; public-private blended finance and the repurposing of environmentally harmful subsidies.

Several Parties called for simplified access to multilateral funds, shorter turnaround times for approval and greater coherence across the land, climate, and biodiversity financing windows. They urged multilateral development banks to establish a distinct, trackable category for land, soil health, and drought resilience within the existing nature and climate finance taxonomies. This call was based on the principle that what is not measured is not allocated. There was broad support for innovative financing mechanisms, scaling guarantees, first-loss capital, and index-based insurance. Others cautioned that innovative finance must not become a means of transferring the responsibilities of states to private actors.

Some Parties stressed the need to mobilize private sector investment alongside public finance, as well as the important role of capacity building, South-South cooperation and technology transfer for the effective implementation of land and water management practices including affordable digital and satellite technologies. Several voiced the need for project preparation support to develop an investment-ready pipeline and for a shift from small and fragmented projects to investable programmes and portfolios. They also cautioned against widening access gaps for the least developed countries and those in fragile contexts. Sovereign instruments: debt-for-nature swaps, nature-performance bonds, sustainability-linked bonds and country platforms were raised as the unfinished business of the Sevilla Commitment. Parties called for simplified, flexible, predictable, and equitable access to finance for land-based initiatives, especially for developing and landlocked countries, and small island developing states. Speakers urged that Indigenous Peoples, local communities and pastoralists be engaged as economic partners rather than as beneficiaries.

Ministerial Dialogue: Drought Resilience

This ministerial dialogue was opened and chaired by Mr. Sandag-Ochir Tsend, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia, representing the COP17 Presidency. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Nomtoibayar Nyamtaishir, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, who announced the Water-Land Nexus Initiative, a Mongolia-led global initiative under the Steppe Action Agenda aimed at advancing integrated, science-based, and finance-ready solutions to interconnected water and land challenges. The initiative seeks to strengthen drought resilience through regional cooperation and improved soil-moisture and landscape water retention.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD delivered keynote remarks, underscoring the increasing frequency and severity of drought, its far-reaching impacts, and the high costs of inaction. They called for a shift from reactive crisis response to proactive drought resilience and stronger collective action, pointing to International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) in strengthening international cooperation and International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO) in advancing drought data, science and knowledge, as well as the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF), the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP), and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) that are mobilizing finance and investment for drought resilience. They stressed the urgent priority to operationalize these initiatives and translate available resources, knowledge, and partnerships into concrete action at national and local levels.

Professor James S. Famiglietti highlighted unprecedented continental drying, shrinking freshwater availability, and the importance of accessible science and data to support effective decision making and policy responses.

A ministerial panel brought together representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, the United Arab Emirates, Arab Republic of Egypt, Luxembourg and Spain to strengthen the

political will and raise awareness of drought as a global challenge that requires mobilizing finance at scale, accelerating ecosystem restoration, and strengthening collaboration from the global to the local level, including transboundary cooperation. They also underscored the need to move towards proactive drought management pointing to the effectiveness of water-use restrictions and increased efficiencies, while also stressing the importance of early warning, science and data, and integrated approaches, including nature-based solutions. These include preparedness-based approaches focused on managing water scarcity through smart distribution and drip irrigation, supported by modern technologies and the development of new water resources. All stressed that whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are essential to overcome silos.

A technical panel with senior representatives of the African Union, UN-Habitat, ESCAP, UNESCO and the World Bank Group discussed drought implications for global trade, supply chains, and economic resilience. They emphasized the urgent need to shift from crisis financing to resilience investment that requires stronger cross-sectoral collaboration with due consideration of urban-rural linkages. They also pointed to examples of regional cooperation that combines satellite data, ground observations, and seasonal forecasting to strengthen early warning and anticipatory action. All agreed that water is a human right and drew attention to the disproportionate impacts of drought on women and girls, including increased workloads, loss of livelihoods, and reduced access to essential resources.

Over 60 Parties, together with representatives of international organizations and civil society organizations, delivered statements. Speakers echoed the priorities highlighted by the keynotes and panellists, while adding national and regional perspectives, recognising drought as a structural challenge, rather than a temporary shortage of water, with cascading impacts on ecosystems, people, livelihoods and economies, and growing implications for security and stability, including involuntary migration. They called for proactive drought management and for placing the land–water nexus at the heart of collective action, recognizing that protecting and restoring land is essential to safeguarding water resources. They highlighted the need to break down policy silos and strengthen integration across sectors and plans to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.

Many speakers acknowledged the availability of proven measures, including improving water-use efficiency, strengthening groundwater management, expanding water reuse and recycling, modernizing irrigation, promoting rainwater harvesting and sustainable soil management, advancing climate-resilient agriculture and improved crop and livestock varieties, and restoring ecosystems and landscapes, including through afforestation and nature-based solutions.

Several interventions emphasized the need for stronger global, regional and transboundary cooperation, including South–South cooperation, to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, experience, technologies, and solutions. Most Parties called for predictable and anticipatory financing and insurance, as well as innovative and blended finance mechanisms, particularly in vulnerable countries and communities. This includes the alignment of drought resilience with development and climate finance, mobilizing private-sector investment, strengthening partnerships with financial institutions, and making financing directly accessible to people and communities that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of rural communities, including families and children, women, youth, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and pastoralists.

Ministerial Dialogue: Restoration of rangelands and well-being of pastoralist communities

The dialogue was opened by the COP17 President and chaired by Botswana and Uruguay, with keynote remarks from Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Ms. Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. They emphasized the importance of rangelands for food security, regional economic development, and the livelihoods and cultures of pastoralists who steward these vast landscapes. While rangelands provide 16% of global food production and 70% of feed for livestock, they host abundant biodiversity, sequester carbon, and contribute to water cycles. Despite their significant environmental and

socio-economic value, rangelands are often overlooked and undervalued in national economies.

Over 52 Parties and 10 representatives of international organizations delivered statements. Virtually all agreed that rangelands must be recognized, respected, and restored. Healthy rangelands ensure that ecological integrity is maintained, which is critical to feed a growing population and achieve land restoration, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation targets. Many acknowledged the growing pressures on rangelands and their communities from urban development, energy generation, mining, and high intensity agriculture, as well as the effects of rapid climate change, accelerating land degradation, and recurring drought. They recognised that policies and regulations to govern rangelands must ensure healthy and productive rangelands for future generations. Rangelands must be explicitly reflected in national strategies and action plans for ecosystem conservation, land restoration, and sustainable grazing that promote well-managed ecological pastoralism as a sustainable economic development model.

Several Parties emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge systems and the empowerment of pastoralists, local communities, and indigenous peoples to actively participate and take on leadership in the planning, management, and governance of rangelands. Responsible and inclusive land governance, such as ensuring tenure security and women's land rights, were identified as critical enabling factors. They also highlighted the importance of integrated land use planning that considers pastoral mobility and resource access as part of an adaptation strategy and to ensure social stability, dignity, and peace. The mapping and monitoring of rangeland health and the use of digital technologies to assess potential degradation processes was highlighted as an important pillar of the sustainable rangeland management.

While all speakers welcomed the Rangelands Flagship Initiative and the Coalition of Rangeland States, many emphasized the considerable investments required to conserve, sustainably manage, and restore rangelands. Some speakers called on the global community to provide financial resources to create an enabling environment (i.e. through technical assistance, technology transfer, sharing of best practices) and facilitate greater sustainable and inclusive investments in rangelands. Some pointed to sustainable value chains that can incentivize stewardship and significantly improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of pastoralist communities. This includes enhanced access to markets and inputs for pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities to support their traditional livelihoods that are based on extensive livestock production systems.

It was acknowledged that the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists has raised the profile of rangelands and their role in safeguarding planetary stability. Many Parties emphasized the need to move from commitments to action by driving inclusive policy frameworks and governance systems, responsible investments, and building on the rich heritage and vast traditional knowledge of pastoralists and rangeland communities who have managed these dynamic landscapes for centuries.

Annex III

Declaration of civil society organizations attending the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

[English Only]

Delivered on behalf of Civil Society Organizations participating in the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Civil Society Organizations stand united in reaffirming our commitment to healthy land as the foundation of food security, resilience, dignity, peace and sustainable development.

As Parties gather at COP17, humanity faces converging crises of land degradation, desertification, drought, biodiversity loss, climate instability, conflict and inequality. These crises disproportionately affect women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists and local communities, yet these same groups continue to demonstrate leadership, innovation and stewardship in restoring landscapes and building resilience. Their experience, knowledge and solutions are indispensable to achieving the objectives of the Convention.

We reaffirm our support for a multilateral system that serves the many, not the few. The challenges before us cannot be addressed through fragmentation, exclusion or short-term political interests. They require cooperation, solidarity and a common commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind.

We therefore express our concern when essential issues relating to gender equality, Indigenous Peoples, civil society participation, science-policy cooperation and synergies across the Rio Conventions become subject to political division. Decisions taken within negotiating rooms have consequences far beyond them. When participation is restricted, rights are diminished, or critical issues are deferred, it is not only the negotiating process that is weakened, but also the ability of communities on the ground to deliver the transformation this Convention was created to achieve.

We call upon Parties to safeguard the integrity of the Convention and uphold the spirit of consensus, cooperation and shared responsibility that has guided the UNCCD for three decades.

Today, we call for:

1. **Meaningful and systemic participation of civil society** throughout all stages of the Convention process, as observers to negotiations sessions and contact groups, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and reporting. Civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and pastoralists are not merely stakeholders; they are rights holders, knowledge holders and implementation partners.
2. **Direct, accessible and sustained financing** for locally led land restoration, drought resilience and land stewardship initiatives, particularly those led by communities, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralist networks.

3. **Stronger implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality commitments** through inclusive national coordination mechanisms and partnerships between governments, civil society, private sector, academia, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
4. **Investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and nature conservation, agroecology, agroforestry, water management and ecosystem-based approaches** that restore land, improve soil health, strengthen food security, enhance biodiversity and build resilience in both stable and conflict-affected territories.
5. **Capacity-building that reaches beyond national institutions** and empowers grassroots organizations and communities implementing the Convention on the ground.
6. **Inclusive reporting and science-policy mechanisms** that integrate scientific evidence alongside traditional, local and Indigenous knowledge and accurately reflect civil society contributions.
7. **A people-centred post-2030 UNCCD Strategy** built through bottom-up governance and effective participation of rights holders at all levels.
8. **A transition from reactive drought management to anticipatory drought resilience**, informed by local realities, traditional knowledge and community leadership.
9. **The full and meaningful participation and leadership of women** including indigenous and pastoralists across all aspects of land governance, restoration and resilience-building efforts.
10. **Secure and equitable land access and tenure rights** for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and pastoralists as a prerequisite for restoration, resilience and justice.

As we conclude COP17, we are reminded that solutions already exist. Communities across the world are restoring degraded lands, protecting water resources, conserving biodiversity and strengthening livelihoods, often under increasingly difficult circumstances. The challenge before us is not a lack of solutions. It is ensuring that political will, financing, inclusion and accountability match the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Let COP17 be remembered as a moment when Parties reaffirmed the value of multilateralism, protected civic space, strengthened the partnership between science and traditional knowledge, recognised the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, women and youth, and renewed a shared commitment to healthy land for present and future generations.

History will not judge us by the declarations we adopt, but by the landscapes restored, the communities empowered and the resilience we build together.

The land cannot wait. The people who depend upon it cannot wait. The time for implementation, accountability and transformative action is now.

