



United Nations

ICCD/CRIC(16)/L.2



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: Limited
11 September 2017

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Sixteenth session

Ordos, China, 7–13 September 2017

Agenda item 2 (a)

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

Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its fifteenth session

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 14/COP.12, 14/COP.11, 5/COP.8 and 3/COP.8,

Noting with concern that globally, desertification/land degradation and drought continue to occur at an alarming rate and that a paradigm shift is needed, and thereby *reaffirming* the urgency to increase financing for the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development provides a strong foundation for financing sustainable development and therefore the implementation of the Convention,

Also acknowledging the important role of the Changwon Initiative in strengthening the implementation of the Convention and *welcoming* the Initiative's continued role in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted),

Recognizing the unique role of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought in affected areas and the importance of these efforts to Parties in addressing Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 at the national and subnational level,

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Acknowledging the financing options highlighted by the Global Mechanism in the report “Opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the Convention and options to track finance in the context of future UNCCD reporting”,

Having considered input received through the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention,

Having also considered the views and suggestions of Parties on financing the implementation of the Convention expressed at the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the need expressed by Parties to mobilize additional financial resources for combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving voluntary land degradation neutrality targets from multiple sources, such as national budget allocations, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) (once operational), and the private sector,

Noting that Parties’ voluntary land degradation neutrality commitments and targets create new opportunities for resource mobilization by facilitating the development of transformative projects and programmes eligible for funding under several sources and mechanisms, including climate finance,

Acknowledging the importance of synergies among the Rio conventions for their effective contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through joint programming,

Also acknowledging the progress made in the establishment of the LDN Fund, spearheaded by the Global Mechanism,

1. *Invites* all Parties to make further efforts towards facilitating increased funding for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention, including leveraging additional funding from other sources, such as the private sector;

2. *Also invites* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so to seek to provide increased financial resources and other means for supporting developing countries and other affected countries in combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality, and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

3. *Further invites* multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions, bilateral development organizations, the Global Environment Facility, climate finance institutions including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, the LDN Fund, as well as non-governmental funding facilities, including foundations and private sector entities, to:

(a) Scale up financing for activities related to combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention, taking into consideration the multiple benefits of these investments and their contribution to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to climate change;

(b) Consider the introduction of land degradation neutrality within their investment frameworks and criteria in order to increase the impact of their investments;

4. *Encourages* affected country Parties that formulate voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets to:

(a) Increase efforts towards accessing available resources and financing opportunities, including climate finance, for combating desertification/land degradation and

drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Make land degradation neutrality investments a priority for engagement with providers of concessional finance, including the International Development Association, given that resilience has become an overarching theme for its financing, taking into consideration the multiple benefits of such investments;

(c) Develop transformative projects and programmes to achieve national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and advance the implementation of the Convention in an effort to move from pilot projects and the proliferation of small projects to increasing scale and impact;

(d) Increase efforts to further improve the investment climate and increase coherence among commitments, policies, institutions and investments contributing to achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

5. In order to combat desertification/land degradation and drought, achieve land degradation neutrality and advance the implementation of the Convention, *requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Continue to explore and develop innovative financing mechanisms and funding options, including for technical assistance in support of the preparation of transformative projects and programmes;

(b) Scale up Global Mechanism support to Parties in their efforts to develop and implement transformative projects and programmes in collaboration with international partners;

(c) Step up support, in collaboration with multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions, and climate finance institutions, including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, for the resource mobilization efforts of developing countries for financing;

6. *Further requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.
