



**Conference of the Parties**

**Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session,  
held in Ankara from 12 to 23 October 2015**

**Part one: proceedings**

**Contents**

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Opening of the session .....	1–9	3
A. Opening of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties .....	1	3
B. Election of the President .....	2–3	3
C. General statements .....	4–9	3
II. Organizational matters .....	10–38	4
A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies .....	10–11	4
B. Election of officers other than the President .....	12–16	6
C. Credentials of delegations .....	17–18	6
D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector .....	19	7
E. Committee on Science and Technology .....	20–24	7
F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention .....	25–28	7
G. Committee of the Whole .....	29–32	7
H. Ad Hoc Group of Experts .....	33	8
I. Attendance .....	34–37	8
J. Documentation .....	38	10

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III.	Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions .....	39–42	10
IV.	Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.....	43–58	11
A.	Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables .....	43–54	11
B.	Land rights (a dialogue with civil society).....	55	12
C.	Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).....	56	12
D.	Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians).....	57–58	12
V.	Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties .....	59–65	12
A.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties .....	60	12
B.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau .....	61	13
C.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole .....	62	13
D.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention .....	63	14
E.	Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology .....	64	14
F.	Resolution adopted by the Conference .....	65	15
VI.	Conclusion of the session .....	66	15
	Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session .....	66	15
<b>Annexes</b>			
I.	Summary of the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session ...		16
II.	Ankara Ministerial Declaration .....		20
III.	Declaration by the Members of Parliament .....		22
IV.	The Ankara Initiative .....		27
V.	Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties .....		31
VI.	Ankara Declaration: Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum .....		34
VII.	Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum.....		37
VIII.	Declaration of the Youth Forum .....		39
IX.	Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session .....		40

## **I. Opening of the session**

### **A. Opening of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties**

1. On 12 October 2015, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) was opened by the President of its eleventh session, H.E. Mr. Uahekua Herunga (Namibia). Pursuant to article 22 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the President of COP 11 made a statement.

### **B. Election of the President**

#### **(Agenda item 1 (a))**

2. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October 2015, the Conference of the Parties (COP) elected, by acclamation, the Honourable Prof. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister for Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, as President of its twelfth session.

3. The incoming President made a statement.

### **C. General statements**

4. Also at the 1st meeting, on 12 October 2015, Mr. Melih Gökçek, Ankara Metropolitan Mayor, made a statement on behalf of the host city.

5. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat made a statement.

6. A statement was also made by Mr. Nicolas Hulot, Special Adviser to the President of France.

7. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), South Africa (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (Annex I), India (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean States), Portugal (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV) and Armenia (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V).

8. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

9. Furthermore, a statement was made by a representative of a non-governmental organization.

## 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))

10. The Conference considered this agenda item at its 1st meeting, on 12 October 2015.

11. Following a statement by the President of COP 12, in the course of which he orally revised the provisional agenda and the tentative schedule of work annexed to it, the Conference adopted its agenda and the organization of work as contained in documents ICCD/COP(12)/1 and ICCD/COP(12)/1/Add.1, 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;
  - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. Post-2015 development agenda: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
  - (a) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality;
  - (b) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
  - (c) Implications of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals for the delivery of science and policy efforts of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
  - (d) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).
3. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level:
  - (a) Trends in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the

- Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions, including land-based adaptation to climate change and related advice from the Science-Policy Interface;
  - (c) Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms:
    - (i) Global Mechanism, including its vision and future direction;
    - (ii) Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.
4. Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
- (a) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables:
    - (i) Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action;
    - (ii) Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought;
    - (iii) Round table 3: Land-based approach to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management;
  - (b) Land rights (a dialogue with civil society);
  - (c) Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians);
  - (d) Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).
5. Programme and budget:
- (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017;
  - (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds, including an update on the arrangements for the Global Mechanism;
  - (c) Evaluation reports.
6. Procedural matters:
- (a) Maintenance of the roster of experts and the creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts;
  - (b) Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
  - (c) Rule 47 of the rules of procedure;
  - (d) Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation;
  - (e) Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures;
  - (f) Request submitted by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention;

(g) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Report on the session.

## **B. Election of officers other than the President**

### **(Agenda item 1 (c))**

12. The Conference considered this agenda item at its 1st and 12th meetings, on 12 and 23 October 2015.

13. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October 2015, the Conference elected the following officers for its twelfth session:

#### *Vice-Presidents:*

- Ms. Skumsa Mancotywa (South Africa)
- Mr. Jean Ilunga Muneng (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Mr. Sun Guoshun (China)
- Mr. Mohsen Abdolhoseini (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Mr. Ashot Vardevanyan (Armenia)
- Ms. Vesna Indova (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- Mr. Felipe Costa (Brazil)
- Mr. Haendel Sebastian Rodriguez Gonzalez (Colombia)
- Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni (Italy)

and a representative of Turkey.

14. At the 12th meeting, on 23 October, the Conference appointed Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni (Italy) as Rapporteur of the twelfth session.

#### *Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology*

15. At the 12th meeting, on 23 October, the Conference elected Mr. Hamid Čustović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as Chair of the forthcoming thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

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

16. At the 12th meeting, on 23 October, the Conference elected Mr. Bukar Hassan (Nigeria) as Chairperson of the forthcoming fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

## **C. Credentials of delegations**

### **(Agenda item 1 (d))**

17. At the 12th meeting, on 23 October, the Conference considered the report on credentials of delegations, as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/19, and the recommendation contained therein.

18. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/L.8 approving the report.

#### **D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector**

##### **(Agenda item 1 (e))**

19. At the 1st meeting, on 12 October 2015, following a statement by a representative of the UNCCD, the Conference decided to accredit as observers the intergovernmental organizations listed in annex I and the non-governmental and civil society organizations listed in annex II of document ICCD/COP(12)/15.

#### **E. Committee on Science and Technology**

20. The twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Uriel Safriel (Israel). The Committee held six meetings, from 13 to 16 October 2015.

21. At the 1st meeting, on 13 October 2015, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1/Rev.1, and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in annex II of the document.

22. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Mathias Magunda (Uganda) as Facilitator of the contact group.

23. At its 6th meeting, on 16 October 2015, the Committee elected by acclamation the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming thirteenth session: Mr. Foued Chehad (Algeria), Ms. Farah Ibrahim (Kuwait), Mr. Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez (Mexico) and Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte (France).

24. The Committee submitted six recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 4th and 11th meetings, on 16 and 22 October 2015.

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

25. The fourteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was convened under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chair, Mr. Richard Mwendandu (Kenya). The Committee held four meetings, from 13 to 23 October 2015.

26. At the 1st meeting, on 13 October 2015, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in documents ICCD/CRIC(14)/1 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/1/Corr.1, and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in annex II of the document.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Richard Mwendandu (Kenya) as Facilitator of the contact group.

28. The Committee submitted eight recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 12th meeting, on 23 October 2015.

#### **G. Committee of the Whole**

29. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole (COW) and to allocate to the Committee the agenda items listed in paragraph 15 of the COP 12 agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/1 with the exception of

item d (iv). In addition, the Conference decided to allocate to the COW agenda items 6 (d) and (e) of the COP 12 agenda.

30. At its 2nd meeting, the Conference designated Mr. Thomas Tichelmann (Ireland) as Chair of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee held six meetings, from 13 to 22 October 2015.

31. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, the Committee established two contact groups: (a) a contact group on programme and budget matters, under the facilitation of Mr. Arun Kumar Mehta (India); and (b) a contact group on COW matters other than the programme and budget, under the co-facilitation of Mr. Luca Marmo (European Union) and Ms. Karma Dema Dorji (Bhutan).

32. The Committee submitted ten recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 11th and 12th meetings, on 22 and 23 October 2015.