Annex IV

Summaries of the open-dialogue sessions of the civil society organizations at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

[English Only]

UNCCD COP 17 — OPEN DIALOGUE SESSION 1

Thursday, 20 August 2026 · Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The session

The first open dialogue session of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17), titled “Rangelands, Pastoralism and Financing in Healthy Land”, took place on 20 August 2026 as the third meeting of COP 17. It was prepared and organized by the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and moderated by one member of the panel. It was opened by the Executive Secretary, who noted the increasing amount of civil society representatives registered at COP 17 and stated how such representatives form part of the implementation model of the Convention. In addition, the COP 17 Presidency stated that Mongolia would want this COP to focus on implementation, drawing on the knowledge of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, supported by science, innovation and sustainable financing. The keynote was delivered by Mr. Matti Goldberg of the Woodwell Climate Research Center, framed around knowledge, financing and frameworks for action.

The panel

The session continued with a panel composed of six presenters representing civil society, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralist organizations from around the world. The Pastoralist Goals Foundation (Kenya) spoke about rangeland governance, tenure and direct finance, reporting that under one per cent of global climate and land restoration finance reaches pastoralists directly; the ClimAct Initiative (India) presented the work of Indigenous women in land restoration; the representative of the Uru Uru Team (Bolivia) spoke about the community-led restoration of Lake Uru Uru and the intermediaries between funds and communities; the Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA, Iran) spoke about finance and presented the Terms of Reference of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus; the Cheetah Conservation Fund (Namibia) spoke about the coexistence of humans and wildlife, and proposed ecosystem stewardship certification; finally, the World Reindeer Herders introduced the Ulaanbaatar Declaration 2026 adopted at the Global Pastoralist Gathering which was organized as part of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Interventions by Parties

Thirteen Parties took the floor and their interventions were grouped around four themes.

Participation of civil society in the Convention. Several countries recalled that the UNCCD is known as the People's Convention, that the first decision dedicated to CSOs was adopted in 2009 (decision 5/COP.9) and that all accredited CSOs report on the implementation of the Convention. In addition, they called for the adoption of all proposed agenda items, including item 8 (a), stating that their removal would interrupt a 17-year sequence of COP decisions, and supported the consideration of document ICCD/COP(17)/3. Other Parties recognized the right of civil society to information, participation and justice, and joined those Parties

requesting that the matter be considered under the COP agenda. Parties also described CSO participation as central to COP delivery across the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in some cases, a key force complementing Parties, particularly through implementation on the ground.

Indigenous Peoples, local communities and pastoralists. Most Parties supported the establishment of a standalone Indigenous Peoples Caucus at COP 17, together with a local communities caucus, and expressed support for the terms of reference process. Some Parties called for discussion of the terms of reference during the open dialogue sessions. Some countries also supported the proposal for an International Rangelands and Pastoralists Day and the ten-year rangeland action plan proposed by Mongolia and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Finance and direct access. Some countries called on donors, international financial institutions and development partners to mobilize greater resources and for innovative financing in the agro-pastoral sector.

Interventions by observers

United Nations entities described s CSOs, women-led organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth as effective partners in advancing sustainable land governance, stating that participation is a human right and a foundation for legitimacy and accountability.

Intergovernmental organizations stated that communities affected by conflict must not be left behind, noting that access to international programmes and financing has become increasingly limited. In this regard, they requested a dialogue with the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility under the auspices of the UNCCD.

Civil society representatives seconded the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities caucuses and requested a pastoralist caucus, calling for recognition of the Global Pastoralist Declaration. They also proposed that finance should promote stewardship and mobility rather than constitute payment for ecosystem services or carbon markets.

Responses and conclusions

The panelists responded by emphasizing the importance of capacity-building for pastoralist-led leadership; the caucuses as spaces for building trust with governments; and the mobilization of traditional and Indigenous knowledge alongside science. The moderator closed by reading key messages compiled from CSOs in all five regions, which advocated: (i) pastoralism and mobility as an adaptation strategy; (ii) equitable land rights and tenure; (iii) women's leadership and gender responsiveness across the policy cycle; (iv) finance for community-led restoration; (v) traditional and Indigenous knowledge in science-policy mechanisms; and (vi) the importance of two separate caucuses (one for Indigenous Peoples and one for local communities) being established.

UNCCD COP 17 — OPEN DIALOGUE SESSION 2

Tuesday, 25 August 2026, 15:00–18:00 · Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The session

The second open dialogue session of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) took place on 25 August 2026 under the theme of “Drought resilience, territories and water”. It was organized by the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and moderated by Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, who opened on behalf of CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and pastoralists. She stated that (i) drought is not only an environmental challenge but a lived reality for millions, whose livelihoods, cultures and food systems depend on healthy land and reliable water; (ii) communities are the first to experience drought and often the first to develop solutions; and (iii) knowledge and solutions exist while political will, finance and partnerships are needed to scale them. The Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar presented the Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Local and Regional Governments, on the role of local and regional authorities in territorial resilience and multi-level governance. The keynote was delivered by Prof. Paul Hallett of the British Society of Soil Science.

The panel

The session included a panel with seven representatives from civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local community organizations. Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales, A.C. (Red MOCAF, Mexico) reported on a community forest restoration experience across more than 15 communities in Puebla and Oaxaca, Mexico, which has produced 350,000 plants and helped restore 300 georeferenced hectares. It also set out the criteria developed for the identification and self-identification of local communities, and invited Parties to enforce the COP 16 agreement on the Terms of Reference for both the Indigenous Peoples and local communities caucuses; the Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (Benin) presented the 10MyMiLAND initiative which mobilized youth for water resilience and land restoration, with 1,000 young people engaged over five years through partnerships with agricultural schools and municipalities; the AlMortaqa Foundation (Iraq) spoke about the 10 million hectares of land that are affected by drought in Iraq and presented a technology converting waste plastic into functional materials to stabilize soil and increase water retention; Coalition Eau (France) called for water to be recognized as a common good, for a human rights-based approach, and for shared governance of water resources; the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF, Cameroon) addressed the degradation of African soils and community-level restoration; the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (Philippines) presented farmers' organizations and cooperatives as financial intermediaries and de-risking hubs, including parametric insurance models; and the Centre d'actions et de Realisations Internationales (CARI, France) presented the outcomes of the sixth Désertif'actions summit held in Tunis, Tunisia in March 2026.

Statements by Parties

Civil society participation and the caucuses for Indigenous Peoples and for local communities. Many Latin America and Caribbean countries reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and to the UNCCD, and placed great importance on the meaningful participation of civil society as rights holders and relevant stakeholders, noting that this engagement is embedded in Article 3 of the Convention, and recalling Article 8 of the Convention on synergies among the Rio conventions. Some Parties commented on the Terms of Reference of the caucuses, requesting that both caucuses be designed to promote equitable and meaningful participation, with a Coordination Body providing a structured platform for dialogue. Further, they considered that due priority should be given to Indigenous Peoples and local communities from arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. Parties also reiterated

that an item on civil society participation should be included in the programme of work for COP 18. Some Parties welcomed the development of the Terms of Reference for the local communities caucus, including the principle of self-identification, and stated that separate caucuses guarantee that each can represent its own interests. In addition, they saw an opportunity for stronger synergies between the Rio conventions, noting the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. Finally, Parties requested that further consultation be carried out to finalize the Terms of Reference by COP 18 while both caucuses continue their work.

Rights holders, resilience and finance. Some Parties stated that the response to desertification cannot be limited to action by governments alone, recognized the knowledge, practices and systems of territorial governance developed by local communities and Indigenous Peoples, highlighted the role of women in natural resource management and the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, recognized youth as protagonists of the present, and called for implementation to be participatory, inclusive, rights-based and territorially responsive. Some Parties also described pastoralists as important stewards of rangelands who faced barriers in accessing finance, called for land tenure rights to be secured through recognition of customary and collective 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 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and stated that resilience cannot be achieved through infrastructure and technology alone but requires access to knowledge and resources, and empowerment for decision-making.

Statements by observers

Indigenous Peoples representatives requested Parties to recognize that Indigenous Peoples are rights holders participating on the basis of their own rights, and that the knowledge they hold is a living practice rather than heritage to be documented.

CSOs called on Parties to move from reactive responses to locally centred strategic planning, calling for four actions: (i) to recognize and secure herders' collective rights to traditional rangelands, including seasonal migration routes and water sources; (ii) to place the rights and resilience of nomadic systems at the centre of land and drought governance; (iii) to strengthen accountability and monitoring; and (iv) to ensure that financing reaches affected communities through accessible mechanisms.

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature** encouraged Parties to ensure that CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, pastoralists, farmers, women and youth actively shape, rather than simply participate in, decisions, priorities, investments and implementation across UNCCD processes and land degradation neutrality frameworks. It cited the Global Environment Facility-funded Strengthening Civil Society Role in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (CS4LDN) project, urged that both caucuses be adequately resourced and their inputs reflected in negotiated outcomes, and supported increased directly accessible financing.

Conclusions and closing

The moderator closed with key messages from civil society, which advocated: (i) a move from reactive drought management to a systemic and anticipatory approach with the direct participation of CSOs, women, youth, local communities, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists in drought governance; (ii) strengthening resilience through agricultural biodiversity, agroecological systems and the restoration of natural water cycles; (iii) acknowledging and scaling civil society solutions already working on the ground; (iv) developing common tools for implementation, monitoring and financing to limit overlap and siloed approaches; (v) and integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into science-policy mechanisms through civil society participation. The COP 17 Presidency closed the session, which ended with a musical performance.

Annex V

Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Local and Regional Governments

Local Leadership for Land Resilience: Advancing Implementation across the Rio Conventions

[English Only]

Adopted at the UNCCD COP17 Mayors' Forum
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
21 August 2026

We, the mayors, governors and other authorities of local and regional governments participating in the UNCCD COP17 Mayors' Forum in Ulaanbaatar,

Recognizing that land degradation, desertification, drought, biodiversity loss, water insecurity and climate change are closely interconnected challenges that increasingly affect the sustainable development, resilience, prosperity and well-being of cities, territories and communities;

Recognizing the benefits of stronger and more equitable urban-rural linkages, including sustainable land use and planning, improved infrastructure for the delivery of critical services (public transport, health, education, etc.) and better management of land and natural resources;

Recognizing that local and regional governments are indispensable partners in achieving the objectives of the Rio conventions (UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD) and that their proximity to communities, territorial responsibilities, their mandate to provide public services, and capacity to implement integrated solutions make them critical actors in translating global commitments into concrete actions on the ground;

Recalling the outcomes of the UNCCD COP16 Mayors' Forum in Riyadh, including the Declaration and Call for Engagement, and reaffirming the shared commitment to further strengthen the contribution of local and regional governments to the implementation of the Convention through continued exchanges and collaboration;

Recognizing that localization is essential to achieving the objectives of the Rio conventions, through integrated implementation, effective multilevel governance and cooperation among all levels of government and relevant stakeholders, to strengthen coherence and synergies across the global agendas on land, biodiversity, climate, and water.

Adopt the following declaration.

We call on local and regional governments, Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism and all relevant partners to:

1. Advance integrated local action for land restoration and resilient territorial development

Promote integrated localization approaches that address land degradation, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, water scarcity and sustainable urban development in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Recognize urban, peri-urban and rural areas as interconnected territories and strengthen urban-rural linkages that support nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, sustainable food systems, resilient livelihoods and inclusive economic opportunities.

Advance compact, inclusive and resource-efficient urban development that prevents forced rural out-migration and unmanaged sprawl, reduces unnecessary land consumption and safeguards productive agricultural land, water resources and natural ecosystems.

Strengthen effective multilevel governance and collaboration in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies, action plans and commitments related to land restoration, climate action, biodiversity conservation and drought resilience, aligning global and national commitments with local priorities and action.

