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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

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

Development and implementation of strategies through national action programmes to achieve the objectives of the Convention in light of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12 inviting countries to set national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets,

Also recalling decisions 7/COP.12 and XX/COP.13 (to be adopted under agenda item 2 (b) of the Conference of the Parties) on striving to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the scope of the Convention,

Recognizing the role of land degradation neutrality as a Sustainable Development Goal accelerator contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development beyond target 15.3,


Acknowledging countries' commitment to and lessons learned from the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting processes,

Considering that national action programmes are flexible and dynamic tools that respond to evolving national policies and priorities and international development agendas and corresponding opportunities,

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Recalling the recommendations from the ‘Evaluation of the effectiveness of national action programmes to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification’ conducted in 2015,

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Formulate data-based, quantifiable and time-bound voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities;

(b) Endorse these voluntary land degradation neutrality targets at the highest appropriate level;

(c) Use the concept of land degradation neutrality as one of the means to foster coherence among national policies, actions and commitments, including, inter alia, as appropriate, nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and restoration commitments;

(d) Identify the most effective mechanisms and best practices to achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into consideration the respective United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national action programmes;

2. *Further invites* Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals by:

(a) Fostering national-level synergies among the three Rio conventions;

(b) Strengthening national-level coordination and cooperation among those responsible for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, socioeconomic development, finance, food and water security, agriculture, environment, etc., as appropriate;

(c) Seeking to integrate their national action programmes and leverage the cross-cutting benefits of sustainable land management in national-level policies and programmes relating to poverty reduction, food and water security, agriculture, environment, finance, etc., as appropriate;

(d) Engaging all relevant stakeholders;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification bodies to:

(a) Continue to support Parties in their efforts to achieve land degradation neutrality, including the formulation and implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and the alignment of national action programmes with the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted);

(b) Continue to strengthen international cooperation for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including inter alia, by fostering synergies and increasing coherence among the three Rio conventions and other related initiatives contributing to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

4. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and Parties in implementing the activities mentioned in paragraph 3 above.