## H. Ad Hoc Group of Experts

33. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts did not meet as the COP decided to defer to a later COP meeting the consideration of: (i) rule 47 of the rules of procedure; (ii) procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation; and (iii) annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures.

## I. Attendance

34. The twelfth session of the COP was attended by representatives of the following 149 Parties to the Convention:

Afghanistan	Comoros	Germany
Albania	Congo	Ghana
Algeria	Cook Islands	Greece
Argentina	Costa Rica	Grenada
Armenia	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea
Australia	Cuba	Guinea-Bissau
Austria	Cyprus	Guyana
Azerbaijan	Czech Republic	Haiti
Bangladesh	Democratic Republic of the	Hungary
Belarus	Congo	Iceland
Belgium	Djibouti	India
Benin	Dominica	Indonesia
Bhutan	Dominican Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ecuador	Iraq
Botswana	Egypt	Ireland
Brazil	El Salvador	Israel
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Italy
Burundi	Estonia	Japan
Cambodia	Ethiopia	Jordan
Cameroon	European Union	Kazakhstan
Cape Verde	Fiji	Kenya
Central African Republic	Finland	Kuwait
Chad	France	Kyrgyzstan
Chile	Gabon	Lao People's Democratic
China	Gambia	Republic
Colombia	Georgia	Lebanon



Lesotho	Palau	Sudan
Liberia	Paraguay	Swaziland
Lithuania	Peru	Sweden
Luxembourg	Philippines	Switzerland
Madagascar	Poland	Tajikistan
Malawi	Portugal	Thailand
Malaysia	Qatar	The former Yugoslav Republic of
Mali	Republic of Korea	Macedonia
Marshall Islands	Republic of Moldova	Timor-Leste
Mauritania	Romania	Togo
Mauritius	Russian Federation	Tonga
Mexico	Saint Lucia	Tunisia
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Turkey
Mongolia	Samoa	Turkmenistan
Montenegro	Sao Tome and Príncipe	Uganda
Morocco	Saudi Arabia	Ukraine
Mozambique	Senegal	United Republic of Tanzania
Myanmar	Serbia	United States of America
Namibia	Seychelles	Uruguay
Nepal	Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan
Netherlands	Slovakia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic
Niger	Somalia	of)
Nigeria	South Africa	Viet Nam
Norway	Spain	Zambia
Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Zimbabwe

35. The session was also attended by observers from the following State not Party to the Convention:

Holy See

Palestine

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Environment Facility

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Global Compact

United Nations Information Centre

United Nations Office for Project Services

United Nations Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

United Nations University

World Bank

World Meteorological Organization

37. The session was also attended by representatives of 19 intergovernmental organizations and 68 civil society organizations.

## **J. Documentation**

38. The documents submitted for the consideration of the COP at its twelfth session are listed in annex IX.

## **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)**

39. The Conference held an open dialogue session under agenda items 1 (b) to (f) at its 3rd meeting, on 15 October 2015, on the theme “Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties”.

40. The meeting was opened by Mr. Sedat Kadioğlu, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, and moderated by Mr. Noel Maxwell Oettle from the Environmental Monitoring Group in South Africa.

41. Following a statement by the keynote speaker, Dr. Jonathan Davies (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)), presentations were made by the following panelists: Ms. Aissatou Billy Sow (Association Guinéenne pour la Promotion des Energies Renouvelables (AGUIPER), Africa); Ms. Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez (Asociación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Integral (AIDER), Latin America and the Caribbean); Mr. Tanveer Arif (Society for Conservation & Protection of Environment (SCOPE), Asia); Mr. Serkan Aykut (Foresters’ Association of Turkey); Ms. Gloria Mwape Musowa (Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre of Zambia, local communities); and Mr. Patrice Burger (Centre d’Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI), Western European and Others Group).

42. In the ensuing discussion, the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Namibia, Turkey, Senegal, Benin, United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, Peru, Ghana and Guinea, as well as by the representatives of ENDA Tiers Monde (Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde, Senegal), Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE, Argentina) and Association of Training and Development Support (AFAD, Mali).

## **IV. Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

(Agenda item 4)

### **A. Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables**

43. At its 5th to 10th meetings, on 20 and 21 October 2015, the Conference held a special high-level segment with opening and closing meetings, three parallel ministerial/high-level round tables and three interactive dialogue sessions under the agenda item.

44. At the 5th meeting, on 20 October 2015, the President of the Conference opened the special high-level segment and made a statement.

45. At the same meeting, the President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, addressed the Conference.

46. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States delivered a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

47. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD made a statement.

48. At the same meeting, statements on behalf of regional and interest groups were made by: the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, Her Excellency Ms. Barbara Thomson (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); the Minister of Environment of Benin, His Excellency Mr. Théophile C. Worou (on behalf of the Group of African States); the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan, Mr. Tenzin Dhendup (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States); the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, Mr. Igor Kachanovsky (on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States); the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, Ms. Lina Dolores Pohl Alfaro (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States); and the Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure of Luxembourg, Mr. Camille Gira (on behalf of the European Union).

49. Statements were also made by the civil society representative, Mr. Noel Maxwell Oettle, from the Environmental Monitoring Group in South Africa.

50. At the 6th meeting, on 20 October 2015, the Conference held three closed parallel ministerial/high-level round tables under agenda item 4 (a), as follows:

#### **1. Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action**

51. Round table 1 was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana and moderated by Mr. Paddy Woodworth, journalist, author and lecturer.

#### **2. Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought**

52. Round table 2 was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia and moderated by Ms. Saadet Oruç, journalist.

**3. Round table 3: Land-based approach to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management**

53. Round table 3 was co-chaired by Mr. Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification of Morocco and Mr. Gabriel Quijandría Acosta, Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources in the Ministry of Environment of Peru. It was moderated by Mr. Guillermo Altares, journalist.

54. From its 7th to 9th meetings, the Conference held three interactive dialogue sessions, under agenda item 4 (b), (c), and (d), respectively, as follows:

**B. Land rights (a dialogue with civil society)**

55. At the 7th meeting, on 21 October 2015, the Conference held the first interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 4 (b), which was chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Barbara Thomson, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, and moderated by Mr. Paddy Woodworth, journalist, author and lecturer.

**C. Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector)**

56. At the 8th meeting, on 21 October 2015, the Conference held the second interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 4 (d), which was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Benedetto Della Vedova, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, and moderated by Mr. Peter Bakker, President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

**D. Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians)**

57. At the 9th meeting, on 21st October 2015, the Conference held the third interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 4 (c), which was co-chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Lina Dolores Pohl Alfaro, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, and Ms. Ravza Kavakçi-Kan, Parliamentarian in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. It was moderated by Mr. Guillermo Altares, journalist.

58. At the 10th meeting, on 21 October 2015, the President of the Conference closed the special high-level segment. The meeting heard reports by the respective Chairs of the three closed parallel ministerial/high-level round tables held under agenda item 4 (a).

**V. Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties**

59. At its 4th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 16, 22 and 23 October 2015, the Conference adopted 35 decisions and one resolution.