2. Strengthen the role of local and regional governments within the UNCCD process

Building on the COP16 Call for Engagement and the Riyadh Process, institutionalize structured, regular and meaningful participation of local and regional governments within the UNCCD process, both between and during sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

Explore the establishment of an engagement mechanism for local and regional governments within the Convention, drawing on successful experiences from other multilateral environmental agreements.

Ensure the regular convening of a Local and Regional Governments or Mayors' Forum as part of future UNCCD COPs, connected to the formal deliberations and outcomes of the Convention.

Encourage Parties to include representatives of local and regional governments in national delegations, consultations and implementation processes related to the Convention.

Recognize the contribution of local and regional governments to achieving the objectives of the UNCCD and the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the integration of local achievements into national reporting and review processes.

Recognize the outcomes of the COP17 Mayors Forum as an official contribution to the UNCCD COP17 process.

3. Strengthen coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions and the water agenda, contributing to advancing the 2030 Agenda

Promote integrated implementation of the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD through coordinated action at the territorial level, strengthening synergies with the water agenda and advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, while recognizing the important role of flow-based governance approaches to make URLs more sustainable and resilient.

Align land-use, housing, transport, water, biodiversity and climate policies to guide urban and territorial development toward Land Degradation Neutrality, climate resilience and nature-positive outcomes.

Recognize loss and damage as a shared territorial consequence of land degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, drought and water insecurity, affecting livelihoods, public services, ecosystems, cultural heritage and community well-being.

Encourage collaboration among Parties, Convention Secretariats and local and regional governments to improve coherence across COP17, the biodiversity and climate COPs, and the 2026 UN Water Conference, recognizing their contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including through engagement in the Road to Abu Dhabi and the Road to the 2027 SDG Summit processes, led by the Local2030 Coalition, to advance localization as a critical pathway for shaping global agendas and translating commitments into transformative action and impact.

4. Support implementation through partnerships and finance

Expand cooperation among governments, international organizations, development banks, financial institutions, academia, civil society, water and sanitation utilities and the private sector to support locally led implementation.

Facilitate direct, simplified, predictable and long-term access to finance and capacity development for local and regional governments for nature-based solutions, land and ecosystem restoration, drought resilience, and sustainable infrastructure, promoting

approaches that channel finance towards local impact and transform systems to address interconnected challenges.

Strengthen support for project preparation, technical assistance and investment pipelines that enable local governments to access climate, biodiversity and land-related funding mechanisms.

5. Promote knowledge, innovation and cooperation

Support partnerships, scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, peer learning and decentralized cooperation among local and regional governments.

Advance the deployment of nature-based solutions, innovative technologies and integrated planning tools that strengthen land restoration, water security and climate resilience.

Encourage the dissemination of practical guidance and lessons learned on urban-rural linkages, peri-urban governance, sustainable land management and territorial planning.

Improve access to technical expertise, capacity-building programmes, data and decision-support tools needed to accelerate local implementation.

6. Strengthen land governance, tenure security and territorial food systems

Advance inclusive, transparent and accountable land governance systems that promote sustainable land management and equitable development.

Strengthen land tenure security, particularly in peri-urban and rapidly urbanizing areas, as a foundation for long-term investment, ecosystem stewardship and social stability.

Promote sustainable territorial food systems that connect urban, peri-urban and rural areas, protect productive land and ecosystems, and strengthen food and water security.

Support local and regional governments in integrating food systems into land-use planning, climate adaptation, biodiversity strategies and drought preparedness.

Address land-use conflicts, informal expansion and land speculation through integrated planning approaches that balance environmental protection, economic development and social inclusion.

7. Build resilience to drought and water stress

Integrate drought preparedness, risk reduction and water security into local and regional planning and investment processes.

Promote watershed management, ecosystem restoration, groundwater recharge, water-sensitive urban planning and other nature-based solutions that strengthen resilience to drought and water scarcity.

Support local and regional governments in responding to the needs of people being internally displaced or forced to migrate due to the expansion of deserts and drought.

Support local clean water provision systems, including through the public ownership, management, and democratic governance of water services.

Support local drought monitoring, early warning systems and risk-informed decision-making to reduce vulnerability and enhance preparedness.

We commit ourselves to:

Advancing local action to prevent and reverse land degradation, restore ecosystems, strengthen drought resilience and contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development.

Promoting compact and sustainable urbanization, stronger urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development that reduce pressures and harmful impacts on livelihoods, land, water and natural ecosystems.

Advancing inclusive land governance and tenure security to strengthen stewardship of land and natural resources and support resilient communities.

Scaling up nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration initiatives that generate environmental, social and economic benefits.

Strengthening cooperation among cities and regions through partnerships, peer learning and the exchange of practical experience including on sustainable land and water management, and resilient territorial development.

Promoting inclusive approaches that engage communities, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders in locally led action.

Strengthening local monitoring systems, data collection and evidence-based decision-making to track progress on land restoration, drought resilience and sustainable territorial development.

Integrating the objectives of the Rio conventions into local development plans, climate strategies, biodiversity action plans and land-use planning frameworks.

Consolidating the Riyadh Process as the platform for structured dialogue and engagement between the UNCCD, its Parties and the organized constituency of local and regional governments.

Looking Ahead

We welcome 2026 as the year in which the Conferences of the Parties to the three Rio conventions are convened in sequence, followed by the UN Water Conference, providing an important opportunity to strengthen coherence and synergies across the global agendas on land, biodiversity, climate and water, and to advance locally led perspectives and solutions across these interconnected agendas.

From Ulaanbaatar, we send a clear message to Parties gathering at COP17 and across the Rio conventions: achieving the global goals on land restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and water security requires local and regional governments not only as implementers of commitments, but as recognized partners in shaping them.

We therefore call for a new era of multilevel environmental governance in which local and regional governments are systematically engaged in the design, financing, implementation and monitoring of global commitments, bringing the realities of communities and territories into the heart of international decision-making.

Through the Riyadh Process and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, we commit to advancing a common agenda for resilient territories, healthy ecosystems and sustainable urbanization, ensuring that local action accelerates progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality and the objectives of all three Rio conventions, while contributing to the 2030 Agenda and helping to build momentum towards the 2027 SDG Summit.

Annex VI

Global Youth Declaration for COP 17: Restoring Land, Restoring Hope

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia | August 2026

[English Only]

We, the young people from communities and regions across the world, come to COP 17 with a shared message: **the future of our land is the future of our generation.**

In preparation for COP 17 in Mongolia, the Youth Caucus, alongside strategic partners and youth organizations across the world, conducted a series of virtual consultations to map out our engagement strategy. These sessions combined capacity-building briefings on United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Conference of the Parties (COP) processes with parallel planning for the Fifth UNCCD Youth Forum (18–19 August) at COP 17. Convening over 300 local and international delegates, the forum culminated in a high-level event on 26 August during Land and Peoples Day, providing a platform to launch the UNCCD Youth Declaration for COP 17. Coordinated by the UNCCD Youth Caucus, the COP 17 youth declaration encapsulates young people's perspectives on their most pressing challenges, what is working, demands for governments, development partners, United Nations agencies and the private sector, commitments made by youth, and cross-cutting priorities.

Across our communities, we are living the realities of land degradation, drought, desertification and ecosystem loss. We see their impacts on food and water security, livelihoods, health, biodiversity, culture, migration and peace. Yet we are also witnessing what becomes possible when young people, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, farmers, communities, scientists and innovators are empowered to drive solutions. We are not only the generation that will inherit these challenges; we are already restoring land, protecting ecosystems, creating livelihoods and building hope. COP 17 must recognize, resource and act on this reality.

From participation to partnership

The 2024 UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy and Action Plan (YES) provides an important framework for strengthening meaningful youth participation at national, regional and global levels. It recognizes the importance of youth-focused policies, partnerships, financial and technical support, capacity-building and networks.

In response to decision 5/COP.16, paragraphs 7 which requests the secretariat to include in its reporting an assessment of youth engagement in the implementation of the Convention and provide best practices for accelerating meaningful youth participation in UNCCD meetings and processes, nine recommendations emerged for accelerating meaningful youth participation. The consultations informing the assessment of the implementation of the YES demonstrate that progress has been made, while important gaps remain. COP 17 is an opportunity to close this gap. We call on Parties, the UNCCD secretariat, development partners, civil society and other stakeholders to move from consultation to co-leadership, from commitments to implementation, and from participation to power.

Our ask to COP 17

1. Institutionalize youth participation

Ensure young people are formally involved throughout national UNCCD processes, from policy design and implementation to monitoring and evaluation, including national action programmes and land degradation neutrality strategies.

2. Fully implement the Youth Engagement Strategy

Translate the YES from a global framework into practical national and regional action through clear implementation guidance, sharing of good practices, and integration into relevant policies and programmes.

3. Direct resources to frontline youth

Provide accessible, non-debt funding such as dedicated grants and small grants alongside technical support, mentorship and capacity-building. Funding should minimize bureaucracy and be accessible to youth-led and locally led organizations.

4. Recognize land as a living system

Treat land as interconnected with food, water, biodiversity, health, livelihoods, culture and peace. Prioritize holistic landscape management, regenerative agriculture and soil health over short-term extraction.

5. Protect pastoralism and local knowledge

Recognize pastoralism, rangeland stewardship and Indigenous and local land practices as effective restoration approaches. Measure restoration by genuine ecosystem recovery rather than simplistic indicators such as number of trees planted.

6. Build stronger government–youth partnerships

Treat youth organizations as implementation partners by creating regular dialogue and collaboration across governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. Strengthen pathways for young people to access knowledge, education and careers in land restoration and sustainable land management.

7. Expand capacity-building and intergenerational learning

Equip young people with the skills, knowledge and networks needed to participate meaningfully in UNCCD processes and turn commitments into action, including through training in negotiations, policy, sustainable land management, and implementation.

8. Measure and strengthen accountability for youth engagement

Make youth participation measurable through voluntary reporting and indicators that assess both its quantity and quality. Track whether young people actually influence decisions, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, not simply whether they attend meetings.

9. Strengthen youth coordination within the UNCCD secretariat

Consider establishing a dedicated youth focal point within the secretariat to improve communication between the secretariat, Parties and youth organizations, expand access to opportunities and information, and support the implementation of the YES.

Restoring Land, Restoring Hope

For young people, land restoration is not an abstract policy objective. It determines whether communities can access food and water, whether ecosystems can recover, whether pastoralists, farmers and young people can sustain their livelihoods, and whether communities can remain resilient in the face of drought and environmental change. Soil must be treated as a living system, not simply as a resource to be extracted. Restoration must recognize the interconnectedness of land, water, food, biodiversity, health, livelihoods, culture and peace.

We call for approaches that value regenerative agriculture, healthy soils, sustainable rangeland management and holistic landscape restoration. We call for the recognition of smallholder farmers, nomadic pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and their knowledge as essential partners in restoration.

We also call for youth innovation, science, technology and entrepreneurship to work alongside Indigenous and local knowledge. The solutions of tomorrow will require us to learn across generations and combine different forms of knowledge and experience.

Most importantly, COP 17 must turn ambition into action. Commitments must be supported by clear pathways for implementation, secure land tenure, rights-based safeguards, field-based monitoring, transparent tracking and intergenerational accountability.

Our commitment

The intentionality of the UNCCD in centering youth engagement through the YES provides a foundation for a new generation of partnership. As young people, we commit to being active partners in restoring land and rebuilding hope. We will continue to organize, innovate, share knowledge, build solutions, hold institutions accountable and work across generations, sectors and borders.

We call on governments, institutions, partners and leaders gathered at COP 17 to match the ambition of young people with meaningful action. The land being governed today is the world our generation will inherit tomorrow.

