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## Convention to Combat Desertification

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

#### Seventeenth session

Georgetown, Guyana, 28–30 January 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Assessment of Implementation: Strategic objectives 1 to 5**

## Progress made in setting voluntary national targets in support of land degradation neutrality implementation

### Report by the Global Mechanism

#### *Summary*

Decisions 2/COP.12 and 3/COP.12 integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality (LDN), into the implementation process of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and invite Parties to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN. The same decisions also request the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD bodies to develop guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiatives. In response to these decisions, the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD established the “LDN Target Setting Programme” (LDN TSP) in collaboration with the secretariat.

The thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) requested the secretariat, the GM of the UNCCD and other UNCCD bodies to continue supporting Parties in their efforts to achieve LDN, including the formulation and implementation of voluntary LDN targets (decision 2/COP.13), and to develop and implement transformative projects and programmes (decision 14/COP.13).

In line with these requests, this document reports on the results of the LDN TSP and provides relevant elements for consideration in the pursuit of LDN implementation and the achievement of the voluntary LDN targets set by Parties.

Finally, the report provides conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of Parties at the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

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## **I. Introduction: Background on the setting and implementation of land degradation neutrality targets**

### **A. Sustainable Development Goals and land degradation neutrality within the Convention**

1. In September 2015, the global community agreed on “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. Goal 15 urges countries 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”. SDG target 15.3 aims to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.

2. In October 2015, at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Parties endorsed SDG target 15.3, which includes the concept of land degradation neutrality (LDN), as a strong vehicle for driving the implementation of the Convention (decision 3/COP.12). In the same decision, the COP also requested the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD bodies to develop guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiatives. In response, the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD established the “LDN Target Setting Programme” (LDN TSP) in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat.

3. After COP 12, the secretariat assumed, as an observer to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators, the role of custodian agency for SDG indicator 15.3.1 (i.e. the proportion of land that is degraded over the total land area), which was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2017. The secretariat has taken the lead in monitoring progress towards achieving SDG target 15.3 in close synergy with the UNCCD reporting process. It produced, in consultation with the members of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on SDG indicator 15.3.1,<sup>1</sup> a metadata description<sup>2</sup> and Good Practice Guidance<sup>3</sup> related to this indicator and coherent with the approach adopted in decision 22/COP.11.

### **B. Decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session**

4. In September 2017, COP 13 further highlighted the importance of the LDN process to the UNCCD by:

(a) Inviting Parties to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities (decision 2/COP.13);

(b) Inviting Parties to ensure that LDN targets and the activities to achieve these targets are directly linked to their national SDG agendas and create leverage and synergies with their countries’ climate and biodiversity agendas (decision 3/COP.13);

(c) Encouraging Parties to develop transformative projects and programmes (TPPs) to achieve national voluntary LDN targets and advance the implementation of the

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Statistics Division.

<sup>2</sup> See: <<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-03-01.pdf>>.

<sup>3</sup> <[https://prais.unccd.int/sites/default/files/helper\\_documents/4-GPG\\_15.3.1\\_EN.pdf](https://prais.unccd.int/sites/default/files/helper_documents/4-GPG_15.3.1_EN.pdf)>.

Convention in an effort to move from pilot projects and a proliferation of small projects to increasing scale and impact (decision 14/COP.13); and

(d) Endorsing the scientific conceptual framework for LDN summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 and developed by the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI), and calling upon Parties pursuing LDN to consider such guidance, taking national circumstances<sup>4</sup> into account (decision 18/COP.13).

## **II. The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme: Objectives, building blocks, delivery, timeline, synergies and results**

### **A. Objectives**

5. On the basis of the decisions taken by COP 12, the GM of the UNCCD, in close cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat and with the support of 18 international partners,<sup>5</sup> established the LDN TSP to assist countries in formulating voluntary targets to achieve LDN.

### **B. Building blocks**

6. The LDN TSP had four building blocks:

(a) *Leveraging* LDN by catalysing its benefits and bringing it to the forefront of national agendas on, *inter alia*, climate change, forest and landscape restoration (FLR), biodiversity conservation, green growth and poverty eradication. Furthermore, the LDN TSP facilitated the active participation of a variety of institutions and interest groups, including government agencies, research institutions, civil society, the private sector and development partners that were involved in land-related issues;

(b) *Assessing* LDN by establishing a baseline and identifying land degradation drivers and trends. Furthermore, the LDN TSP supported the analysis of the legal and institutional environment relevant for LDN, as well as the land degradation trends, also identifying the main direct and indirect drivers behind these trends;

(c) *Setting* voluntary LDN targets and associated measures by defining the country's ambitions in terms of combating land degradation. Parties were invited to adopt these targets at the highest appropriate governmental level; and

(d) *Achieving* LDN by identifying opportunities for TPPs and innovative financing opportunities that can contribute to achieving the targets.

