



UNCCD MANDATE ON GENDER

The Convention: obliges parties to promote awareness and participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought (Art.5); calls for the effective participation at local, national and regional levels, of both women and men, in policy planning, decision-making and implementation and review of national action programmes (Art 1 O); calls for capacity-building for women and girls to meet their needs (Art 19); and for coordination of activities with UNFCCC and CBD (Art.8).

Decision 3/COP.8: Parties are requested to include women in advocacy, awareness raising and education in the implementation of the 10-Year Strategy.

Decision 8/COP.9: In the context of promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, the Executive Secretary is requested to generate a gender-sensitive thematic advocacy policy framework to support an enabling environment for NAP implementation.

Decision 9/COP.10: requests the Executive Secretary to take gender-sensitive approaches into account on the thematic issue of drought (including water scarcity) and include a review and assessment of the decision at COP11 and COP 12.

Decision 9/COP.11: takes note of the advocacy policy framework on gender and requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate mainstreaming of gender issues at various levels involving multiple stakeholders and to use the framework to ensure harmonization, alignment and mutual reinforcement of UNCCD objectives and principles.

The Namib Declaration takes note of the outcomes of the first Gender Day, underlines that women are critical in achieving the Convention's Strategic Objectives and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for their empowerment in decision-making and access to knowledge and material resources for the women affected by DLDD. Parliamentarians call for targeted capacity-building, including women's empowerment.

Decision 3/COP.12: In the context of integrating SDGs in UNCCD work and with regard to the IWG report on land degradation neutrality, underscores the importance of addressing the wider elements of the 2030 Agenda, including empowering women, as well as ending poverty and hunger which are particularly relevant to women.

Decision 7 /COP.12 decides that IWG-FSF will take the text of the Convention and developments under and synergies with the Rio Conventions into consideration in its work on the future strategic framework of the Convention, and to present its findings to CRIC15. Parties at CRIC 15 stressed the need to clearly articulate the issues of women in the strategic objectives on the living conditions of affected populations.

Also at COP 12, the **Ministers** declared their dedication to promote gender equality and the role of women as actors of change in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought, and to support policy measures and reforms to enhance these efforts, including strengthening of tenure security, equal access and user rights for women and men. **Parliamentarians** called for partnerships with women's organizations for the achievement of LON and for sensitization of the public about SDGs, including through best practices of women's empowerment.

The **Ankara Initiative** commits to support willing countries to strengthen secure tenure and resource rights for women in LON implementation. **Civil society**, drew attention to the outcomes of Gender Day and underlined: the need to address inequality of men and women, particularly in the drylands; called for action to collective land rights, including those of women as a first step in addressing community-based management systems and land degradation, and to restore land; and called for equitable access and rights to land by men and women, especially for vulnerable and indigenous peoples in order to eradicate poverty.



Decision 3/COP.13¹ Requests the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate UNCCD bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates, to:

Continue to develop partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking note of, as appropriate, the Changwon Initiative, the Ankara Initiative and other complementary initiatives, to provide scientific and technical support to the Parties by, inter alia, developing guidance for leveraging the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, identifying project opportunities and connecting respective partners for the further development of implementation initiatives, **including transformative land degradation neutrality projects and programmes, promoting gender responsive approaches in line with the Gender Action Plan found in decision 30/COP.13**, and providing advisory support for nationally accredited institutions to the climate finance and other sustainable development finance institutions;

Decision 7/COP.13²: Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and youth will make a **crucial contribution to the implementation of the Convention** and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(...)

Decides that while **implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, all UNCCD stakeholders and partners should take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures**; they will strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas.

Decision 8/COP.13³ : *Requests* the secretariat, within available resources to: (...) Develop and strengthen partnerships to build the required capacities to mainstream gender in the implementation of the Convention in order to enhance the role of women and youth in combating desertification/land degradation and drought and increase the resilience of the women vulnerable to desertification/land degradation and drought.

The Ordos Declaration: Highlights the importance of full and effective participation of both men and women in decision-making at all levels and *reaffirming* our commitment to achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, (...) and recognize the positive steps taken to promote women's and girls' empowerment and *pledge* to address the gender inequalities which undermine progress in the implementation of the Convention by pursuing the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and gender-responsive implementation of the Convention at all levels;

Decision 29/COP.13⁴: Invites the Parties to promote **drought resilience building which is gender-responsive** and which prioritizes people in vulnerable situations.

Decision 30/COP.13⁵

Adopts the Gender Action Plan to support gender-responsive implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework to strengthen the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender and

¹ Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 which states: "to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world", into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

² The future strategic framework of the Convention

³ Enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity building

⁴ Policy advocacy on drought

⁵ Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention



requests Parties and other stakeholders to **further mainstream gender equality and empowerment** of women and girls into desertification/land degradation and drought-related policies and activities, as appropriate, to implement the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

Decision 2/COP.14

Enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity-building

Requests the secretariat, (...) to continue targeted capacity-building to support gender responsive and transformative implementation of the Convention, and to further strengthen and deepen both formal and informal partnerships to better facilitate the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification capacity-building process.

Decision 11/COP.14

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

(...) requests the secretariat to align the reporting process for strategic objectives 1–5 with the gender-responsive indicators and guidelines under development as part of the Gender Action Plan activities to ensure that the gender dimensions of land degradation are fully captured;

Decision 12/COP.14

Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the strategic objectives of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

Requests the secretariat to propose concrete activities and measures with a clear road map to be included in the Gender Action Plan to provide impetus and a focus on actions relating to both women and men and girls and boys (...) to enhance advocacy and policy guidance in order to systematically mainstream gender in the implementation of the Convention by implementing the Gender Action Plan through, inter alia:

- raising awareness;
- promoting collaboration between desertification/land degradation and drought specialists and experts on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- ensuring scientific work generated by the Convention is gender inclusive;
- engaging national gender equality mechanisms; improving capacities on gender analysis;
- and securing the necessary political support to ensure systematic gender mainstreaming in desertification/land degradation and drought;

Furthermore (...) to conduct in-house learning and capacity-building to support Parties (...) to dedicate staff with adequate expertise for developing and providing policy guidance and guidelines to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (...) and to strengthen gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

Decision 23/COP.14

Policy Advocacy on Drought

(...) Expanding collaboration and partnerships with relevant agencies, organizations and platforms to design and test innovative, gender-responsive and transformative approaches to supporting countries in mitigating the impacts of drought;



Decision 24/COP.14

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender

The secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, are requested to continue their support to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification country Parties on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the Gender Action Plan; (...) to continue collaboration and partnership-building with the other Rio conventions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, other United Nations entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations (...) and to strengthen gender-related knowledge and capacity, both in the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, by providing training to all staff on gender mainstreaming methods, tools and techniques on a regular basis to enhance systematic gender mainstreaming in all work areas and support the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

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