We, the young people of the world, stand united for land. We call upon the global community to listen, engage and act.

Restore The Land. Restore Our Hope. Restore Our Future.

This is our moment. This is our responsibility. This is the legacy we choose to build.

Global Youth Caucus | COP 17 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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Annex VII

Indigenous peoples' statement to COP 17: From Sacred Lands to Shepherding the Future

[English Only]

**FROM SACRED LANDS TO SHEPHERDING THE FUTURE
DECLARATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
UNCCD COP 17 – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Indigenous Peoples High-Level Special Event
Land and People Day | 26 August 2026**

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LEADING LAND RESTORATION, RESILIENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

We, Indigenous Peoples from the seven socio cultural regions of the world, gathered in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), reaffirm our commitment to protecting our lands, territories, cultures, knowledge systems and future generations.

Our lands are under increasing pressure from desertification, land degradation, drought, climate change, biodiversity loss and unsustainable development. Yet we, Indigenous Peoples, continue to protect, restore and sustain our lands and territories through our knowledge, customary governance and generations of stewardship.

We are not merely affected by these crises. We are rights-holders, knowledge-holders, custodians, and solution providers. Our knowledge is part of the solution, and our rights must not be undermined..

I. FROM RECOGNITION TO IMPLEMENTATION

COP 16 marked an important milestone with the first high-level event for Indigenous Peoples, “Indigenous Peoples for Land,” the Sacred Lands Declaration and decision 5/COP.16 on the establishment of the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples.

We welcome this progress and call for its full implementation. COP 17 must move the UNCCD from recognition to implementation.

We call for the full operationalization of the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples, including the adoption and implementation of its Terms of Reference, as a representative and sustained mechanism for Indigenous Peoples’ participation, knowledge exchange and engagement within the UNCCD.

Indigenous Peoples must be present where decisions are negotiated, policies are shaped, science is discussed and resources are allocated.

II. RESPECT AND PROTECT OUR RIGHTS, LANDS AND TERRITORIES

There can be no meaningful land restoration without respect for our rights as Indigenous Peoples who have cared for our lands and territories since time immemorial. Secure land tenure and recognition of customary governance are essential for sustainable land management, restoration and resilience. Our rights must be fully embedded, and our contributions fully recognized, in the UNCCD Strategic Framework and in any global framework on proactive drought management.

We call on Parties to fully respect, recognize, promote and protect our rights in all UNCCD policies, frameworks, protocols and actions, including our rights to self-determination, collective lands, territories and resources, customary governance, cultural heritage, traditional livelihoods and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

III. RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ALONGSIDE SCIENCE

Our knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies are living knowledge systems developed, sustained and transmitted across generations through our relationships with our lands, territories, waters and the natural world.

We call for the equitable and ethical recognition and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge alongside scientific knowledge in UNCCD policies, programmes and decision-making, while protecting our traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights and Indigenous data sovereignty.

We do not ask science to replace our knowledge. We ask for Indigenous Peoples' knowledge to stand alongside science.

We urge Parties to ensure our full, effective and meaningful participation in the Committee on Science and Technology and all other relevant scientific and technical processes of the Convention.

IV. FROM SACRED LANDS TO SHEPHERDING THE FUTURE

As the world celebrates the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, we call on Parties to recognize Indigenous pastoralists as rights-holders, custodians, knowledge-holders and solution providers for rangelands, drylands and ecosystems.

Pastoral systems are dynamic, adaptive and resilient, sustained through mobility, customary governance, seasonal resource management and intergenerational knowledge.

For pastoralists, mobility is not a problem to be solved. It is a solution that must be protected.

We call on Parties to secure our collective land and territorial rights as Indigenous pastoralists; protect our access to pasture and water; safeguard transboundary livestock corridors; support our sustainable pastoral systems and local breeds; and ensure that conservation, land, biodiversity and climate policies respect our mobility and customary governance.

Pastoralists must not be excluded from the lands and territories we have sustained since time immemorial. We must be recognized as leaders in shepherding the future.

V. ENSURE THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND YOUTH

Indigenous women are rights-holders and custodians of knowledge, food systems, water, seeds, biodiversity, culture and community resilience.

Indigenous women must not only participate; they must lead, make decisions and have direct access to resources.

Indigenous youth carry our ancestral knowledge into a changing world while also contributing science, technology and innovation. Indigenous youth are not only the future; they are the present

We call for the full and effective participation and leadership of Indigenous women and youth, including our direct access to dedicated resources throughout the UNCCD.

VI. ENSURE DIRECT ACCESS TO FINANCE

Despite our contributions to land restoration and resilience, we, Indigenous Peoples, continue to face major barriers to accessing finance. As those who protect and restore our lands and territories, we must have direct access to the resources necessary to continue this work.

We call for direct, flexible, accessible, equitable and non-discriminatory finance for Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous-led organizations, without unnecessary intermediaries.

Finance must support our self-determined priorities, including land restoration, sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, drought resilience, pastoralism and initiatives led by Indigenous women and youth.

VII. STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND SYNERGIES

Land degradation, biodiversity loss, drought and climate change are interconnected, and we experience their combined impacts across our lands and territories.

We call for common strategic planning, implementation and monitoring frameworks and indicators across the three Rio Conventions that recognize, respect and uphold Indigenous Peoples' formal and customary tenure rights to our lands, territories and resources.

We call for partnerships based on respect, equality, transparency, accountability and shared implementation.

VIII. FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACCOUNTABILITY

COP 17 must build on the progress achieved at COP 16 and turn commitments into action.

We call for stronger mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples to participate in implementation, monitoring, science, policy and finance, and for meaningful follow-up to the commitments made through the Sacred Lands Declaration and decision 5/COP.16.

From the Arctic to the Pacific, from Africa to Asia, and from the Americas and the Caribbean to Europe, we, Indigenous Peoples, are already restoring degraded lands, protecting biodiversity, managing water, sustaining food systems and building resilience.

We do not come only with demands. We come with solutions. What we need now is recognition of our rights, direct investment, full and effective participation and implementation.

FROM SACRED LANDS TO SHEPHERDING THE FUTURE

Let COP 17 be the moment when we, Indigenous Peoples, move from recognition to implementation.

Our lands. Our territories. Our knowledge. Our future.

Messages in our Indigenous languages:

Kuna Language/Mesoamerica: Dulemar e daed e igar mar gwable magdage baigan dagerewebe

Kirundi Language/Africa: Guharanira agateka k'Abasangwabutaka; si gukumira abandi!

Fulfude Language/Africa: Doole min ngonna babe de dabareeje daaranbemin koocete.

Maori Language/Pacific: Me uru mátauranga, ngá pútaiao, ngá hangarau a Iwi Taketake ki roto I Te Komiti Pútaiao me te Hangarau a UNCCD

Quechua Wamka/South America: Kamachikuq suyucunam Warmikunapapis allpanta amachinan Kap tinmi.

کنوانسیون سازمان ملل متحد برای مقابله با بیابان‌زایی باید در صندوق داوطلبانه سازمان ملل متحد برای
Türkiye: UNCCD BMT-nin Yerli Xalqlar üçün Könüllü Fonduna daxil
Farsi/Asia: کنگانه‌ی سازمان ملل متحد برای مقابله با بیابان‌زایی باید در صندوق داوطلبانه سازمان ملل متحد برای
edilməlidir.

Kankanaey Language/Asia: Wada asnan ipogaw nan sungbat.

Annex VIII

Founding Declaration of the Caucus for Local Communities

Self-constitution and governance structure adopted by organizations and representatives of local communities at COP 17

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – 26 August 2026

[English Only]

Preamble

We, the organizations and representatives of pastoralist, agropastoralist, peasant, agroecological, forest-dependent, small-scale and artisanal fishing, Afrodescendant, mountain, nomadic herder, small-scale farming, and island and coastal communities, and other territorially rooted local communities, including women and youth, gathered at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 26 August 2026,

- **Recalling** decision 5/COP.16, by which the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to facilitate consultations and support the development of terms of reference (TOR) for the establishment of a Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and a separate Caucus for Local Communities,
- **Noting** that chapter V of document ICCD/COP(17)/3 records strong support emerging from consultations for a Caucus for Local Communities that is self-organized, inclusive, transparent and accountable, complementary to existing Indigenous Peoples' mechanisms and capable of coordinating and consolidating the inputs of local communities across relevant UNCCD processes and bodies, while recognizing the need for robust safeguards against external designation, capture, exclusion and excessive centralization,
- **Observing** that the same document describes the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples as a "constitutive engagement body", organized according to an explicit "7+5" representation model, while describing the proposed Caucus for Local Communities in narrower terms, such as "self-organized" and "facilitative rather than representative", without an equivalent framework for regional representation or a parallel provision for dedicated, predictable and sustained financial and institutional support,
- **Affirming** that this asymmetry reflects the earlier stage of the consultation and institutionalization process concerning local communities rather than any lesser standings, contribution or legitimate claim to effective participation, and **recognizing** that it is both within our collective mandate and our responsibility to establish the foundations required to close this institutional gap,
- **Recognizing** the substantial contributions of local communities to sustainable land and natural resource management, ecosystem stewardship, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, drought resilience, restoration of degraded land, sustainable livelihoods, food security and the prevention, reduction and reversal of land degradation and desertification, as well as the importance of locally generated knowledge, data, practices, innovations and customary governance systems to the implementation of the UNCCD,
- **Grounding this Declaration** in the evolving body of international law, human rights standards and jurisprudence supporting the self-identification, collective organization, participation and community-based governance as legitimate bases for the recognition and effective participation of the collective, including International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 (1989), the United Nations Declaration on the

Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (e.g. *Saramaka People v. Suriname*, 2007; *Lhaka Honhat Association v. Argentina*, 2020), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (*Endorois v. Kenya*, 2010), and Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), together with relevant participatory mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities established under the CBD COP 16 (Cali, 2024),

- **Noting with appreciation** the precedent established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (decision 2/CP.23), which recognizes Local Communities alongside Indigenous Peoples as constituent actors in global climate governance, and **affirming** that the relationship between these two constituencies is complementary and mutually reinforcing, rather than competitive, and that effective participation shall not be construed as establishing a hierarchy of rights, knowledge systems and/or contributions;
- **Recognizing** the technical submission presented by the Global Forum of Local Communities on Climate Change (GFLCCC) and other relevant community constituencies to the UNCCD secretariat in June 2026 as an important foundation as the governance model set out herein, while determining, through our collective celebrations at COP 17, to further strengthen the model by providing for explicit regional representation for Europe and Eurasia and by expressly recognizing, the five United Nations regional groups on the Parties' side of the dialogue,
- **Affirming** that an effective Caucus should operate according to principles of self-organization, subsidiarity, inclusiveness, equitable regional participation, transparency, accountability, community validation, rotation, gender and intergenerational balance, and respect for the diversity of territorial contexts and knowledge systems;
- **Determined** to transform the presence and substantive contributions of local communities under the UNCCD into a coordinated, legitimate, accountable, inclusive and enduring mechanism for political and technical engagement capable of articulating community priorities, facilitating evidence-based inputs, strengthening dialogue with Parties and other stakeholders and contributing constructively to the implementation of the Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its objectives, in support of, and without prejudice to, the formal TOR process currently underway,

hereby declare the establishment of the Caucus for Local Communities and adopt the governance structure set out below as our founding framework, collective mechanism for self-organization and substantive contribution to the TOR under negotiation.

1. Nature and purpose

The Caucus for Local Communities is a self-organized, community-validated body of Local Communities' organizations and representatives engaged in UNCCD processes. It facilitates collective political articulation, consolidates collective positions, and structures dialogue with Parties, the secretariat and other Convention bodies. It is organized on equal institutional and operational footing with the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples in a complementary, mutually reinforcing and non-hierarchical relationship.