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

60. At the recommendation of the President of its twelfth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 26/COP.12 Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 27/COP.12 Ankara Ministerial Declaration
- 28/COP.12 Report of the Eleventh Round Table of Members of Parliament
- 29/COP.12 The Ankara Initiative
- 30/COP.12 Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 31/COP.12 Ankara Declaration: Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum
- 32/COP.12 Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum
- 33/COP.12 Declaration of the Youth Forum
- 34/COP.12 Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 35/COP.12 Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

**B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau**

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

- 25/COP.12 Credentials of delegations

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

62. At the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 3/COP.12 Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Working Group report on land degradation neutrality
- 4/COP.12 Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification
- 5/COP.12 Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 6/COP.12 Business engagement strategy and participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 7/COP.12 Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention
- 8/COP.12 Addressing particular regional and national conditions
- 9/COP.12 Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions and promoting partnerships with other international agencies and bodies
- 10/COP.12 Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

- 11/COP.12 Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility
- 24/COP.12 Rule 47 of the rules of procedure; procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation; annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures

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

63. At the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 1/COP.12 Multi-year workplans of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies
- 2/COP.12 Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 12/COP.12 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility
- 13/COP.12 Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy
- 14/COP.12 Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention
- 15/COP.12 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
- 16/COP.12 Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 17/COP.12 Date and venue of the fifteenth 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**

64. At the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

- 18/COP.12 Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference
- 19/COP.12 Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 20/COP.12 Improvement of knowledge dissemination, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories
- 21/COP.12 Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface
- 22/COP.12 Roster of independent experts

23/COP.12 Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

#### **F. Resolution adopted by the Conference**

65. Also at its 12th meeting, on 23 October 2015, the Conference adopted the following resolution at the recommendation of the Republic of Namibia:

1/COP.12 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey

### **VI. Conclusion of the session**

#### **Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session**

**(Agenda item 7)**

66. At its 12th meeting, on 23 October 2015, the Conference adopted the draft report on its twelfth session (ICCD/COP(12)/L.17) and authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

## Annex I

### Summary of the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session

#### I. Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action

Chair: H.E. Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana

Moderator: Mr. Paddy Woodworth

Keynote: Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland

1. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, gave an inspiring keynote speech in which he urged Parties to think ‘outside the box’ in order to prosper. Drawing on lessons learned and recent efforts in land rehabilitation in Iceland, he emphasized the need to include all stakeholders from the beginning. He warned that without major achievements on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and its target 15.3, we will not be able to end hunger and poverty.

2. The round table discussion was then opened to the floor with more than 30 interventions from ministers and other representatives. The host country began the discussion by underlining that land degradation is not only biophysical in nature but has many other human dimensions.

3. Many ministers alluded to decoupling economic growth from land degradation. Most ministers stressed the importance of strong investments from both private and public funding sources and how a target-setting approach could be effective in most countries.

4. In mentioning that land degradation neutrality (LDN) represents a new paradigm for sustainable development that will require policy measures based on science, with simple indicators that can be monitored, references were made to the fact that traditional knowledge should also be harnessed to achieve target 15.3.

5. It was stated that LDN is a universally applicable target and each country needs to look at its own legal framework to decide how to proceed.

6. Several ministers highlighted the effectiveness of large-scale projects that improve livelihoods. Those ministers whose countries participated in the Land Degradation Neutrality Project (LDN Project) saw great benefits for operationalizing the LDN target, including how the monitoring framework was very helpful in prioritizing action on the ground. Since indicators and datasets must be validated at the national level, the need to understand what these indicators mean was stressed. Many ministers strongly supported the development of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) to ensure sustained public–private financing to deal with poverty and land degradation simultaneously.

7. In a video message, the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) addressed the round table to announce that the GEF is ready to support country-based LDN target-setting and implementation on a voluntary basis. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlighted the collaboration between UNEP and the UNCCD on communicating and monitoring the LDN target. The CSO



representative and some ministers cautioned that the design of LDN strategies and plans must fully engage with stakeholders, recognize tenure and indigenous rights, and avoid land grabs and other forms of exploitation in the name of achieving LDN.

8. Many ministers strongly emphasized the direct linkages between land degradation, migration, insurgency and conflict. Only an adequate legal framework for LDN would enable local communities to build capacity and make long-term plans that would create jobs, economic perspective and opportunity. It was also stressed that dust and sand storms increasingly affect large swathes of humanity. Preventing and mitigating their effects should be looked at critically in the UNCCD process.

9. In summary, degradation leads to hunger, poverty and migration. Action to achieve LDN is now urgent. We can do it if there is adequate political will, and it looks like the will is there. It is now time for implementation.

## **II. Round table 2 on “Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought”**

Chair: H.E. Pohamba Shiefta, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia

Moderator: Ms. Saadet Oruc

Keynote: Sri. Rajendra Singh, President of Rajendra and Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS)

10. An introduction was provided by the Chair of the round table, the Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia. The round table – involving more than 70 participants, including 15 Ministers – was guided by the question, “What needs to be done by Parties to the Convention to enhance drought adaptation?”

11. It was stressed that combating drought is one of the most important issues for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The following questions were put to the audience: How many countries have put in place and/or are implementing National Drought Management Policies? How effective are our early warning systems in helping our communities? How effective are our planning mechanisms for drought and how timely and efficient are our responses? Acknowledging the joint efforts on capacity development in recent years in the formulation of national drought management policies, the Minister called for more targeted support, including technical know-how, financial support for drought issues, and the urgent need to identify and adopt best practices in the area of drought management and mitigation. Countries were invited to contribute to the upcoming international conference on Drought Preparedness to be hosted by Namibia in August 2016.

12. The keynote speaker, Stockholm Water Prize winner, Mr. Rajendra Singh, emphasized the use of indigenous knowledge (‘common sense science’) by increasing community awareness of water management (‘water literacy’) and investing in small scale water harvesting. The involvement of diverse stakeholders, including civil society, government, NGOs, politicians, universities and research centres on drought issues was emphasized.

13. Presented via the analogy of seven good years and seven bad years, countries called for the UNCCD to play a leading role in drought mitigation efforts and to invest in drought preparedness during the good years. Parties stressed that “environmental change is happening fast” and that “without water there is no food and no life”. In particular, the link

between drought, migration and insecurity was highlighted. Parties stressed that as more intense drought is a result of climate change and land degradation, it is therefore time for action on drought. A quick solution is needed too!

14. Countries came up with practical policy options to tackle drought, ranging from the need to integrate drought management at basin level, making best use of indigenous knowledge, to developing cutting-edge technology, community mobilization and enhancing the capacities of the drought-prone countries.

15. The following practical proposals for driving forward our agenda on drought were suggested:

- Institutionalizing a systematic approach to proactive drought management, especially early warning systems;
- Developing comprehensive indicators of the prevailing drought situation in country Parties, including early warning systems, water quantity, access and quality, vulnerability and risk assessments;
- Improving public awareness of drought risk and preparedness for drought, including financial incentives for the rational use of water;
- Strengthening the link between land and water management measures to manage drought more sustainably;
- Integrating early warning systems and land use planning at watershed level to mitigate the effects of drought;
- Enhancing capacity at all levels of government to mitigate the effects of drought. In particular, countries should commit to developing and implementing national drought management policies and be supported in this endeavour;
- Promoting international North–South cooperation, complemented by South–South cooperation, to foster drought policies in developing countries;
- Establishing best practices for drought to enable the sharing of experiences among countries.

### **III. Round table 3: Land-based approaches to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management**

Co-Chairs: Dr. Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water, Forestry and Desertification Control, Morocco

Gabriel Quijandria Acosta, Vice Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources, Peru

Moderator: Mr. Guillermo Altares, journalist

16. *“Climate change, the loss of ecosystems and land degradation are three sides of a hypothetical ‘three dimensional coin’ which cannot be addressed in isolation from one another. Comprehensive solutions are therefore urgently needed, especially for the rural poor living in drylands”.*

17. This was the main conclusion of the high-level round table on land-based approaches to climate change in which representatives from 43 countries participated. The

event was co-chaired by ministers from Morocco and Peru who set the stage for discussion by asking the following key question: how can we better recognize the land sector in the fight against climate change?

18. Participants started by pointing out that climate change is a major driver of land degradation and vice versa. Land use and land-use change produce a large part of global greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, climate change leads to changing rainfall patterns and more extreme droughts, which exacerbate land degradation. Parties highlighted that the combined effects of land degradation and climate change are a major threat to food security, impair rural livelihoods and cause out-migration. In this context drylands and poor communities are particularly vulnerable, considering their dependence on land for their livelihoods. NGOs emphasized that in spite of this, “states continue to subsidize unsustainable land use patterns”.

