Parties will seek to increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels in decision-making and local implementation of UNCCD, including in drought management and land and drought-related research. Women hold 70% of the land in Africa and the Middle East, but the majority of the women involved in combating desertification, land degradation and drought are estimated to produce up to 60–80% of food for their families. Women's extreme poverty is linked to multiple factors which include insecure land rights, limited incomes and the lack of social safety nets, putting formidable pressure on the land to meet the population's food livelihood needs. These factors which include insecure land rights, lack of access to finance and technology, poor market conditions, and social tacitures, such as underpaid or unpaid labour. Policies will aim to promote women’s leadership and decision-making in energy, climate and carbon economy, reducing vulnerability to drought and climate change, and fostering social and economic empowerment of women and girls. Policies will aim to promote the empowerment of women.

Enhancing women’s access to improved knowledge and technologies that enable the effective UNCCD implementation. Indigenous and rural women hold valuable knowledge which is transferable across regions and can be incorporated into existing policies and practices. They also benefit from the technologies developed from this knowledge. Studies show that women’s access to science-based knowledge transmission and technology can catalyze social change, product productivity, and women’s own productivity on one hectare of land per year. Policies will aim to boost the knowledge circulation of green land use strategies, including working with experts, development partners, and relevant governments and organizations on programs which can improve women’s access to information technologies, sustainable land management, extension services and the education of girls.

Mechanisms for implementation

WORKING WITH AND THROUGH WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS

Women’s organizations (associations, cooperatives, and communities) can help provide and access to gender-responsive technologies (or combating gender inequities). They are sustainable solutions that benefit women directly. Women’s leadership in decision-making includes women who are allies for change. Parties will want to work with and support the copious bodies of knowledge and lessons in the implementation of the Convention.

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

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Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary

Welcome Message

In 2015, we adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 17 global goals that can set our future on the path to sustainability by 2030. Access to food, clean water and sanitation, a healthy environment and the access to education by both boys and girls are all key in achieving these goals. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is one of the international mechanisms governments have created to address the adverse effects of land degradation, desertification and drought. The secretariat to mainstream gender in all the Convention’s work, and at all levels.

The adoption, in September 2017, of a Gender Action Plan to accompany implementation of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is an important step in providing a more strategic instrument for transforming the livelihoods of millions of families. Today, 113 of the 169 countries that are party to the Convention have made efforts to empower women and girls in the implementation of the Convention. The proposals are drawn from: (i) lessons learned from the UNCCD’s implementation of the SDGs, and ongoing development of the United Nations’ International Association for the Study of the Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (IAP-PEOH); (ii) the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG-LDN); and (iii) consultations with gender experts. The proposed gender action plan builds from the substantive work of the “Analysis of the World’s Most Vulnerable People” exercise, and identifies critical areas for their engagement: (i) to address the weaknesses of the gender advocacy policy framework, and (ii) to enhance the implementation of the SDGs and achievement of gender equality, as recognized in decision 3/COP.12, and add US$28 trillion (26 per cent) to annual global GDP. The policy proposals recognize that we cannot hope to achieve ambitious goals if the world’s population is not included in decisions and have access to economic opportunities. Gender in the implementation of the Convention is both gender equality and women’s empowerment. The purpose of the gender action plan is to make the gender plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the gender plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the SDGs a reality.

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The Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (2016-2030) focuses on the drivers of land degradation (water, climate change, conflict, poverty, etc.), the impacts of land degradation (poverty and inequality, internal and external migration, food security, nutrition, health, water, forests, biodiversity, etc.), and the economic, social and environmental benefits of land restoration. This framework is the ‘operationalization’ of the 2015 agreement on a global Framework for LDN, and the summary of the assessment of the actions taken, and the gaps remaining, in achieving land degradation neutrality.

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