As a body described as "self-organized", it need not, for that reason, be merely "facilitative." Self-organization is precisely what gives a constituency the legitimacy to represent itself. The Caucus for Local Communities therefore establishes itself as a constitutive engagement body on the same institutional and operational footing as the other Caucuses under the Convention, and its operation should be supported by adequate and sustained funding, consistent with the funding mechanism already in place for the Civil Society Organization Panel (CSO Panel) and other United Nations mechanisms that support its effective and meaningful participation. This status should inform the TOR now under negotiation, not pre-empt it.

2. Self-identification criteria

The Caucus for Local Communities does not prescribe a closed, exhaustive or legally determinative definition of “Local Communities”. Consistent with the inclusive and context-specific approach reflected in international environmental governance, participation will be grounded in self-identification and community validation through the community’s own governance and decision-making processes, taking into account the following elements:

- **(a) Collective territorial relationship** – A collective, territorially rooted relationship with land, water, forests, rangelands, grasslands, coastal areas and/or other ecosystems, including through customary, traditional, livelihood-based or historically established systems of access, stewardship, management and governance;
- **(b) Collective governance institutions** – Organization through a community’s own institutions, customary norms or decision-making practices, recognized internally as legitimate, and independent of formal legal recognition by States;
- **(c) Collective identity and self-recognition** – A shared collective identity rooted in the relationship to territory and to one another, and self-recognition as a local community for the purposes of this Caucus;
- **(d) Distinction from, and complementarity with, Indigenous Peoples** – A community that does not primarily self-identify as an Indigenous People without the applicable international law and UNCCD processes, while recognizing the diversity and complexity of community identities, without prejudice to participation in both Caucuses where a community’s identity, governance system or rights framework encompasses both dimensions.

Anti-exclusion clause

No external authority – including Parties, the UNCCD secretariat or other Convention bodies – may apply or reinterpret these criteria to exclude or de-recognize a community that has affirmed its participation through its own governance processes.

3. Two-tier engagement architecture

Tier 1 – Local Communities Plenary Caucus

A protected, community-only deliberation space, structurally equivalent to an autonomous assembly, will convene at each ordinary COP session and each intersessional session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to exchange experience, build collective positions and prepare Plenary statements, along with dedicated inputs to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the CRIC. Two co-facilitators elected by the Caucus itself will co-facilitate it for a two-year term. The establishment of the Local Communities Plenary Caucus as a protected internal space is non-negotiable to the governance structure.

Tier 2 – Structured dialogue interface

This is the formal channel of integration, exchange, and consultation through which the Caucus for Local Communities engages Parties (through regional groups and relevant coalitions), the CSO Panel, the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples (through joint sessions), the CST (on traditional and local knowledge, land management and community-based monitoring), and the CRIC (on implementation review).

It operates at each ordinary COP session and each intersessional CRIC session, through at least two structured dialogue sessions. This is complemented by written inputs to the CST and the CRIC through the formal documentation process, by informal intersessional briefings facilitated by the Secretariat, and by a direct channel to the Science-Policy Interface for integrating traditional and local knowledge systems.

4. Composition – the 8+5 Model

The Caucus for Local Communities adopts an “8+5” model, structured along two axes: (i) a geographical axis with eight seats anchored in the subregions set out in the table below, engaging in structured dialogue with five Party representatives, one per United Nations regional group; and (ii) a sociocultural axis, taking into account pastoralist, agropastoral, peasant, agroecological, forest-dependent, small-scale and artisanal fishing, Afrodescendant, mountain, nomadic herder, small-scale farming, and island and coastal communities, among the other territorially rooted local communities named in this Declaration’s preamble. They are present, in different combinations and to different degrees, across multiple subregions listed below. Using the community’s own governance and self-organization processes, each seat’s titleholder and alternate are selected to reflect the sociocultural constituencies genuinely present and organized within that subregion at the time of each election, according to that subregion’s own reality (i.e. not through preassigned constituencies).

Seat	Region/subregion
1	Africa – Sahel, Horn of Africa, East Africa
2	Africa – Congo Basin, West Africa, Great Lakes
3	Asia – Central Asia, Northeast Asia, West Asia
4	Asia – South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia
5	Latin America and the Caribbean – Mesoamerica, Amazonia, Caribbean, Pacific coast
6	Latin America and the Caribbean – Pantanal, Cerrado, Caatinga, Andean highlands, Central American Dry Corridor, Gran Chaco
7	Transregional, with priority given to small island developing States and least developed countries – Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, East African, West African and South Asian coasts
8	Europe and Eurasia – Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Transcaucasia

Strategic flexibility, inherent obligation

Fixing a single sociocultural constituency to a subregion in advance risks two failures: overrepresenting whichever constituency happens to be best organized or resourced at the time of a given election, and rendering invisible other territorially rooted communities within the same subregion whose relationship to land, water and livelihoods is no less legitimate. Each subregion’s community-validated selection process shall therefore actively favour plurality and rotation across sociocultural constituencies over successive terms – consistent with the principles of rotation and of gender and intergenerational balance, already affirmed in this Declaration’s preamble – so that the Caucus as a whole comes to reflect, visibly and not only in principle, the full sociobiodiversity of territorially rooted communities engaged in UNCCD processes.

Every seat carries one alternate, selected through the same community-validated process; wherever more than one sociocultural constituency is organized and present within a subregion, the seat titleholder and alternate should preferably represent different constituencies so that representation broadens without increasing the number of voting seats.

Terms run four years, staggered at the first election so continuity is preserved as membership rotates.

On the Parties' side, the Structured Dialogue Interface engages five representatives, one designated by each United Nations regional group: the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group, the Latin American and Caribbean Group, the Western European and Others Group, and the Eastern European Group. Local Communities' UNCCD focal points and alternates are selected exclusively through community-validated processes; no external designation by Parties, governments or the secretariat is permitted for these seats.

5. Decision-making

Decisions are taken by consensus. In absence of consensus, broad regional convergence shall serve as a secondary reference. Key governance decisions require representation from at least two thirds of the eight geographic subregions.

6. Non-negotiable elements

1. The Local Communities Plenary Caucus as a protected, autonomous space for internal deliberation.
2. Self-identification criteria – there is never a closed definition of “Local Communities”.
3. Composition built on sociocultural and biocultural diversity representation, not geography alone.
4. A mandatory alternate for every seat.
5. The anti-exclusion clause: no external authority may use these criteria to exclude a self-identified community.

7. Entry into force and pilot period

This governance structure enters into force among its adopting organizations upon adoption at this meeting on 26 August 2026 and stands as the contribution of this Caucus to the TOR now before the Parties. We recommend a two-session pilot period – COP 17 and the following CRIC session – after which the Coordination Body for the Caucus shall submit a review report to COP 18 with any recommended adjustments, consistent with the learning-oriented design already envisioned by this Caucus.

We ask the COP 17 Presidency and the secretariat to receive this document as a working contribution to ICCD/COP(17)/INF.5, and we ask the Parties to adopt the TOR for the Caucus for Local Communities, which grants it equal status to that of the Caucus for Indigenous Peoples.

Adoption

This declaration was adopted by acclamation for the organizations and representatives of pastoralist, agropastoralist, peasant, agroecological, forest-dependent, small-scale and artisanal fishing, Afrodescendant, mountain, nomadic herder, small-scale farming, and island and coastal communities, and other territorially rooted local communities, including women and youth, gathered at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 26 August 2026.

Annex IX

Report from the Business for Land Forum

[English Only]

Summary of the Business for Land Forum

1. The Business for Land Forum was held on 24 August 2026 in the Action Dome at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Ulaanbaatar, as the centrepiece of Finance Day. It brought together leaders from business, government, finance and civil society to examine what it would take for land to be treated as an investable asset, and to move from stated commitment to deployed capital. The Forum aimed to demonstrate business leadership on land, soil and water, to identify the instruments capable of de-risking investment in land restoration and drought resilience, and to convey the private sector's recommendations directly to governments. It was structured around the three pillars of the Business for Land initiative:

- Business Operations and Value Chain
- Finance for Land Restoration
- Advocacy and Collaboration

2. The Forum ran in three consecutive segments — a high-level opening ceremony, a session on land as an asset class, and a session on de-risking and scaling investment. It was followed in the afternoon by the Future of Financing Roundtable, a working session convened with multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and vertical funds, and in the evening by a closing reception. Audience polling was conducted at intervals, and the proceedings were broadcast live on UN Web TV.

3. The high-level opening ceremony, moderated by Ms Charlotte Kan, began with welcome remarks marking the handover of the COP 16 Presidency to the COP 17 Presidency as co-chair of the Business for Land Champions' Council, delivered by H.E. Dr Osama Faqeeha, Deputy Minister for Environment of Saudi Arabia, and H.E. Sandag-Ochir Tsend, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia. A keynote on why soil matters for business was given by Mr Khulekani Mathe, Chairperson of the SADC Business Council and Chief Executive Officer of Business Unity South Africa. A panel entitled "Ambitions for land, soil and water" followed, with Mr Khalid Al Othman, Ms Gelsomina Vigliotti of the European Investment Bank, Ms Natasha Santos Eastwood of Bayer and Ms Gim Huay Neo of the World Economic Forum. A second keynote, "The Resilient Thread", was delivered by Mr Frédéric Arnault, Chief Executive Officer of Loro Piana.

4. The ceremony closed with a panel entitled "Triple COP perspectives", bringing together the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions with the host country, business and the incoming climate Presidency. Mr Simon Stiell urged participants to work smartly and to work with business. Ms Astrid Schomaker called for business to be made an actor in the global transition, and proposed that the Business for Land community identify common goals and engage the three Rio Conventions as a single interlocutor, moving towards shared investment strategies and towards disclosure indicators that would spare companies from reporting separately against each issue. Mr Samed Ağırbaş observed that projects fail because no one offers them a way back into the system, and that those present were already working on land, since everything is land. Mr Bayanjargal Byambasaikhan identified time as the binding constraint, noting that Mongolia has warmed by 2.2 degrees Celsius since 1940, at close to twice the global rate, with direct consequences for the industries the country depends on, and described work to bring the mining sector onto the platform. H.E. Sandag-Ochir Tsend invited participants to work with Mongolia on practical projects combining public and private finance, and stated that Mongolia needs partners.

5. The second segment, "Land as an Asset Class", moderated by Ms Sarah Toumi of the Global Mechanism of the Convention, opened with a keynote by H.E. Munkhtamir Batbayar, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia, who set out the shortfall: approximately USD 355 billion is required annually to meet global land restoration and

drought-related targets, against current annual investment of approximately USD 77 billion. He presented Mongolia's Steppe Action Agenda, advanced as a COP 17 legacy, and its three flagship initiatives on rangelands, on water and assessment, and on nature-based solutions for sustainable infrastructure, each built around investment-ready pipelines.

6. Mr Craig Beatty presented case studies developed under the Science Based Targets Network on aligning corporate target-setting with national land degradation neutrality targets, describing land targets covering the conversion of natural ecosystems, regeneration and restoration, and landscape engagement. In Mongolia, a company's work across four landscapes was aligned to national targets, providing a monitoring mechanism situated outside government; in Pakistan, work in the Indus River Delta was aligned to the country's second-generation targets. He noted that corporate target-setting could serve as a bridge between governments and the private sector, and invited delegates to send a national policy signal in support of corporate disclosure and target-setting.

7. Dr Amanda Hansson argued that the belief that nature cannot be measured is mistaken, and that conservation and finance will not meet until they share a language: quantification rigorous enough for a scientist yet legible enough for an investment committee, delivered through environmental accounts, condition metrics and verified baselines. She reported that more than 9.5 million hectares in Australia are measured under the Accounting for Nature framework, and cautioned against allowing the pursuit of a perfect system to delay action.

