

Draft summary for the section of the CRIC 19 report entitled “Conclusions and recommendations”, distilled from sessions on agenda item 3.b (16th and 17th March)

**Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels. Update on the operationalization of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund**

1. Acknowledging the information contained in document ICCD/CRIC (19)/3, Parties welcomed the update on activities related to the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund and noted, with appreciation, the progress made by the LDN Fund and its Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) in mobilizing public and private resources that promote sustainable land use and land restoration.
2. Parties further commended the LDN Fund for mobilizing blended financial resources, from both public and private partners, to support commercially viable private sector projects combatting land degradation and desertification globally.
3. Parties acknowledged the pivotal role that the LDN Fund could play in achieving the strategic objectives of the Convention. In this respect, some country Parties highlighted that the LDN Fund could serve as a successful, replicable model of collaboration between the public and private sector.
4. Some Parties requested the LDN Fund to facilitate a larger and more regionally-balanced project portfolio, underscoring their wish to see the geographical expansion of the LDN Fund accelerated to include more projects in dryland areas located in developing countries. Some Parties encouraged the development of dedicated private sector financing vehicles at regional level, for example in Central Asia.
5. Some Parties requested clarification from the LDN Fund Manager on the selection of a partner to host the TAF, as well as the criteria for the selection of projects.
6. Parties called on the Global Mechanism (GM) to support increased knowledge sharing on the operations of the LDN Fund.
7. Many Parties requested that the GM continue to engage with national focal points and facilitate information sharing and awareness raising on the operational modalities, requirements and achievements of the LDN Fund.
8. Parties also requested the GM to facilitate capacity building for the private sector and other interested stakeholders to access the LDN Fund.
9. Parties further requested the GM to support, with capacity building and training events in a virtual format, Parties in accessing various innovative and private sources of financing, including, but not limited to, the LDN Fund.
10. Some Parties requested the GM to collaborate with the TAF of the LDN Fund to provide technical pre-investment support to country project developers, in collaboration with partners, to ensure that projects are increasingly feeding into the LDN Fund project pipeline.
11. Several Parties stressed the importance of the environmental and social standards developed and applied by the LDN Fund and highlighted the need to further facilitate this process to minimize risk and increase the impact of private sector investment on degraded land.

12. Some parties requested the GM to report, during CRIC sessions, on the activities of the LDN Fund and the application of social and environmental standards.
13. Many Parties highlighted the need to accelerate and scale up the availability of private sector resources for desertification/land degradation and drought and for the implementation of the Convention, as the resources mobilized to date are insufficient to achieve national objectives or voluntary LDN targets.
14. Some Parties emphasized the need to establish an operational and achievable roadmap for the provision of overall financing, including the development of strategies to increase the mobilization of financing that may come from the private sector and other sources.
15. Some Parties underlined the importance of strengthening other existing financing mechanisms to support country Parties in meeting the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of National Action Programmes, National Drought Plans and voluntary LDN targets. In this regard, some Parties requested the LDN Fund to further explore synergies with the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility to expand funding earmarked for LDN issues.