19. Given the close interlinkages between land degradation and climate change, participants called for the role of land-based approaches to be strengthened in the fight against climate change. Representatives from several countries stated that land-based approaches are fundamental in most forms of climate change adaptation. In other words, adaptation needs to be ‘down to earth’. Making sustainable use of the land’s ecosystem services is key for maintaining and enhancing the resilience of communities.

20. In this respect, Parties called for the scaling up of successful sustainable land management practices and stressed that the use of traditional knowledge and the implementation of early warning systems are effective tools in mitigating the destructive effects of climate change and land degradation before they occur.

21. At the same time, it was repeatedly highlighted that the land sector holds a vast, and so far largely untapped, potential for climate protection as land-based mitigation allows for both emission reductions and carbon sequestration. In view of the upcoming climate negotiations, it was emphasized that the land sector must be an integral part of any future climate agreement: “The 2 degree target can only be reached if the mitigation potential of the land is used much more comprehensively”. In fact, the land sector might be the ‘missing piece’ in closing the emissions gap. Representatives added that the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) offer a tremendous opportunity for many African States, which can only act on climate change through land-based based approaches.

22. Many representatives called for a paradigm shift in climate finance, as current climate funds are insufficient. Integrated investment frameworks as well as microfinancing opportunities should be further developed.

23. The session was closed by the Co-Chairs who called for making better use of the synergies between fighting land degradation and mitigating climate change. This also requires closer collaboration between the Rio conventions: “the goals of the three Conventions are the same, but from a different perspective”. However, the involvement of NGOs, local communities and the private sector also need to be enhanced to ensure real comprehensive action on the ground.

24. It was strongly suggested that the three UNCCD land-based indicators are an excellent example of the synergies between the Rio conventions and how they can be monitored.

## Annex II

### Ankara Ministerial Declaration

1. We, the Ministers, gathered for the High-Level Segment at the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held on 20 and 21 October 2015 in Ankara at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey. We gathered to address the important challenges posed by desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and the opportunities inherent to an effective response. We express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its hospitality and to the UNCCD secretariat for the organization of the session.

2. We are deeply concerned about the impact of DLDD on the most vulnerable ecosystems and people, including women, children and the elderly. We recognize that if land degradation continues unchecked, a large section of the global population will be under greater threat of hunger, water scarcity, poverty and insecurity. Timely action at all levels is required to save future generations from these impacts.

3. We also gathered to assess and capitalize on the new momentum behind efforts to address DLDD. We are convinced that these efforts should complement the work of the three Rio Conventions; inspire action at all levels; be scientifically valid; and address the underlying social, economic and environmental driving factors, including insecure land tenure. Following the adoption of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), national efforts to strive to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030 should gather pace. In order to achieve the desired change, it is important that we recognize the interlinkages with other goals and targets of the SDGs.

4. We therefore:

- Renew our commitment to the effective implementation of the UNCCD in order to address DLDD, combat its worst impacts and help eradicate poverty;
- Take into consideration efforts to reinforce technical and scientific knowledge on DLDD;
- Encourage active, diverse multi-stakeholder participation from all sectors of society in the implementation of the Convention;
- Dedicate ourselves to promoting gender equality and the role of women as actors of change in addressing DLDD;
- Encourage efforts to scale up sustainable land management and promote practices that restore and rehabilitate degraded land;
- Urge leadership to halt and reverse land degradation and combat desertification while taking into account biodiversity conservation and climate change;
- Encourage Parties affected by DLDD to adopt voluntary national targets to achieve LDN;
- Encourage stakeholders in a position to do so to facilitate technical and financial support for Parties wishing to develop the land degradation neutral target at national and local levels, with a focus on strengthening the capacities of the most affected countries;
- Support policy measures and reforms that both enhance efforts to combat

DLDD and ensure the access, control and stewardship of land, including the strengthening of tenure security, equal access and user rights for women and men;

- Declare that sustainable land use can play a vital role in addressing climate change;
- Resolve to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people to drought and sand and dust storms, including through concrete action such as facilitating the deployment of early warning systems and other relevant responses;
- Encourage all stakeholders to strive to maintain and improve soil organic carbon levels as a means to address the three-fold challenges of food security, land degradation and climate change.

## Annex III

### Declaration by the Members of Parliament

***Eleventh Round Table of Members of Parliament***  
*held in parallel with the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the  
 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
 Ankara, Turkey, 20 and 21 October 2015*

**The role of members of parliament in efforts to combat  
 desertification/land degradation and drought:  
 Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land in the context  
 of strengthened resilience to climate change**

*We, members of parliament*, meeting in Ankara, Turkey, on 20 and 21 October 2015 for the eleventh round table of members of parliament at the invitation of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Great National Assembly of Turkey, with the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, alongside the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12):

*Are convinced* that the fight against desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) is a major challenge for policymakers, in the knowledge that global, regional, national and local efforts to halt and reverse land degradation are prerequisites for freeing hundreds of millions of people from poverty;

*Are committed* to mobilizing stronger parliamentary support and political will for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality at the local, national, (sub)regional and international levels;

*Welcome* the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 15 to "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss" and target 15.3 to "strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world";

*Underline* that achieving the SDGs will require a comprehensive and holistic approach that integrates the economic, social, environmental and political dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes that eradicating poverty, creating inclusive economic well-being and fighting climate change are important tools in strengthening the resilience of affected populations and fostering a dignified life for all, and are linked to each other and interdependent;

*Recall* that the implementation of the UNCCD and achievement of the SDGs would (i) underpin sustainable development, the sustainable management of natural resources and economic growth; (ii) dramatically enhance food security; (iii) provide a reliable source of renewable energy; and (iv) ensure water availability ("water is life");

*Note* that the sustainable management of the world's land-based resources would make an invaluable contribution to combating climate change (adaptation and mitigation); managing biodiversity; influencing migration; and building stability and security for vulnerable populations, while being aware that conflicts and wars have negative impacts on the populations concerned as well as on land as such;

*Emphasize* that legislators have to be an essential part of national and international policy processes on the full range of sustainable development issues and should promote corresponding legal and policy frameworks;

*Parliamentarians and parliaments therefore declare and emphasize that:*

1. Desertification/land degradation and the needs of drylands deserve more global policy attention; cooperation and coordination among parliaments is encouraged to develop more coherent approaches;
2. In order to implement the Convention and achieve SDGs, country Parties and parliaments need to integrate the goals and targets into national planning, policy, laws and budgets;
3. During COP 12, Parties of the Convention should consider adopting land degradation neutrality (LDN) as a global target to be reached by 2030 and an organizing principle;
4. Political parties should include the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 15, in their manifestos and other policy documents as a matter of priority;
5. The enactment of enabling legislations and standards aligned with the objectives of the UNCCD and the LDN target must be supported by a clear roadmap in line with climate-resilient development pathways, and be accompanied by regular review processes;
6. Land should be fully integrated into the new global climate change agreement as both a mitigation and adaptation measure;
7. The mainstreaming of sustainable agriculture, farming with healthy soils and sustainable land management (SLM) in national priorities, and the coordination with international development cooperation efforts should be encouraged. An end must be put to calamitous agricultural protection arrangements and subsidized agricultural exports;
8. Land degradation issues, water scarcity, floods and water management problems deserve higher priority in order to overcome the marginalization and catastrophic situations experienced by dryland communities;
9. An integrative approach to dealing with the three Rio conventions – the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNCCD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – must be realized and the synergies between them enhanced. Parties should adopt the use of common indicators for reporting under the Conventions as a way of effectively establishing a common baseline and measuring progress;
10. The improved governance of land, including the implementation of human rights-based approaches that incorporate gender mainstreaming and the consideration of the rights of the indigenous peoples, especially related to matters of access to and tenure of land, is vital;
11. Substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources are needed to support activities to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought – especially in Africa – taking into account and advancing the natural capital approach;
12. While much of the investment in SLM comes from domestic and private sources, developed countries are urged to provide and mobilize enhanced financial support to developing countries for ambitious land-based actions, especially in those countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
13. Higher and qualitatively better Official Development Assistance should also be used to support countries in establishing an enabling environment to achieve domestic resource

mobilization, strengthen tax systems, and scale up and strengthen the institutional and human capacity from local to national levels, including targeted capacity-building for executive institutions, the judiciary and parliamentarians and other elected representatives;