8. A panel on corporate disclosure, moderated by Ms Elodie Chene of the Global Reporting Initiative, examined how information companies already generate can support land management decisions. Ms Chene noted that the Initiative's standards are used in more than 100 countries, representing 62 per cent of market capitalization, and announced the publication that day of two case studies developed with the Convention, drawn from the agricultural and mining sectors. Ms Julie Greene described how disclosure had strengthened internal discipline at Olam Agri, extending supply-chain mapping and realigning land-use and soil-health metrics with land degradation neutrality indicators; she observed that investors ask consistently about carbon footprint, traceability and human rights risk but rarely about land health itself, and argued that they should examine it both to avoid risk and to find opportunities to restore. Mr Jeffrey Herrick argued for moving beyond the language of sustainable land management towards the capital appreciation of land as a productive asset, citing Mongolia's rangeland monitoring system, which classifies land by recovery rather than degradation, and describing an investment targeting toolkit bringing cash-flow returns, capital appreciation and social and environmental value together in one place. The segment closed with a keynote by Ms Catherine Chevauché on behalf of Entreprises pour l'Environnement, previewing a publication containing more than 40 company examples and arguing that business must rethink how land is used and how value is shared along value chains.

9. The third segment, "De-Risk and Scale", moderated by Ms Charlotte Kan, opened with a film on Mongolia's White Gold Initiative and opening remarks on innovative finance by H.E. Ms Martine Schommer, Special Envoy of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. A leadership conversation entitled "Leading Change, One Hectare at a Time" followed, during which H.E. Ms Ina Marčiulionytė, Ambassador of the European Union to Mongolia, announced the Thrivelands initiative. She was joined by Mr Helmy Abouleish of SEKEM, whose biodynamic enterprise has grown from a single reclaimed stretch of Egyptian desert into a business spanning farming, food, textiles, medicine and a university; Mr ChulYong Bae of Yuhan-Kimberly, which has planted more than 13 million trees across some 3,250 hectares in Mongolia's Tujinar region since 2003; and Mr Horsfall Tony of the Gashaka Gumti National Park Forest Carbon Project in Nigeria, built around a community endowment fund engaging more than 150,000 people. A keynote on regional cooperation in forest and land financing was given by Dr Chongho Park of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization.

10. A panel entitled "Creative Capital" examined the instruments available to overcome the barriers holding back private capital: perceived risk over long horizons, a shortage of investment-ready projects, gaps in risk-transfer instruments, and the policy conditions required to attract capital. Ms Andrea Erickson-Quiroz launched The Nature Conservancy's Financing for Drought Resilience, Rangeland Conservation and Land Restoration Playbook.

Mr Chenchen Yao presented the pairing of utility-scale solar with sand control, under which electricity revenues fund restoration on arid land. Mr Miguel Solana addressed the use of insurance and risk finance to unlock investment rather than solely to protect against shocks. Ms Javkhlan Bayarsaikhan marked the launch of Mongolia's National Green Lab, a platform initiated by the Office of the President with the Business Council of Mongolia, the Mongolia Nature's Legacy Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and Capital Markets Mongolia to bring investment-ready land restoration and climate adaptation projects to domestic and international investors.

11. Following a keynote presenting the Land Manifesto by Mr Lorenzo Fattibene of EY, a panel entitled "Making Land Bankable" proceeded from the observation that the binding constraint is frequently project readiness rather than capital availability, projects failing to attract investment because of structural gaps in ticket size, maturity and revenue model. During its framing, the Secretariat formally launched the Finance Expert Group, a standing group of practitioners convened to help translate commitments into a pipeline of bankable land and drought-resilience projects. The panel brought together Ms Gloria Womitso of African Risk Capacity on sovereign and parametric risk transfer, Mr Ignacio Lorenzo of CAF on matching instruments to risks, Mr Felipe Ortega Schlingmann of the European Investment Bank on vehicles for enterprises too early for a bank loan and too capital-intensive for venture capital, and Mr Li Shouke on a provincial state platform returning degraded farmland to production at scale. After a keynote by Mr Mathieu Dondain of Nexira, a final panel on land-positive value chains brought together PhosAgro on fertilizer as an input to soil health, Veolia on soil remediation as an investment in land value, and Sagri Co. on satellite verification of restoration; the discussion converged on the observation that inputs, industrial clean-up and verification are increasingly well served, while the question of who ultimately pays for restoration remains open.

12. Ms Emeline Fellus then presented the recommendations of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, developed in response to the Convention's invitation to convene private sector consultations on the sustainable management of agricultural land, and drawing on input from 58 organizations through seven workshops and three rounds of written feedback. The agenda identifies three barriers — incoherent and unstable policy, finance and data systems; misaligned incentives and ineffective risk sharing; and measurement systems that fail to capture the full range of impacts and dependencies — and sets out three corresponding policy areas: a coherent and stable policy environment; a long-term investment vision with the conditions to de-risk investment and share costs and benefits fairly; and trusted frameworks for accountability, target-setting and impact measurement. A closing dialogue brought government into direct response, with H.E. Mr Abou Bamba, Minister of the Environment of Côte d'Ivoire, and H.E. Mr Johann Saathoff, Parliamentary State Secretary at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, joined by representatives of the business delegation. The recommendations were formally handed to Côte d'Ivoire and Germany, followed by a group photograph joined by the host country and incoming Presidency, the incoming climate Presidency and the Business for Land Champions.

13. The Future of Financing Roundtable was convened in the afternoon as a working session for financial partners, chaired by H.E. Togmidyn Dorjkhund, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, and moderated by Ms Sarah Toumi of the Global Mechanism. Its framing set out the same arithmetic: an annual gap of some USD 278 billion and a two-and-a-half-fold scale-up that cannot be delivered against strained public finances, elevated sovereign debt and flat or declining bilateral official development assistance. In its first segment, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank identified the opportunity as connecting land and drought resilience to existing flows of resilience and infrastructure finance, described a mechanism to group smaller-envelope projects to reduce transaction costs, and argued that the constraint on blended finance lies less in devising new instruments than in connecting those that exist. The African Development Bank emphasized integrated and regional projects as a means of attracting additional resources and increasing country buy-in, and stressed that preparing bankable projects requires dedicated support. CAF called for traditional financial flows to be reviewed against whether each increases or erodes resilience, and pledged a six-fold increase in green finance for agriculture, targeting smallholders. The Islamic Development Bank described the shift from immediate development priorities towards long-term resilience.

14. The second segment opened from the finding that the market has no shared taxonomy for land and drought, which consequently fall between the climate and nature disclosure regimes. The Economics of Land Degradation initiative welcomed a dedicated taxonomy not as a reporting instrument but as market infrastructure, providing a common basis for identifying eligible investments, de-risking and pipeline development. The Global Reporting Initiative identified the gap as one of connection: numerous finance taxonomies exist and sustainability disclosure is mainstream, but the two are not linked. The Science Based Targets Network noted that climate targets are already tied to the loans companies access, argued for replicating that for nature, and identified the conversion of data into decision-grade risk information as the next step, so that land degradation risk can be priced like any other. H.E. Mr Carlos Alvarado, former President of Costa Rica, addressed the disconnect between multilateral priorities and the livelihoods they are meant to serve, arguing that bureaucracy limits access for local communities and municipal governments, calling for investment in guarantees rather than loans, and urging that finance be allowed to reach the local level. The Roundtable concluded with the presentation of Mongolia's Green Steppe Ecosystem Transition Programme, opened by Ms Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention, with a keynote by Mr Randolph Koppa of the Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia, and closed with a partnership and coalition signing ceremony.

15. Finance Day closed with a reception co-hosted with the Government of Luxembourg and the Sustainable Fibre Alliance. H.E. Ms Martine Schommer argued that the choice is not between public and private finance but how to make each do what it does best, with public and concessional finance absorbing risk, development finance bringing discipline and scale, and private capital moving solutions from individual projects towards investable markets. She observed that drought finance has focused on the consequences of shocks whereas resilience begins earlier, and announced that the Drought Resilience Investment Facility — the first global investment vehicle dedicated exclusively to drought resilience, and a direct implementation of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership — would be launched the following day. Mr Mathieu Dondain of Nexira then made the case for measuring initiatives by their economic impact, describing ingredients sourced from acacia and baobab trees in the drylands of the Sahel within the area of the Great Green Wall, noting that acacia gum supports more than three million people, and recounting an initiative launched in Chad in 2009 that roughly doubled production volumes.

16. Seven members of the inaugural B4L Champions' Council then each gave a single call to action. Mr Bayanjargal Byambasaikhan committed to a platform to select and seek funding for ten to fifteen high-impact dryland mining projects. Ms Natasha Santos Eastwood argued that agriculture suffers no shortage of solutions but a shortage of the conditions that allow them to scale, and called for building solutions with farmers rather than around them. Mr Helmy Abouleish called for farmers' ecosystem services to be recognized as financial instruments, so that farmers are compensated rather than assisted. Ms Julie Greene called for high-level discussion to be enacted at landscape level, grounded in science and backed by investment and coherent policy. Mr Lorenzo Fattibene described work on how the insurance industry can de-risk the financing of sustainable projects. Mr Khalid Al Othman reminded fellow Champions that being a Champion is a responsibility rather than a privilege. Mr Alexandre Capelli noted the launch of the first national Hub, in France, and described a One Health project in the Mongolian cashmere supply chain undertaken with the Sustainable Fibre Alliance and the Convention. H.E. Mr Abou Bamba, joining as a supporter rather than a Champion, asked the mining industry that every acre mined be matched by an acre rehabilitated for food production and community livelihoods.

17. Mr Yang Wenbin spoke on behalf of the Business for Land China Hub, launched in July 2026 following the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Convention. He set out that China's sand-control technologies and the pairing of photovoltaics with sand control deliver ecological benefits alongside energy supply and improved livelihoods, and are replicable in Mongolia, Central Asia and other affected regions; that his organization constitutes a platform of around 200 corporate members, many willing to invest abroad; and that multi-party financing models have turned desert into productive assets. His central request was for a concrete project pipeline in place of general statements.

18. The Forum concluded with the Fashion4Land showcase, presenting eight Mongolian and international brands working with cashmere, yak fibre and wool, including a collection created for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games, with original music by a Goodwill Ambassador of the Convention. It was framed as a demonstration that the fibres in everyday use connect consumers directly to agriculture, water, biodiversity and the communities producing them. The day closed with a renewed call for private sector entities to join the Business for Land initiative, which counted 429 signatories at the time of the Conference.

Annex X

Report of the UNCCD Gender Caucus held at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

On 26 August 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

[English Only]

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Gender Caucus held a three-hour session at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The session took place on 26 August 2026 and was opened by the President of the Conference of the Parties, H.E. Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, and chaired by H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, UNCCD Land Ambassador and former President of Finland.

The session comprised a high-level opening and two thematic panel discussions focusing on:

(a) The Kathmandu Declaration of Pastoralist Women (Kathmandu Declaration) – 15 years of women pastoralists' mobilization, reflecting on the outcomes of the second Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women and the Kathmandu Declaration, progress made since the Mera Declaration, and opportunities to further strengthen the voice, leadership and rights of women pastoralists.

(b) Women entrepreneurs and innovators in pastoral and rangeland systems, showcasing women-led innovation and entrepreneurship and their contributions to resilient livelihoods and the sustainable management and restoration of rangelands and beyond.

The Gender Caucus aimed to provide a platform to highlight the contributions of women pastoralists and herders, take stock of progress in strengthening their voice and participation, and explore opportunities to advance women's leadership and innovation in pastoral systems and beyond.

