



United Nations

ICCD/COP(13)/L.23



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: Limited
15 September 2017

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Thirteenth session

Ordos, China, 6–16 September 2017

Agenda item 3 (d)

Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

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

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted),

Recalling decision 7/COP.12,

Also recalling the importance that the Convention places on the role of women in the implementation of the Convention and the actions taken by Parties to support the participation of women,

Further recalling the actions of the secretariat, at the request of Parties, to promote gender in the implementation of the Convention through its policy-advocacy framework (decision 9/COP.10), and to mainstream gender issues at various levels involving multiple stakeholders (decision 9/COP.11),


Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted), and to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 15.3,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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Recognizing that the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted) requires enhanced action to support women’s effective participation in the implementation of the Convention, including in achieving land degradation neutrality,

Acknowledging that mainstreaming gender in the implementation of the Convention, including through voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting and implementation, decision-making and stakeholder engagement, will strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of action on the ground,

Emphasizing that the benefits gained from building and strengthening women’s and girls’ capacities, capabilities, and awareness in order to enhance their participation at all levels, and addressing women’s rights and access to, inter alia, economic and natural resources, ownership and control of land and other forms of property may foster more effective and efficient implementation of the Convention and enhance synergies and partnerships with other stakeholders,

1. *Adopts* the Gender Plan of Action¹ to support gender-responsive implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted) to strengthen the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender;

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

3. *Invites* parties and other stakeholders to use the gender plan of action and, based on lessons learned during the next biennium, to contribute to its refinement;

4. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to partner with the Rio conventions, UN Women and other relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and development partners to roll out the plan of action and to support Parties in piloting the plan of action and in enhancing synergies and promoting women’s and girls’ empowerment in the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Also requests* the UNCCD secretariat to:

(a) Subject to the availability of resources, facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD institutions and bodies, United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society, prior to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, on the effectiveness of the gender plan of action based on the piloting experiences;

(b) Report on the findings of their consultations to Parties and recommend possible amendments to the gender plan of action for Parties’ consideration at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties with view to further improving the plan of action and its implementation;

(c) Report on the implementation of this decision at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ Contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/19.