14. The Global Environment Facility, the Global Mechanism, the Green Climate Fund and Initiative 20 x 20, with its target to restore 20 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2020, are – and in the case of an investment fund for land degradation neutrality, could be – appropriate instruments, if equipped with the necessary budgetary resources for promoting climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures undertaken within the UNCCD framework or soil-related programmes;

15. Public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels must be enhanced as population pressure mounts. In order to achieve LDN, partnerships at various scales and levels should be promoted and encouraged, including partnerships between parliaments, policymakers and decision-makers, the business sector, non-governmental organizations, local and community-based organizations, youth and women’s associations and the academic community. Regional cooperation among neighbouring countries with similar climate challenges should be promoted;

16. The creation of worthwhile and economically viable employment for a large number of people should be a joint task as it will help manage population dynamics and provide for basic needs in terms of food, energy and water;

17. Parliamentarians oppose soil sealing, land grabbing and other activities that degrade the land, harm the rural poor and undermine the LDN target. They recognize that land is often a private and productive asset, and that private investments should be encouraged if they are conducive to corporate social responsibility and sustainable, socioeconomic and human development, and consistent with environmental protection and climate resilience;

18. Parliamentarians welcome the active engagement and leadership of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Turkish Chamber of Commerce at COP 12. They further welcome the launch of the United Nations Global Compact Soil Principles aimed at sustainable soil management, which are to be respected by companies and the United Nations in collaboration with key civil society organizations and experts;

19. Legislation to support sustainable consumption and the production of ‘farm-to-fork’ agricultural products should be encouraged as such measures would prevent food waste and reduce the land footprint;

20. Financial tools and mechanisms should be developed to dissuade the private sector from engaging in degrading land practices while incentivizing private sector investment for the transition to SLM and the large-scale rehabilitation of degraded land with its inherent market opportunities;

21. Parliamentarians recognize that investing in early warning systems and land-based infrastructure is a cost-effective measure that builds resilience. Existing climate risk insurance, which provides coverage in the event of unavoidable weather-related risks and extreme drought, is intended to help people adapt to the adverse impacts of desertification and strengthen drought resilience. It should be made widely available and the coverage should be expanded further;

22. Sharing good practices, information, knowledge, experience and lessons learned with regard to SLM and LDN projects and programmes would facilitate the identification and replication of successful practices;

23. Parliaments and parliamentarians should act as agents of change and sensitize the public about the SDGs, particularly the goal of halting and reversing land degradation. The parliamentarians must proactively engage in spreading good practices as a cost-effective



tool for combating desertification and spreading further awareness of land restoration practices.<sup>1</sup> They are convinced that better teaching, education and training in land-related issues are prerequisites for achieving LDN. Relevant land-related events, such as the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June, help to raise awareness and ensure greater visibility for DLDD issues. Such activities should be enhanced with more focused outreach to schools, academics, writers, artists and the mass media;

24. Parliamentarians will call for an annual debate on the state of the land at national level, including the opportunities inherent to SLM and the impacts of degraded land on urbanization and migration trends;

25. Parliamentarians will support effective land use planning that (i) manages the competing demands on land at local and national level; (ii) enhances land-based infrastructure; (iii) introduces taxation and subsidy systems in favour of the sustainable use of land resources; and (iv) secures access and tenure rights for all citizens and services that support local capacity development. Parliamentarians will review budget allocations for all programmes and legislation with these positions in mind;

26. Parliaments and parliamentarians endeavour to promote science and technology research findings on DLDD, for instance in the fields of desalinization and renewable energies; harness traditional knowledge; strengthen access to and capitalize on the benefits of modern information and communication technologies; and use the results of these scientific activities in policies and decision-making to benefit the public, private and civil society organization sectors in their efforts to address DLDD;

27. Parliamentarians will lead by example and convene meetings at constituency level to explore how to become land-degradation-neutral and integrate that approach into local development objectives and funding opportunities;

***We, the Parliamentarians, emphasize that:***

28. The potential of the Parliamentary Network on the UNCCD should be maximized as a platform to share good examples of anti-desertification activities and promote the framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land in the context of strengthened resilience to

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<sup>1</sup> Exemplary, on-the-spot activities for combating desertification and climate change and halting and reversing land degradation were, and may include:

- Productive sustainable land management (SLM) practices relating to reforestation, improved water management, the use of smart and gravity-fed irrigation, integrated soil fertility management, conservation agriculture, agroforestry and improved rangeland management. Adaptation also relates to technical measures aimed at infrastructure, such as (higher) flood dams, water tanks, (open or tube) wells, generators, renewable and more efficient energy use, fencing and activities to enhance the resilience of ecosystems in order to cope with altered climatic conditions, including revegetating slopes threatened by flood erosion. Agriculture offers promising opportunities for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration, sustainable soil and land use management, and biomass production.
- Mosaic restoration, best suited to millions of hectares, in which forests and trees are combined with other land uses, including agroforestry and smallholder agriculture. In many cases, local communities have taken charge; for instance, farmer-managed natural regeneration and agroforestry techniques, such as the planting of ‘fertilizer trees’ on farmlands and grazing lands, have already been adopted in many regions.
- Plenty of effective SLM practices for communal rangelands, forests and water resources, such as improving the governance of ecosystems and natural resources, empowering women, raising awareness and building the capacity of smallholder farmers to engage in sustainable agriculture, land, water and forestry management.

climate change; its Steering Committee is invited to consider options for improved follow-up to the Declarations of the Round Tables and for the efficient use of the UNCCD handbook for parliamentary action;

29. The UNCCD secretariat should continue to provide high-quality services to the Parliamentary Round Tables, including the provision of relevant issue briefs with a view to promoting our activities and increasing their visibility;

30. We invite the UNCCD secretariat to facilitate the organization of the twelfth Round Table of Parliamentarians in conjunction with the thirteenth session of the COP.

## Annex IV

### The Ankara Initiative

#### A. Background, Justification, Principles

The Ankara Initiative is launched to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in the period 2016 to 2019. It will support the global sustainable development agenda and leverage the lessons learned from Turkey's past experience and approaches to land management.

Efforts to combat desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) require an approach that inspires action at local, regional and global level; that supports the mutually reinforcing objectives and commitments of the Rio Conventions and other global processes (such as the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)).

In the context of the SDGs and with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, the Convention will need to be able to rapidly expand its capacity to assist Parties with implementation on the ground. That is to provide practical support that helps slow those actions that drive land degradation and accelerate the rehabilitation of degraded land. Turkey contends that, in order to be successful, the Convention's efforts not only require technical solutions and an ability to plan at scale but an understanding of the underlying social, economic and environmental driving factors.

#### B. Turkish Expertise and Experience

As a predominantly arid and semi-arid country, Turkey has become a leader in land management especially in areas vulnerable to drought. It has invested heavily to rehabilitate a wide variety of terrestrial ecosystems with national activities often planned at the watershed scale. Success can be attributed to an integrated, participatory approach that strengthens the engagement and capacity of local people. Land governance has evolved to create the necessary conditions and legal environment for the widespread implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. Turkey has also established itself as a leader in capacity building by investing in the training and skills development of civil society and local authorities, particularly in Africa. The Ankara Initiative will leverage the full range of these skills, expertise and experience to provide practical support for the achievement of land degradation neutrality.

#### C. The Aim of the Ankara Initiative

UNCCD stakeholders have access to the tools and practical resources needed to achieve land degradation neutrality.