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<sup>4</sup> See: <[www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN\\_CF\\_report\\_web-english.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf)>.

<sup>5</sup> France, Germany, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Venezuela, the European Space Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Soil Reference and Information Centre – World Soil Information, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Soil Leadership Academy, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and World Resources Institute.

## C. Delivery

7. Considering both the high demand – with a total of 119 participating countries as of 30 September 2018 – and the level of technical engagement required to effectively support national LDN target setting processes, the scope of the LDN TSP has been a programme of unprecedented size in the UNCCD context.

8. The LDN TSP became operational thanks to the financial support made available after COP 12 by Turkey (through the Ankara Initiative), the Republic of Korea (through the Changwon Initiative), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Enabling Activities (through the LDN TSP articulated with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as implementing agency and the GM of the UNCCD as executing agency).

9. The operations of the LDN TSP mainly focused on the direct provision of services to participating countries related to: (a) *technical support*; (b) *data provision*; and (c) *financial and administrative support*.

10. Regarding the provision of *technical support*, key documents were prepared to guide LDN TSP implementation.<sup>6</sup> At country level, the programme was delivered through regional and country delivery teams, which typically included a dedicated national expert and provided direct technical support for a national process that was led by the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and the national LDN team.

11. In terms of *data provision*, as per decision 22/COP.11, the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD provided countries with default data to be used in the absence of, or to complement and enhance national data sources related to, the following indicators: i) trends in land cover (vegetative land cover) developed by the European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative on Land Cover;<sup>7</sup> ii) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land (land productivity dynamics) developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission for the World Atlas of Desertification;<sup>8</sup> and iii) trends in carbon stocks above and below ground (soil organic carbon stock) developed by the International Soil Reference and Information Centre – World Soil Information.<sup>9</sup> Selected Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for which data was available were provided with higher resolution data. Together with this data, countries received the “Methodological note to set national voluntary LDN targets using the UNCCD indicator framework”, describing the technical details of how to use national or default data sets for LDN baseline and target setting.

12. The provision of *financial and administrative support* was led by the Administrative Services unit of the secretariat. The unit coordinated the financial and administrative support to participating countries based on established “LDN TSP Business Standards” and facilitated, in particular, the logistical and financial management related to the organization of national consultation meetings and workshops as well as related in-country travel. Furthermore, it facilitated the management of contracts of LDN TSP consultants.

13. Beyond the provision of these services, the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD established the LDN TSP website,<sup>10</sup> set up a helpdesk platform for communication with

<sup>6</sup> Key documents of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process, including the technical guidelines for voluntary target setting at country level, “Land Degradation Neutrality – A Technical Guide”, and the brochure on “Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality at the country level: Building blocks for LDN target setting” are available at: <[www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme](http://www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme)>.

<sup>7</sup> <[www.esa-landcover-cci.org/](http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/)>.

<sup>8</sup> <<https://wad.jrc.ec.europa.eu/landproductivity>>.

<sup>9</sup> <[https://soilgrids.org/#!/layer=TAXNWRB\\_250m&vector=1](https://soilgrids.org/#!/layer=TAXNWRB_250m&vector=1)>.

<sup>10</sup> <[www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme](http://www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme)>.

participating countries, and organized numerous webinars to build the necessary capacities of the LDN TSP country delivery team members as well as to promote knowledge-sharing among participant countries.

14. An evaluation of the LDN TSP has recently been initiated by the UNCCD Evaluation Office in cooperation with IUCN as the GEF implementing agency of the LDN Target Setting Project funded under GEF 6 Enabling Activities. This ongoing evaluation will: i) provide evidence of the results achieved to meet accountability requirements, and ii) promote learning and knowledge sharing through the achieved results and lessons learned, particularly for the next steps in advancing LDN in the context of the UNCCD.

## **D. Timeline**

15. The LDN TSP was organized in four phases:

(a) *Launch phase* (November 2015–July 2016): The internal LDN TSP team was established and the helpdesk platform was made operational. A series of regional inception workshops were delivered to train national UNCCD focal points and national LDN TSP consultants on the scientific conceptual framework for LDN and the LDN target setting process;

(b) *Implementation phase* (July 2016–June 2018): The Programme focused on delivering operational country support for the establishment of LDN baselines, LDN targets and associated measures;

(c) *Consolidation phase* (July 2018–January 2019): The Programme analysed the results achieved and the lessons learned from participating countries' experiences in time for reporting at CRIC 17, while continuing to support the still ongoing target setting processes in several countries, while gradually phasing out its operations;

(d) *Completion and evaluation phase* (February–June 2019): The Programme will continue supporting the few remaining countries in the final phase of the LDN target setting process, and complete relevant internal Programme evaluation and donor reporting activities.