1. High-level opening

Opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho, Minister of Environment, Angola; H.E. Ms. Alicia Jaramillo Cabo, Vice Minister of Environment and Marine Coastal Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ecuador; H.E. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNCCD; H.E. Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; H.E. Ms. Chinguundari Navaan-Yunden, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mongolia; and H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, former Executive Secretary of UNCCD.

In their opening remarks, speakers emphasized that women and girls are on the frontline of desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change, often bearing a disproportionate share of their impacts, including food and water insecurity, loss of livelihoods, displacement and increased care burdens. Yet, women should not be seen merely as victims, but as essential actors and part of the solution. Pastoralist women, in particular, are important knowledge holders and stewards of land, livestock and rangelands, playing a critical role in sustaining livelihoods and building resilient pastoral systems. However, their contributions are often not matched by equal rights, ownership, decision-making power or access to resources. It is therefore essential to strengthen their voice, rights and representation, as well as their direct access to resources and finance, to ensure resilient pastoral systems and effective land restoration.

Session 2: The Kathmandu Declaration – 15 years of women pastoralists’ mobilization – Progress, lessons and future priorities

The session examined progress made by pastoralist women’s networks and alliances in advancing the commitments of the Mera Declaration since its adoption in 2010. Drawing, in particular, on the outcomes of the Second Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women and the resulting Kathmandu Declaration, the discussion reflected on progress and lessons learned over the past 15 years, emerging priorities and opportunities to further strengthen the voice, participation and leadership of women pastoralists.

The session was moderated by Ms. Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Co-Lead of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Working Group on Pastoralism and Gender, and retired Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Colorado State University, United States of America.

The panel comprised:

- **Ms. Debbie Dowden, Pastoral Leader and Rangelands Advocate, and Director, Australian Women in Agriculture, Australia;**
- **Ms. Hannah Longole, Executive Director, Ateker Cultural Center, Uganda; and**
- **Ms. Bhavana Rabari, President, Pastoralist Women Alliance of Gujarat, and Programme Officer, Maldhari Rural Action Group, India.**

The moderator introduced the session by recalling the Second Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, held in Kathmandu in May 2026, which brought together more than 80 pastoralist women from 38 countries. Building on the first global gathering in Mera, India, in 2010, the Kathmandu process engaged grassroots pastoralist women through regional and national, gatherings in addition to the global gathering and resulting in the Kathmandu Declaration which sets out shared priorities across ten thematic areas, affirms that “pastoralism is not of the past but a solution for the future” and identifies pastoralist women as the heart of that solution.

In the subsequent panel discussion, panellists highlighted the significance of the Kathmandu Declaration.

The panellists emphasized that pastoralist women are key stewards of rangelands, custodians of traditional knowledge and livestock biodiversity, and important actors in land restoration, climate resilience and food security. Their knowledge of grazing, water, livestock and seasonal mobility, passed down through generations, is fundamental to resilient pastoral systems. Yet many continue to face insecure rights to land and livestock, limited access to services and resources, and insufficient participation in decision-making, underscoring the importance of the Kathmandu Declaration.

Accepted by pastoralist women and their representatives from all pastoral regions in August 2026, the Kathmandu Declaration was presented as a living framework and a collective call to move from recognition to action, affirming that women’s knowledge and leadership matter, as does their future. Supporting and recognizing pastoralist women was emphasized as essential for land restoration, climate resilience, biodiversity, food security and thriving pastoral communities.

Panellists also stressed that the Kathmandu Declaration calls for pastoralism to be approached as a dynamic and interconnected social-ecological system, with mobility recognized as fundamental to sustainable rangeland management. It advocates holistic policies that reflect the interconnections between land, livestock, livelihoods, food security, biodiversity and culture.

Responding to the question, “What do you most want decision-makers to know about the Kathmandu Declaration?”, the interventions emphasized that the Kathmandu Declaration is not a symbolic statement or wish list, but a practical roadmap for action, grounded in the voices and lived experiences of thousands of pastoralist women. It recognizes pastoralist

women as environmental stewards and rights-holders whose daily land-management decisions contribute directly to combating desertification, land degradation and drought.

Panellists stressed that policymakers should recognize pastoralism not as a problem to be controlled, but as a climate-adaptive, low-carbon and land-efficient system that contributes to food security, biodiversity and resilience in drylands. Mobility, Indigenous and pastoral knowledge, and women's leadership were highlighted as core elements of healthy and resilient rangelands.

The Kathmandu Declaration translates these principles into concrete priorities, including (i) secure tenure; (ii) access to grazing areas, water, services and finance; (iii) meaningful representation; and (iv) stronger accountability through clear indicators, grievance mechanisms and the participation of pastoralist women in national reporting and review processes.

Lastly, panellists provided concrete recommendations for policymakers on measures to advance the key objectives of the Kathmandu Declaration and highlighted successful models and approaches that could be adopted or adapted in different contexts.

Ms. Bhavana Rabari called for practical action on land and mobility rights, women's leadership and pastoral livelihoods. She emphasized the legal recognition of communal rangelands, grazing corridors and seasonal mobility, alongside meaningful decision-making authority for pastoralist women in land, rangeland and livestock governance. She also called for services adapted to pastoral realities, including water access, veterinary services and drought preparedness. As practical models, she highlighted women-led pasture committees, community land registration and participatory rangeland mapping, which have contributed to land restoration, biodiversity, stronger livelihoods and reduced conflict.

Ms. Debbie Dowden called for the priorities of the Kathmandu Declaration to be embedded in existing laws, budgets and programmes. She highlighted the potential of payments for ecosystem services, rangeland-specific carbon and nature restoration schemes, and other incentives that reward sustainable land management, while enabling pastoralist women to participate as project owners, access finance directly and benefit from fair contracts and benefit-sharing. She also advocated dedicated rangeland restoration and monitoring programmes that combine local, Indigenous and pastoral knowledge with remote sensing, supported by measurable indicators and accessible grievance mechanisms.

Ms. Hannah Longole emphasized the importance of dedicated financing, sustained dialogue and investment in pastoralist women's organizations and networks. She highlighted the 2026 African Pastoralist Women's Gathering in Uganda as a concrete model, which brought together more than 200 participants and led to the establishment of the African Pastoralist Women Network and the Rangelands Women Value Addition Learning Center as permanent platforms for advocacy, knowledge exchange and solidarity. Engagement between pastoralist women, decision-makers and traditional leaders also contributed to securing more than 300 hectares of land for a centre of excellence for pastoralist women, demonstrating how organized advocacy can translate into tangible gains in land security and livelihoods.

Session 3. Women entrepreneurs and innovators in pastoral and rangeland systems: Women leading innovation in pastoralism and rangeland management

The third session, also moderated by Ms. Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, focused on women-led innovation and entrepreneurship, the contributions of women to resilient livelihoods and the sustainable management and restoration of rangelands and beyond.

Panellists included:

- **Ms. Hajia Alima Sagito-Saeed, Executive Director, Savannah Women Integrated Development Agency, Ghana;**
- **Ms. Grace Scorey, Pastoral Women's Council, Tanzania; and**

- **Ms. Tamara Crantschaninov, Director and Founder, Vena Public Management Consulting, Brazil.**

In the subsequent panel discussion, panellists shared experiences highlighting inclusive approaches that have successfully strengthened women entrepreneurs and innovators in the country's drylands.

Ms. Tamara Crantschaninov highlighted two central approaches underpinning women-led innovation in Brazil's semi-arid region: participation and collaboration, and social technologies rooted in local and ancestral knowledge. The first is based on co-creating solutions with communities, valuing local assets and knowledge, and responding to the specific needs of each territory. Examples included women-led rainwater harvesting that achieved full rural household coverage in one municipality and helped shape national policy, as well as circular-economy and native-fruit enterprises that combine income generation with environmental restoration. The second approach, social technologies, builds on knowledge developed over generations of living with drought, transforming it into practical solutions for resilience and livelihoods. Women-led seed banks preserving drought-resistant traditional varieties were highlighted as one example, strengthening agroecosystems while reducing dependence on external inputs. These approaches have informed the Brasil Nordeste Ecological Transformation Plan, linking climate adaptation with the economic inclusion of women, locally driven development and ecological transformation.

Ms. Grace Scorey emphasized that strengthening pastoralist women's entrepreneurship requires more than business training; it depends on collective organization, control over productive assets, supportive social norms and strong links between community priorities and public decision-making. She highlighted an approach built on trusted community structures, including Village Community Banks, women's leadership forums, community paralegals and village assemblies, which together provide access to savings and credit, strengthen leadership and advocacy, address barriers related to land and property rights, and channel women's priorities into formal planning processes. As a practical example, she also highlighted the participatory development of community climate action plans, through which communities assess climate impacts, identify priorities and establish committees to oversee implementation and monitoring. Crucially, these plans are then linked to public institutions, planning processes and budgets. In ten villages in Tanzania's Longido District, this approach resulted in community climate action plans being incorporated into the District Council's ten-year Climate Change Master Plan, with approximately USD 12,000 committed for initial implementation. She stressed that women's entrepreneurship is strengthened when women themselves identify challenges, develop locally appropriate solutions, mobilize resources and influence how investments are made.

Ms. Hajia Alima Sagito-Saeed presented an integrated approach linking women's leadership, access to productive resources, financial inclusion, climate-smart agriculture, green entrepreneurship and ecosystem restoration. She stressed that resilient livelihoods and land restoration are mutually dependent and highlighted the importance of trusted spaces where women can organize, build confidence, exchange knowledge and develop collective solutions. Innovation was understood broadly, encompassing not only technology but also producer organizations, savings associations, improved business models, solar-powered irrigation, climate-smart farming, agroforestry, land access and stronger market opportunities. The approach has produced tangible results: more than 500 women received leadership training, around 550 young women benefited from mentorship, and 60 women gained access to commercial farmland. More than 200 Village Savings and Loan Associations mobilized approximately USD 200,000 in savings over four years, while women-led initiatives are protecting 20 shea parklands and nurturing more than 100,000 tree-crop seedlings. She emphasized the reinforcing cycle between these interventions: leadership facilitates access to land; secure land encourages investment; finance and business skills strengthen enterprises; and viable green enterprises create incentives to protect and restore land, trees and water.

Turning to the conditions needed to enable women entrepreneurs and innovators to succeed in dryland ecosystems, panellists highlighted (i) secure access to land, water and other productive resources; (ii) strong women's organizations and networks; (iii) accessible finance and markets; (iv) locally appropriate policies and technical assistance; and (v) inclusive governance.

They stressed that innovation should be understood broadly, combining local and Indigenous knowledge with climate-smart practices, business and digital skills, collective organization and market access. Territorially grounded policies and financing adapted to women's realities were considered particularly important for enabling women-led initiatives to grow without putting household livelihoods at risk.

Concrete experiences from pastoralist communities demonstrated how these conditions can translate into economic opportunities. Village Community Banks involving more than 11,500 women had accumulated over USD 528,000 in savings, while dedicated microfinance and 150 women's microcredit groups supported 450 Indigenous pastoralist and agro-pastoralist women in accessing credit and establishing small businesses. Panellists stressed, however, that finance becomes transformative when it is combined with collective organization, financial and business skills, rights awareness, peer accountability and mechanisms to address social and legal barriers.

The discussion also illustrated the close connection between entrepreneurship and ecosystem restoration. Grass seed banks established on 40 acres of communal land and managed by 101 women were highlighted as a model that regenerates degraded rangelands, conserves locally adapted grasses, improves livestock feed and creates income opportunities. Such initiatives demonstrate that innovation can involve the transformation of Indigenous ecological knowledge into collectively managed enterprises that restore land and generate livelihoods. Panellists stressed that genuine economic empowerment ultimately depends not only on access to assets, but on who owns them, who makes decisions and who controls the income and benefits they generate.