#### D. Objectives of the Ankara Initiative

Turkey has identified three areas in which its experience and expertise would have particular added value (socio-economic, institutional and policy):

- 1) **To address the key socio-economic factors affecting implementation and to put people at the centre of decision making.**

- a. Understanding the linkages between DLDD and migration and social instability
- b. Strengthening land and tenure rights
- c. Capacity building to support greater stakeholder engagement
- 2) To make the institutional arrangements more efficient.**
  - a. Addressing cross cutting issues and promoting integrated approaches
  - b. Encouraging regional level cooperation among Parties of the Convention.
- 3) To strengthen policy making by supporting integrated land use planning in countries vulnerable to drought.**

## **E. Components of Ankara Initiative**

### **1. Socio-Economic Factors**

Efforts to combat desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) should be people-centred. Priority should be given to those activities that improve human well-being, that strengthen the rights of land-users and engage all stakeholders effectively.

- 1.a** Human well-being is undermined by DLDD. Poverty reduction is the overarching objective of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and DLDD is one of the key drivers of poverty. DLDD results in decreased agricultural production and decreased economic opportunity. Poverty, food insecurity and environmental crises are causing out-migration and social instability. The implementation of SLM practices can help mitigate the impacts of DLDD, reduce poverty and improve human well-being and livelihoods. This, in turn, would stabilize communities and reduce out-migration pressures.
- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will support work to understand the linkages between DLDD and social instability and migration;*
  - *Turkey will pilot land-based activities to address the issue.*
- 1.b** A rights-based approach to SLM is necessary to ensure good stewardship of land resources - soil, water and biodiversity - and the achievement of the LDN target. Roughly 1.2 billion people currently live without rights of access or formal land tenure. When local communities have secure access or tenure, they tend to invest in the land, use resources more efficiently and can more easily be encouraged to manage it in a sustainable way. Countries that are committed to achieving LDN can take measures to promote and protect the security of land rights and tenure, especially with respect to women, the poor and vulnerable, through appropriate legislation and institutions, including the right to inherit. These mechanisms can also serve to encourage private sector investment.
- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will support activities that help countries address the issue of weak or insecure tenure and resource rights, particularly for women and the most vulnerable, to stimulate the uptake of SLM activities and to make progress towards LDN.*
  - *Turkey will also support a small group of countries with the integration of land tenure and resource rights issues into their plans for LDN implementation.*
- 1.c** The active participation of all stakeholders from local people, communities and private sector organizations is needed to achieve LDN and the full implementation of the Convention. The participation of key and diverse sectors and civil society organizations,

local authorities and the private sector is currently limited by a lack of awareness and a lack of capacity.

- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will support capacity building for local level stakeholders and organizations;*
- *Turkey will promote the participation of farmer-led, civil society and private sector organizations in local, national and global level processes;*
- *Turkey will help convene a Forum of Local Government administrations in support of future COP discussions;*
- *Turkey will support work on engagement of the private sector so that business can have a net positive impact along their value chains.*

## **2. Institutional**

Collaboration across sectors, processes, disciplines and borders would streamline and accelerate the implementation of the UNCCD and the achievement of LDN targets.

- 2.a** Several global priority cross-cutting agendas would benefit from healthy and productive land. Integrated approaches and products that also take into account biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation should be feasible and encouraged. SLM and LDN can be planned in a way to serve the overlapping objectives of the other Rio conventions.

- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will support work to develop joint products and approaches with other Convention processes to promote greater synergy.*

- 2.b** At the same time, natural ecosystems do not stop at national boundaries. There is an opportunity to strengthen regional and sub-regional level implementation of the Convention, sharing best practice among countries with similar experiences. We should aim to turn land use change into regional opportunity.

- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will encourage increasing cooperation and information exchange to the extent possible to understand land use change and land use dynamics at the regional and sub-regional scale;*
- *Turkey will develop pilot projects at the regional and sub-regional level that support cross-border learning;*
- *Turkey will then support the dissemination of best practice, adapted to different country conditions.*

## **3. Integrated Policy and Planning for Drought Resilience**

As a result of land degradation and climate change, drought is becoming a more frequent and more intense phenomenon. Land degradation is reducing the water storage capacity of soil and this reduces the resilience of communities in the face of disasters such as drought or flooding and landslides after heavy rains. Land and water resource management should be coordinated at an appropriate scale.

The combination of early warning and planning land use and its trade-offs at the landscape or watershed level can help contribute to achieving LDN and mitigate the effects of drought in a practical way.

- *Under the Ankara Initiative, Turkey will support work (through training etc) to support drought early warning systems in the most vulnerable countries.*

- *Turkey will help leverage the early warning system to identify future drought hotspots/vulnerability where better land management might help build resilience.*
- *Turkey will then support efforts to plan land use and land use change (including urbanization) at the watershed level (capacity building) where applicable and roll out SLM techniques that improve water availability during a drought (water harvesting etc.)*

## **F. Reporting**

Turkey will submit a report on the implementation of the activities mentioned above at COP 14 in 2019.

## **G. Turkey's support to the UNCCD process**

Turkey will pledge USD 5 million for the 4 year period. 50 per cent of this funding will be made available to the secretariat to support the policy related activities outlined in this document. The balance of the funding will be made available to the GM for support to national level implementation work. Accounted for within this package of support, Turkey will second two staff members, one each to the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, for a period of 4 years. These staff will be based in Bonn, Germany.

## Annex V

### **Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties**

Mr. Chair, dear delegates, dear colleagues of the UNCCD secretariat, ladies and gentlemen,

The civil society organizations (CSOs) that took part in the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) are pleased to take the floor and share the views and concerns of the CSOs accredited to the UNCCD as well as the wider CSO community.

Firstly, we have to thank those Parties that helped support the participation of 35 CSOs through their contributions to the UNCCD and enabled the selection of these observers through a panel based on specific criteria. The selection process and effective work undertaken before and during the COP made it possible for civil society to make more contributions of substance than has been the case in the past.

The discussions at COP 12 have taken place in the context of emergent global challenges in an era when humanity is endangering the ecosystems on which we all depend. This demonstrates that a change of trajectory is arising in the minds of people, which is informed by some indisputable facts: Those who in the past thought themselves immune to environmental disasters elsewhere on the planet are rediscovering they are part of a human community that has to face its destiny. Our awareness of a world with finite limits is a necessary element for working together effectively to conserve its scarce resources.

It is the responsibility of this Convention and thus our collective responsibility to ensure that the people in the drylands do not become the victims of the ultimate injustice of human-induced calamities that would add to the precariousness of natural conditions.

Food security is paramount among these challenges, as without it human dignity is impossible. In a world of enormous means, it is no longer acceptable that a significant part of the population lacks access to the food they need for survival. The populations of drylands are among the most vulnerable and should therefore be given priority consideration by the international community.

The issue of inequality among women and men, as was discussed at the Rio Pavilion during Gender Day, undoubtedly remains one of the most deeply rooted problems in our society. We must overcome these inequities and support the women of the world more effectively, particularly those in drylands, who each day pay too high a price for their motherhood, the food security of their families, and the terrible strain of the ongoing quest for water and food.

Peace and security are increasingly threatened by the ungoverned appetites of a few: for political power, for wealth, for military dominance or for religious domination, all of which will lead us to certain ruin. The long lines of refugees and migrants crowding parts of the world, often originating from degraded lands, are our responsibility. They are our children, whether we want them or not.

Mr President, let us return to the COP and appreciate its effective planning that has enabled the CSOs to fully participate.

We note that the contact groups that were established in the early stages of this COP operated exclusively in English and did not allow for the systematic presence of CSOs. This is not in keeping with the spirit of participation that the UNCCD should champion.

Regarding the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), CSOs recall that they played an important role in improving the efficiency of the Committee and contributed local and traditional knowledge in order to strengthen links between technology and policymaking, particularly in the crucial fields of sustainable land management, resilience and adaptation of communities. We want to thank the Parties who supported this view in their decision-making.

