



Early '70s - Sub-Saharan Africa

- Drought - Over 200,000 people and millions of animals die

September 1973 – The Sahel

- Nine Sahelian countries establish the Inter-State Permanent Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

August - September 1977 - Nairobi, Kenya

United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD)

- Desertification addressed as a worldwide problem for the first time
- Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) adopted

June 1992 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held.
- The Earth Summit and Agenda 21 call on the UN General Assembly to set up an inter-governmental committee to prepare for a legally binding instrument that addresses the problem of desertification.

June 17, 1994 - Paris, France

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is adopted.

December 1996

- The UNCCD enters into force 90 days after the 50th ratification is received.

October 1997 - Rome, Italy

COP 1

- Rules governing the COP and its subsidiary bodies established
- The functions of the Global Mechanism set forth
- Permanent secretariat designated



December 1998 - Senegal, Dakar

COP 2

- Consultations on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat
- Declaration of the first round table of Members of Parliaments on desertification

January 1999 - Bonn, Germany

- Permanent secretariat of the UNCCD established.

November 1999 - Recife, Brazil

COP 3

- "Recife Initiative" on commitments to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD launched.

December 2000 - Bonn, Germany

COP 4

- Implementation annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V) adopted
- "Declaration on the commitments under the Convention" as follow up to the "Recife Initiative" approved.

March - April 2001 - Bonn, Germany

Intersessional meeting of the ad hoc working group (AHWG)

- Building on a review of national and other reports, a comprehensive report on further steps in the implementation of the Convention is adopted and submitted to COP 5.

October 2001 - Geneva, Switzerland

COP 5

- CRIC established as a subsidiary body of the COP.
- Reform of the CST is adopted and a Group of Experts is established.



August - September 2002 - Johannesburg, South Africa

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

- Governments call on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to become a financial mechanism of the UNCCD

October 2002 - Beijing, China

Second Assembly of the GEF

- A decision to designate land degradation as its fifth focal area is adopted
- The GEF will be established as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD

November 2002 - Rome, Italy

CRIC 1

- Innovative solutions to combat desertification are identified and shared.
- A report is adopted and will be submitted to COP6.

August - September 2003 - Havana, Cuba

COP 6

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is designated as a financial mechanism of the Convention.
- CRIC 2 recommendations on ways to improve the implementation of the Convention are endorsed.

May 2005 - Bonn, Germany

CRIC 3

- New ways mapped to mainstream desertification.

October 2005 - Nairobi, Kenya

- COP 7, CST 7 and CRIC 4 are held.



2006

International Year of Deserts and Desertification

March 2007 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

CRIC 5

September & November 2007 - Madrid, Spain

- COP8, CST 8 and CRIC 6 are held.
- Country Parties adopt the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018, the Strategy).
- In November, an extra session of the COP is held in New York for budget considerations.

November 2008 - Istanbul, Turkey

- CST S-1 and CRIC 7 are held.

September 2009 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

- First UNCCD scientific conference is held under the theme "Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management".

September 2009 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

- COP 9, CST 9 and CRIC 8 are held.
- Parties decide on the framework for assessing the implementation of the Strategy and further define the work of the subsidiary bodies.

February 2011 - Bonn, Germany

- CST S-2 and CRIC 9 are held.
- First review of performance towards the operational objectives of the 10-Year Strategy is carried out.
- CST continues the development of impact indicators.



September 2011

United Nations General Assembly high level meeting on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD)

- Brings together world leaders to debate on the importance of addressing DLDD for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

October 2011 - Changwon, Republic of Korea

- COP 10, CST 10 and CRIC 10 are held
- Largest-ever number of participants.
- Parties agree on tools for the first UNCCD impact monitoring and continue the institutional reform.
- Several partnerships addressing land degradation from different aspects, including the "Changwon Initiative", are launched.

September 2013 - Windhoek, Namibia

COP 11

October 2015 – Ankara, Turkey

COP 12