## **E. Synergies**

16. The LDN TSP promoted synergies with multiple global, regional and national initiatives. Examples include:

(a) The UNCCD reporting process, as the reporting templates and Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System were developed based on the lessons learned from the LDN TSP, including the processing of default data related to the UNCCD biophysical indicators;

(b) The Global Support Programme II, funded by the GEF, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed by the GM and the GEF-funded and UNEP-implemented and executed Umbrella Programme for Enabling Activities in Support of the UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process;

(c) The GEF-funded project, "Enabling the use of global data sources to assess and monitor land degradation at multiple scales", a collaboration between Conservation International, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Lund University, which supported the development of Trends.Earth<sup>11</sup> as a tool to help countries set LDN

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<sup>11</sup> <<http://trends.earth/docs/en/#>>.

baselines and understand land degradation trends using national and/or default global data sets;

(d) Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on LDN target setting in SIDS, including capacity-building on the application of Collect Earth,<sup>12</sup> and in several other LDN TSP participating countries;

(e) The incorporation of national REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) data in national LDN baselines, which was particularly valuable to strengthen forest-related data.

17. Furthermore, the LDN TSP has encouraged countries to align the LDN target setting process with related initiatives, such as the Aichi targets adopted under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) process, the Bonn Challenge and related initiatives (i.e. the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative 20x20), the Nationally Determined Contributions articulated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, and relevant national strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

## F. Results<sup>13</sup>

18. As of 30 September 2018, 119 countries had participated in the LDN TSP (see Annex). Seventy-seven countries have established LDN targets and associated measures, and 46 of those have been formally adopted by the government. Governmental adoption varies between inner-ministerial and inter-ministerial mechanisms.

19. LDN leverage plans were developed in more than 70 per cent of the participating countries. Strategic entry points and actions to leverage LDN identified in the plans include alignment and synergies with national development plans, environment and/or agricultural sector plans and policies, nationally determined contributions, climate change adaptation plans, country-specific commitments under the Bonn Challenge and national SDG processes, among others.

20. Consultation mechanisms, so-called “LDN national working groups”, were established in more than 80 per cent of the participating countries, often capitalizing on existing coordination mechanisms, for example related to the UNCCD, UNFCCC, and/or CBD, sustainable land management, the SDG national agendas, or FLR.

21. Most countries have set LDN baselines. For the establishment of LDN baselines, countries took national available data sets into account as well as the default data made available from global datasets. According to the 67 final LDN TSP reports received so far, 64 per cent of the countries only used default data to set the LDN baseline, while 36 per cent used national data for at least one LDN indicator.

22. All countries contextualized the LDN baseline by identifying drivers of land degradation, taking the legal and institutional environment and land degradation trends into account. The main identified direct drivers include deforestation; unsustainable land use management; expansion of agricultural, industrial and urban areas; mining activities and unsustainable land-use planning. The main indirect drivers identified by countries include

<sup>12</sup> <[www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth.html](http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth.html)>.

<sup>13</sup> NOTE: The figures contained in this section are based on the information available by the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process as of 30 September 2018. These may differ from the figures resulting from the analysis of the information reported by country Parties through the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System, contained in document ICCD/CRIC(17)/2 related to strategic objective one.

population pressure; poverty; unclear land tenure; inadequate governance, institutional settings and policies (including taxes, subsidies, incentives) as well as inadequate farm inputs (including access to credit); lack of education, access to knowledge and extension services; and climate variability and change (e.g., drought, floods).

23. LDN targets set by countries vary considerably, which reflects the wide range of land degradation processes taking place at different scales, and the richness of the LDN vision defined by UNCCD country Parties, taking their respective national circumstances into account. Overall, a majority of countries participating in the LDN TSP have successfully articulated LDN targets that: i) are national in scope; ii) are aligned with a 2030 timeline, taking the timelines of both the SDG Agenda and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework into account; iii) contain defined quantitative elements that allow for its monitoring (i.e., percentages, area units, etc.); and iv) combine (sub)targets aimed at least at two of the three elements of the LDN response hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reverse).

24. Countries identified a comprehensive set of technical and policy LDN measures to address the above-mentioned drivers. The range of LDN measures identified by participating countries varies according to their national circumstances. To address direct drivers of land degradation, countries typically articulated technical measures to promote reforestation, sustainable agriculture, forest conservation, improved soil organic content, and increased land productivity. To address indirect drivers of land degradation, countries typically articulated measures to strengthen national institutional capacities and/or regulatory frameworks, including measures to incorporate the LDN concept in (sub)national land use planning processes.