As for the round tables in the high-level segment, CSOs appreciated the intention of arriving at a more fruitful discussion in this segment rather than a series of statements. However, they should be made more interactive in future.

During the high-level segment, the CSO community was invited to organize a dialogue on the burning issue of land rights. On that occasion, it drew the attention of country Parties to the fact that it is time to take action to adequately address the recognition of the land rights of land-using communities by implementing, inter alia, the following:

- Securing of land rights as a prerequisite to achieving land degradation neutrality;
- Securing of land tenure systems for the drylands through locally appropriate, participatory and multi-stakeholder processes that take into account the dynamic nature of the dryland ecology as well as the dynamic nature of the multiple land uses in dryland communities;
- Provision of government recognition of the ownership and control of land by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Recognition of the collective rights of land users, especially with regard to the livelihoods of pastoralists, indigenous peoples and women, as a first step to supporting community-based management systems to prevent degradation and restore land;
- Granting of equitable access and rights to land to women and men, especially vulnerable and indigenous peoples, in order to eradicate poverty;
- Tackling of the weak governance and the corruption endemic of the land governance system, which in many countries favour the status quo and harm the interests of poor people;
- Democratization and securing of land rights so as to ensure the continued sustainable management of natural resources and sustain the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Restoration of degraded lands that are used by land-insecure communities in ways that prevent land grabbing and instead improve tenure security, especially for indigenous peoples;
- Development of legal principles and guidelines for ensuring social protection, food security, security of indigenous peoples and local communities, land tenure, ecological integrity, and transparency and accountability in order to overcome social and historical inequities.

Mr President, the CSOs present at COP 12 welcomed the adoption of land degradation neutrality and believe that this is a potentially powerful concept for ensuring that the land sector is understood not only as part of the problem, but as part of the solution in the crucial debate on climate change. In the context of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and its Target 15.3, we urge Parties, donors and international organizations to integrate it in any policy or action that addresses climate change, any development action and any action concerning agriculture.



The CSOs urge the CST and the Science-Policy Interface as well as scientists around the world to define and agree upon a universal definition for LDN, its scope and its benchmarks and indicators at all levels, from global to local.

In order to deliver real benefits to people and the planet, LDN must not:

- Lead to trade-offs that would compromise sustainable development to conserve the environment;
- Result in resources being used inefficiently to restore degraded landscapes when they can be used more efficiently to conserve landscapes that are not yet degraded;
- Create 'rights' to degrade through offset mechanisms;
- Lead to the degradation of water resources;
- Undermine the rights of land users, especially in the lands used by communities;
- Lead to land grabbing or land transfer;
- Undermine the land rights of landless farmers, pastoral communities and indigenous land users.

In this context, any funds that are mobilized must be specifically targeted, governed transparently and not be left in the hands of the private sector, which is driven by the profit motive.

Mr President, distinguished delegates,

In all cases, neutrality in terms of land degradation must first serve the populations that the Convention is intended to protect. It should offer these nearly two billion people opportunities for productive work with better incomes that makes them proud of their contribution to two major issues of global concern, climate change and poverty, and bolster their rights to benefit from the land.

Thank you.

## Annex VI

### **Ankara Declaration: Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum**

#### **I. Summary**

1. In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3 on land degradation neutrality (LDN) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 15.3, which aims at achieving a land degradation-neutral world by 2030, constitutes a critical milestone in the international community's acknowledgement of the importance of LDN.

2. According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 25 per cent of usable land globally is degraded, at an estimated economic loss of USD 40 billion per year. Land degradation has a significant impact on our economies and societies as it is directly related to food and water security, carbon emissions, biodiversity loss, and political and social risks. For businesses, land degradation can result in profit loss through reduced productivity and higher costs. It may also increase market access risks.

3. Coordinated global efforts are required to halt and reverse land degradation, restore degraded ecosystems and manage land resources sustainably. The right institutional, political and legal frameworks accompanied by economic incentives can help the global community to achieve LDN. While the participation of all stakeholders is critical to success, the private sector has the resources and technological know-how required for large-scale investments and concrete action on the ground. By bringing in innovative solutions, businesses can significantly contribute to the transformation of our economies to become land degradation neutral.

#### **II. Part 1. Land Degradation Neutrality: an opportunity for business**

4. The business risks of land degradation are multi-fold: it can affect businesses both directly and indirectly, through economic, social or environmental factors. It can lead to both demand and supply imbalances, and target both inputs and outputs. Moreover, negative effects can spread from one industry to another, representing substantial risks to the whole economy.

5. On the contrary, sustainable land management (SLM) practices allow land assets to reach their full productivity potential, thus presenting positive outcomes for both businesses and other stakeholders. These include:

- Minimization of profit loss risks due to reduced productivity or higher costs;
- Secure access to the labour force and critical markets through reduced exposure to conflict and forced migration risks;
- Higher brand value and market share through improved brand image.

### III. Part 2. Business contribution to Land Degradation Neutrality

6. With the aim of supporting local, national and regional LDN targets, forward-looking businesses participating in the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum commit to promoting SLM practices and land-use planning to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation.

7. SLM practices include, inter alia: sustainable agriculture such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry, sustainable forest management, soil, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, watershed protection, wastewater treatment, reduction/avoidance of waste sent to landfills, and pest and disease control. Sustainably increasing productivity on available land can also contribute to reducing degradation.

8. As part of an integrated land-use plan, businesses also commit to promoting the use of renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar or biomass power, while investing in sustainable tourism and natural infrastructure. They also commit to promoting the rehabilitation of degraded and abandoned production lands and the restoration of degraded natural and semi-natural ecosystems that provide vital, albeit indirect, benefits to business, people and landscapes.

### IV. Part 3. Calling on government support

9. Building land degradation-neutral economies requires the support of businesses to reverse land degradation and scale up SLM. In order to incentivize private sector investment and engagement in LDN, governments are required to put in place predictable long-term policies and a solid regulatory framework providing a level playing field for all actors. Particular policy requests include the following:

#### 1. When developing national LDN strategies and policies

##### **Engage in early dialogue with businesses in assessing the status of land resources and establishing country-level targets:**

10. Companies can provide critical insights into the problems associated with land degradation and assist with the identification of realistic targets by contributing their know-how and innovative technological solutions.

##### **Develop clear legal requirements to create a level playing field:**

11. This ensures improved compliance and equity between players as policies are applied consistently to all companies.

##### **Provide commercial benefits:**

12. Implementing LDN can be costly. Government policies should thus provide an economic incentive for companies to implement SLM, land rehabilitation and restoration. They should also focus on building synergies between LDN and other environmental and social priorities, particularly climate mitigation and adaptation to reduce compliance costs.

## 2. When implementing LDN strategies and policies

### **Provide targeted technical and financial support:**

13. Some companies are still unclear about what LDN entails, how it can be implemented, and what the most cost-efficient business models are. It is crucial to provide support to companies in the design and implementation of action plans, including the identification of cost-efficient models. By supporting technological progress and enhancing investments in research, governments can help a sustainable competitive farming sector to balance productivity with the efficient use of natural resources, thus delivering economic and environmental benefits.

### **Facilitate on-going multi-stakeholder dialogue:**

14. Establishing relevant institutions that allow for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on LDN will ensure that all stakeholders, including businesses and civil society organizations, participate in LDN-related decision-making.

### **Communicate results:**

15. A lack of or limited information on the potential risks and opportunities associated with LDN and related policy measures creates uncertainty for businesses that in turn leads to slow uptake and inefficient policy application. Lessons learned from first movers and pilot schemes should be made publically available and widely communicated for the benefit of other businesses and stakeholders

## 3. When monitoring impact

### **Develop clear monitoring frameworks:**

16. Governance and the enforcement of regulations are important elements in ensuring effective policy implementation and equality. In particular, clear performance indicators harmonized across sectors are crucial for companies in order to monitor and report on their contribution to LDN and other environmental targets.