Finally, the panellists shared key messages and recommendations for Parties and development partners at COP 17.

They called for women to be recognized as leaders, decision-makers, entrepreneurs and innovators, moving beyond participation towards meaningful influence. Dryland adaptation, restoration and sustainable land management programmes should demonstrate how women, including Indigenous pastoralist women, have shaped their design, how their priorities are reflected in budgets, and what resources and benefits they control.

Strengthening women's rights and secure access to land, water, forests and other productive resources was highlighted as a foundation for restoration, resilient livelihoods and women-led enterprises.

Particular emphasis was placed on direct, accessible, flexible and long-term financing for women-led organizations and enterprises, including savings, affordable credit, grants, insurance and climate finance. Financing should support both individual initiatives and the local institutions that sustain them, while connecting income generation with agroecology, sustainable land management and ecological restoration.

Panellists also called for community-led dryland and climate action plans to be integrated into local and national planning and budgeting, with clear institutional responsibilities, dedicated budget lines, implementation timelines and mechanisms for reporting progress back to communities. Monitoring should go beyond participation numbers to assess ownership of assets, control over income, decision-making power and the sustainability of women-led enterprises.

Panellists further called for a broader understanding of innovation, encompassing traditional and Indigenous knowledge, social innovation, collective organization and locally developed solutions alongside technology. Women's networks, South-South learning, mentorship and intergenerational knowledge exchange should be strengthened, while ensuring that grassroots knowledge informs national and global policy.

Overall, women in drylands should be recognized not only as disproportionately affected by desertification and climate change, but as agents of ecological transformation, with their leadership contributing directly to land restoration, water and food security, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Drawing together the discussions across Panels 1 and 2, panellists distilled their priorities into the following actionable calls to Parties:

- (a) *Recognize* pastoralist women as knowledge holders and equal decision-makers at all levels, with meaningful roles in planning, control over resources and clear accountability mechanisms.
- (b) *Strengthen* policies and institutional frameworks that support women's leadership, entrepreneurship and economic agency in drylands, and invest in networks connecting local innovation with markets, finance and policy.
- (c) *Review*, by COP 18, barriers to finance faced by women-led organizations in arid and semi-arid lands and identify adaptations to existing financing instruments.
- (d) *Strengthen and enforce* women's rights to land and resources, while addressing cultural norms and practices that restrict their rights and participation.
- (e) *Improve* health services for pastoralist women, adapting successful women-centred models for mobile communities, with pilot projects by 2028 and successful approaches scaled up by 2030.
- (f) *Develop* a 10-year, women-centred rangeland restoration roadmap with clear targets, milestones and accountability mechanisms.
- (g) *Support* implementation of the Kathmandu Declaration through a mechanism to assess progress by COP 18, designed with pastoralist women, and support a third Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women in 2029.

Following the panel discussions, the floor was opened for interventions from Parties and other stakeholders, providing an opportunity to share perspectives, experiences and priorities related to the issues raised during the event.

Interventions from Parties and other stakeholders strongly emphasized that women are essential actors in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought, and in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

Women, including pastoralist women, were recognized as agents of change, custodians of traditional knowledge, land and rangeland stewards, food producers, leaders and innovators. Speakers highlighted their role in managing scarce natural resources, sustaining livelihoods and social cohesion, and strengthening community and ecosystem resilience. At the same time, persistent barriers were noted, including insecure land and resource rights, limited access to finance, information, technology and services, and insufficient participation in decision-making.

A recurring theme was the need to maintain and strengthen equality within the implementation of the Convention. Speakers stressed that existing commitments must be translated into national policies, plans and implementation, while taking account of national circumstances and local realities.

Several Parties called for the development of a post-2030 action plan on the equality and empowerment of women and girls, aligned with the future strategic framework of the Convention and supported by clear indicators and sex-disaggregated data, as well as greater alignment, where appropriate, with the other Rio conventions.

The Caucus was widely recognized as an important platform for identifying implementation gaps, exchanging experiences and informing future action. Speakers called for the Caucus to continue to be convened annually as part of the official sessions of the COP and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. In this context, Parties proposed that future Caucus events focus on the development of the post-2030 action plan and its alignment with the future strategic framework. Several interventions also highlighted the contribution of the Women Delegates Fund and negotiator training to strengthening women's participation in UNCCD processes.

Speakers called for stronger action on women's land tenure and access to natural resources, meaningful participation in decision-making, and recognition of Indigenous, local and pastoralist women's knowledge in restoration and sustainable land management.

Priorities also included targeted capacity-building and access to digital tools, stronger stakeholder platforms involving civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and

the protection of women's rights and land and environmental defenders. Civil society further highlighted the need to address violence against women and girls and ensure the effective application of safeguards and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Finally, interventions stressed the importance of adequate, predictable and gender-responsive finance that reaches women and locally led initiatives. To advance this work, speakers called for financing mechanisms that support women's leadership, rights and access to productive resources, alongside sufficient institutional capacity and expertise.

Overall, interventions underscored that equality and the empowerment of women and girls are not only fundamental human rights, but also strategic enablers of land restoration, climate and biodiversity action, resilient livelihoods and sustainable development.

Annex XI

Key messages and priorities for action from the High-level Parliamentarians' Forum

[English Only]

1. The High-level Parliamentary Forum, entitled “From Commitment to Action: Parliamentary Leadership to Address Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought”, was held on 25 August 2026 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). As part of its engagement with parliamentarians, including on the sidelines of COP17, the G20 Global Land Initiative, hosted at the UNCCD, co-organized the Forum with the United Nations System Staff College and the State Great Hural of Mongolia. The following key messages, priorities for action and support needs consolidate the outcomes of the Forum’s roundtable discussions.

I. Key messages

2. Parliamentarians have a central role in translating international commitments on desertification, land degradation, drought, land restoration and land degradation neutrality into national action. These commitments must be translated into clear, science-based national legislation, policies and measurable targets aligned with national strategies, UNCCD commitments, nationally determined contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Legislation, budgeting and oversight must reinforce one another. Parliamentarians must use these functions to identify and address financing gaps, scrutinize public expenditure, mobilize resources and hold governments accountable for measurable results in land restoration, drought resilience and sustainable land management.

4. Cross-party consensus and cooperation across countries are essential to sustaining action. Parliamentarians should engage governments, local authorities, communities, scientists, the private sector, development partners and civil society in identifying shared priorities, addressing implementation gaps and monitoring progress.

5. Local and indigenous communities, farmers, women and young people should participate meaningfully in decisions affecting land and water. Their knowledge and priorities should inform legislation, policy design, implementation and parliamentary oversight, supported by legal provisions and structured consultation processes, including consultation before decisions on land and water are made.

6. Reliable data, measurable indicators and regular reporting are essential to assessing land degradation, restoration, land productivity and the effectiveness of public spending. Spatial monitoring, digital dashboards, artificial intelligence and other decision-support tools can assist evidence-based parliamentary action.

II. Parliamentary priorities for action

7. The Forum identified the following three priorities for parliamentary action, to be pursued within national mandates and institutional arrangements.

A. Legislate for land restoration and build cross party consensus

8. Parliaments should adapt and strengthen science-based legislation and policies on land, water, forests, rangelands, agriculture and livestock to support land restoration, drought resilience and sustainable land management. These frameworks should align with national strategies, measurable restoration targets and relevant international commitments, including

UNCCD commitments, nationally determined contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Legislative frameworks should clearly define responsibilities across national and local institutions, establish measurable targets and indicators for land degradation, restoration and land productivity, and provide a legal basis for meaningful community participation in land and water decisions.

10. Parliamentarians should work across political parties and committees to establish shared national priorities and sustain implementation. Cross-country parliamentary cooperation and inclusive consultation should support consensus-building and the exchange of legislative experience.

B. Mobilize resources and make land restoration a budget priority

11. Parliaments should use their budgetary powers to secure adequate and effective financing for land restoration, drought resilience and sustainable land management. They should review national budget allocations, identify financing gaps, scrutinize results-based budgets and assess whether expenditure delivers the intended outcomes.

12. Parliamentarians should advocate for increased and better-targeted public investment and explore opportunities to mobilize private-sector, donor and development-finance resources. Options include public-private partnerships and appropriate restoration and land-reclamation financing mechanisms. Evidence and data should guide investment priorities and pilot projects, with resources also supporting parliamentary committee oversight.

C. Strengthen parliamentary oversight monitoring and community accountability

13. Parliaments should establish continuous oversight of implementation, expenditure and results through annual government reporting to parliament, committee reviews, audits, budget hearings and constituency consultations. Clear indicators, spatial data and measurement, reporting and verification methods should support assessment of progress against national and international commitments.

14. Oversight should combine accountability with constructive dialogue among governments, local authorities, communities and other stakeholders. Parliaments should strengthen grassroots consultation and participatory monitoring, identify implementation gaps, promote solutions and hold responsible institutions accountable for agreed targets, budgets and results.

III. Practical support for parliamentary action

15. Roundtable participants identified a need for a parliamentary toolkit on desertification, land degradation and drought and requested that the G20 Global Land Initiative consider its development. They proposed the following content for consideration:

(a) Model legislation and indicator frameworks adaptable to national contexts, including provisions on institutional responsibilities and community consultation, with measurable indicators for land degradation, restoration and land productivity.

(b) A searchable comparative repository of national legislation, parliamentary resolutions, cross-party agreements and implementation practices, enabling parliamentarians to learn from experience across countries.

(c) Guidance on financing options, public-private partnerships, restoration and land-reclamation mechanisms, green budget analysis and results-based budgeting, including tools to assess financing gaps and trade-offs and build consensus on investment priorities.

(d) Monitoring and evidence-gathering tools, including reporting templates, committee discussion guides, audit resources, measurement, reporting and verification

methods, spatial monitoring of land degradation neutrality and relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, and digital decision-support tools.

(e) Frameworks for parliamentary and community consultation, stakeholder mapping, constituency engagement and participatory oversight, supporting the meaningful involvement of local and indigenous communities, farmers, women and young people.

(f) Access to technical experts, partner organizations and parliamentary exchange platforms to support cross-party and cross-country cooperation, peer learning and skills development, including practical guidance on pasture planning, land restoration, seasonal rotation and irrigation.

16. Parliamentary action should connect consensus-building, legislation, financing, monitoring and community engagement. Feedback from implementation and affected communities should inform improvements to laws, budgets and oversight, sustaining nationally owned action on land degradation and drought.

Annex XII

Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session

[English only]

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(17)/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/2	Final report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention
ICCD/COP(17)/3	Participation and involvement of civil society in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/4	Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(17)/5	Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/6	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/7	Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/8	The positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/9	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: gender, land tenure, and sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/10	Rangelands and pastoralists. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/11	Policy advocacy on drought. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/12	Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/13	Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(17)/INF.2	Report of the Evaluation Office. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/INF.3	Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4	Report on the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2025–2026). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/INF.5	Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/INF.6	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat

Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-fourth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(24)/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(24)/2	Progress made in the mobilization of resources and financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(24)/3	Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(24)/4 - ICCD/COP(17)/CST/7	Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(24)/5	Draft decisions for consideration at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(22)/INF.1	Financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought Report by the Global Environment Facility

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its seventeenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/2	Synthesis report on supplementary technical guidance to support aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/3	Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/4	Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/5	Preparations for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/6	Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface. Report by the Executive Secretary
ICCD/CRIC(24)/4 - ICCD/COP(17)/CST/7	Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8	Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(17)/CST/INF. 2	Ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the Science Policy Interface Note by the secretariat