



United Nations

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## Convention to Combat Desertification

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### 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**

## Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 9/COP.12, decision 3/COP.12, decision 8/COP.9 and decision 9/COP.11, recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/195 entitled “Combating sand and dust storms” in 2015; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA2/21) resolution on “Sand and Dust Storms”, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/219 entitled “Combating sand and dust storms”, taking note of the global assessment of SDS produced by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Noting* that sand and dust storms are a challenge with impacts, among others, on infrastructure, transport, communication, agriculture, ecosystems and human health and transboundary impacts, that require institutional, technical and scientific responses, and that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries,

*Emphasizing* that consolidated and coordinated regional and national policies and action, as appropriate, on sand and dust storms can reduce the deterioration of health, well-being and livelihoods of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, associated with sand and dust storms and their impacts on sustainable economic growth,

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*Further emphasizing* that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

*Notes* that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes, and can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought,

*Recognizes* the Convention as an appropriate platform to address sand and dust storms,

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Use, as appropriate, the Policy Framework, on a voluntary basis, in policy development and implementation on sand and dust storms at national and regional or international levels;

(b) Mainstream sand and dust storm issues in national disaster risk reduction policies;

(c) Explore anthropogenic source mitigation in national voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting and options to integrate source mitigation measures into the national voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting, as appropriate;

(d) Promote cooperation on sand and dust storms and facilitate information exchange and knowledge sharing and transfer, as appropriate, in the affected areas;

2. *Requests*, subject to the availability of resources, the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies to collaborate with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations in the process of assisting Parties to implement the PFSDS, in particular anthropogenic SDS source mitigation and strengthening resilience.

3. *Invites*, subject to the availability of resources, the Science-Policy Interface to consider the issue of sand and dust storms as part of its work programme, and contribute to the review and, as appropriate, to the development of a UNCCD science-based communication on SDS.

4. *Invites* the relevant United Nations entities, as well as other concerned parties, to assist affected country Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on SDS,

5. *Invites* the secretariat to participate in United Nations System-wide coordination, where appropriate, to address SDS,

6. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the provisional agenda of its fourteenth session, under the item entitled “Effective implementation of the Convention at national, sub-regional and regional level”, a sub item entitled “Sand and Dust Storms”,

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report at the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision and follow up on SDS.