### **Give business time to adapt:**

17. Ensuring there is enough time for companies to adjust to new practices and policy requirements will help businesses succeed in their efforts. This involves setting reasonable and predictable timeframes and updating them when and where necessary.

## V. Conclusion

18. Tackling the land degradation challenge requires unprecedented collaboration between all stakeholders, including businesses, governments and society. This Declaration is an initial step towards implementing LDN and must be supported by real action on the ground by all parties. In the light of the points outlined above, we call on all companies to join us in our collaborative effort to implement SLM practices and land restoration. Our next steps will be critical in materializing the transition to a sustainable global economy.

## Annex VII

### Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum

On the occasion of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), we, the representatives of the trade unions and civil society organizations, gathered at the meeting entitled “Functions of trade unions organizations in combating desertification” and agreed on presenting the following matters to the global public, and in turn put it forth as a proposal for inclusion in the report of COP 12.

1. First of all, we extend our gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, who has organized this conference, the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, which carried out the preparations for the conference on behalf of the Republic of Turkey, and Öz Orman-İş Trade Union, which organized the “Functions of trade unions and civil society organizations in combating desertification”.
2. Desertification is a universal issue. Addressing such an issue cannot be achieved through governmental involvement alone but also requires substantial and effective community involvement.
3. For the purpose of ensuring this community involvement, civil society organizations (CSOs), the UNCCD secretariat, and professional associations, especially trade unions – which constitute an active bridge between the community and management and represent wide sections of the community – must be involved in all decision-making and implementation processes.
4. The trade unions and CSOs in question must benefit from international funds and public resources to fulfil their responsibilities and functions.
5. In order to establish overall social awareness in regards to combating desertification, all governments must implement widespread education programmes.
6. There is a direct relationship between land degradation and poverty worldwide. In order to impact such degradation and reverse the process, rural development is an indispensable and inevitable requirement. It is necessary to bring into effect policies and applications to improve the economic status of poor farmers, the unemployed and agriculture and forestry workers.
7. One important component in combating desertification is employment. A sufficient workforce to pursue this aim must be mainstreamed in sustainable development policy.
8. Investments made in soil, forests, water and air should not take conventional cost-benefit analyses into account. Combating desertification must be implemented together with social support programmes.
9. There is also a direct relationship between land degradation and ownership. Therefore, the land degradation issue must be addressed for each country on the basis of countries’ ownership policies.
10. In this regard, the inheritance regulations preventing the fragmentation of agricultural lands and related legislative regulations, along with the protection of optimum land size, must be considered and evaluated so as to ensure the welfare of those whose livelihoods depend on agriculture.

11. Legal and incentive systems based on production instead of profit must be prioritized in land use. Measures must be taken to ensure agricultural lands are used for production purposes only.
12. Every community across the globe considers within in its traditional culture and creed the relationship between nature and humanity. Modern social structures have deteriorated such traditional values. In combating the destruction of nature, such traditional values must be reinforced and implemented by supporting culture and art.
13. A new understanding of life and the universe based on humanity and labour must be created through a new social system and economy, and the relationship between the environment and humanity must be re-established.
14. Trade unions should be actively involved in the UNCCD implementation process.

## Annex VIII

### Declaration of the Youth Forum

1. As the youth of the world, we have come together in Ankara during the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties and decided to express our position and our willingness to work actively towards a solution to the desertification phenomenon. We believe that desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) is one of the key issues with regard to the future of the planet and humanity. As the youth who will take over a world built by the decisions and actions of the previous generations, we are keen to contribute to the future of the Earth. We also believe that the presence of young people in food production systems and sectors involving the use of natural resources will result in innovation and increased capacity for developing a solution.
2. Today, we are asking decision-makers to provide opportunities for us to participate actively in the processes related to desertification and have a voice for our own future.
3. As the young people of the world, we want to live in a land degradation-neutral world. With this goal in mind, we believe that:
  - (a) Young people should be strongly represented in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification processes;
  - (b) Young people should be involved in projects and activities relating to sustainable land management and in science and technology development processes to combat DLDD;
  - (c) Young people should be supported in terms of capacity-building, awareness-raising and subsidies enabling us to actively participate in agricultural production systems that are conducive to a land degradation-neutral world.

## Annex IX

### Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session

[English only]

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(12)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/1/Add.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat. Addendum
ICCD/COP(12)/2	Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/2/Corr.1	Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020). Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(12)/3	Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/4	Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/5	Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/5/Corr.1	Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(12)/5/Corr.2	Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(12)/6- ICCD/CRIC(14)/2	Comprehensive multi-year workplan (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme (2016–2017) for the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/6/Corr.1- ICCD/CRIC(14)/2Corr.1	Comprehensive multi-year workplan (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme (2016–2017) for the Convention. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(12)/7	Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/8	Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015 as at 31 December 2014. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/9	Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium ended 31 December 2013, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat



<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(12)/10*	Audited financial statements for the Global Mechanism as at 27 September 2013. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/11	Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/11/Corr.1	Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/COP(12)/12	Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/13	Report on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/14	Rule 47 of the rules of procedure. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/15	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/16	Request submitted by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/17	Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/18	Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/19	Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(12)/19/Add.1	Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties. Addendum
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.1	Information for participants
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.2	Note on the special segment of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.3	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.4	Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017: Information on extrabudgetary funding. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.5*	Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/INF.6	List of participants
ICCD/COP(12)/MISC.1	The Global Land Outlook

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\* This document has been cancelled.

## Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fourteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(14)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/6- ICCD/CRIC(14)/2	Comprehensive multi-year workplan (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme (2016–2017) for the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/6/Corr.1- ICCD/CRIC(14)/2Corr.1	Comprehensive multi-year workplan (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme (2016–2017) for the Convention. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(14)/3	Report on the performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2014–2015). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/4	Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 development agenda. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/5	Report by the Global Environment Facility on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7- ICCD/CRIC(14)/6	Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3- ICCD/CRIC(14)/7	Refinement of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework in view of the post-2015 development agenda: strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/8	Refinement of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework in view of the post-2015 development agenda: strategic objective 4. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/9	The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and progress indicators, methodology and reporting procedures. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/10	Additional procedures and institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(14)/MISC.1	Compilation of comments provided by Parties on Non-paper 2: “Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention”

## Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its twelfth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2	Outcomes and policy-oriented recommendations from the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Report by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3- ICCD/CRIC(14)/7	Refinement of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework in view of the post-2015 development agenda: strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4	Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology, including impacts from the previous conferences and recommendations for future institutional arrangements. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/5*	Implementation of UNCCD fellowship programme and evolution of the multi-stakeholder partnership governance model. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6	Science-Policy Interface: progress report and work programme 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7- ICCD/CRIC(14)/6	Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/8	Progress report on the UNCCD fellowship programme. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/9	Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2014–2017). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.1	Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.2	Assessment of the impacts of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st and 2nd Scientific Conferences in supporting the UNCCD decision-making process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.3*	Information on the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4	Information on the collaboration between the Science-Policy Interface and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5	Progress report on the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.6	Report on the implementation of UNCCD fellowship programme. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/MISC.1	Compilation of comments provided by Parties on Non-paper 1

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\* This document has been cancelled.

## Other documents available at the session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(11)/23	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eleventh session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(11)/23/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eleventh session: action taken
ICCD/COP(10)/31	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(10)/31/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(9)/18	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(9)/18/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(8)/16	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(8)/16/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(7)/16	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(7)/16/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session: action taken
ICCD/COP(6)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixth session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(6)/11/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(5)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session: proceedings
ICCD/COP(5)/11/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(4)/11/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourth session: action taken
ICCD/COP(3)/20/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session: action taken
ICCD/COP(2)/14/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session: action taken
ICCD/COP(1)/11/ Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session: action taken