25. Many countries mapped ongoing LDN-related initiatives at country level and identified specific opportunities to upscale existing projects or develop new LDN implementation projects, including possible TPPs and pre-identifying possible financing options and implementing partners. Areas of intervention include sustainable land/landscape/forest management, watershed management, renewable energy, agriculture, rangeland management, market access and trade and private sector involvement. Possible funding sources include the GEF, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, regional development banks and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, either focusing on land degradation or seeking direct synergies with climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, biodiversity conservation, FLR, DRR, etc.

### **III. Land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes**

26. Based on COP guidance, the GM of the UNCCD has been advancing in facilitating LDN implementation by supporting countries, in close cooperation with relevant implementation partner entities, to develop a portfolio of TPPs to help achieve the voluntary LDN targets. In this context, and with the available resources from voluntary contributions mobilized with this aim, the GM of the UNCCD is focusing its efforts on assisting country Parties having requested support in developing early-stage project/programme concept notes to help achieve the voluntary LDN targets set. These concept notes can be further developed into full project proposals that may be submitted in cooperation with relevant implementation partners with direct access to suitable funding entities.

27. Recognizing that TPPs are a new work-stream and acknowledging the evolving nature of the initiative, the GM of the UNCCD is defining a set of services to facilitate relevant project and programme development activities. In this regard, the TPP support mainly involves technical support in developing a TPP concept note, taking into account

the principles of the LDN scientific conceptual framework and the TPP opportunities previously identified in the context of the LDN TSP.

28. The GM of the UNCCD has also developed a draft checklist for LDN TPP in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat.<sup>14</sup> The checklist is a tool prepared to help country-level project developers and their technical and financial partners to design effective LDN TPP. It is not prescriptive and aims to ensure consistency and completeness in LDN implementation, leading to a positive transformation. Experts serving on the SPI of the UNCCD conducted a scientific review of the checklist.

29. As of 30 September 2018, taking into account the mapping of relevant TPP opportunities under the LDN TSP and available resources, the GM of the UNCCD has supported/is supporting the following initiatives related to the development of TPP:

- (a) Preparing TPP concept notes in countries such as Cape Verde, Colombia and the Philippines, as well as SIDS in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean;
- (b) Mainstreaming gender in TPP initiatives in countries such as Armenia, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Philippines and Caribbean SIDS;
- (c) Developing fully fledged project proposals in countries such as Armenia and Turkey; and
- (d) Establishing close synergies with the 3S initiative<sup>15</sup> of the UNCCD to jointly prepare project/programme concept notes in countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria.

#### IV. Lessons Learned

30. The LDN TSP has effectively supported participating countries in: i) shaping voluntary commitments to achieve LDN in participating countries; ii) unlocking the potential of land in achieving other SDGs; iii) strengthening policy coherence among national policies and commitments; iv) engaging key stakeholders across sectors; v) enhancing national capacities to manage land-related data; vi) setting baselines using the best available data to provide a systematic approach to monitor progress towards LDN; vii) providing an avenue for identifying key measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation; and viii) facilitating peer learning and strengthening coordination among relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.

31. While LDN targets were adopted at the level of the focal point ministry (i.e. vice-minister or minister) in many countries, some countries brought the adoption of LDN targets to the level of inter-ministerial structure, Cabinet Council or the Head of State. Adoption of the LDN targets by the inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral mechanisms, in general, evokes wider responses and builds a stronger momentum for LDN leverage.

32. The LDN target setting exercise identified areas requiring enhanced capacity-building at country level, including for the effective monitoring of LDN targets. There is a need to provide expertise, tools and training to enhance national capacity to undertake quantitative assessments and the corresponding mapping of their degraded lands. Considering that the monitoring of LDN and SDG indicator 15.3.1 relies, to a large extent, on Earth Observations and geospatial information, training is required on the use of available tools for accessing, processing, analysing and interpreting Earth Observations data as well as on data validation techniques. Such training would ideally target not only

<sup>14</sup> <<https://knowledge.unccd.int/checklistLDNTPP>>.

<sup>15</sup> <[www.unccd.int/actions/sustainability-stability-security](http://www.unccd.int/actions/sustainability-stability-security)>.

the main entity responsible for LDN implementation and reporting to the UNCCD, but also National Statistical Offices (NSOs) responsible for SDG monitoring/implementation and relevant specialized agencies.

33. The LDN TSP helped the LDN country teams to link to the national SDGs process. Despite the positive efforts, the integration of LDN indicators in the national SDG framework remains weak. Lack of i) comparable national data and ii) expertise at country level are among the challenges faced by countries.

34. The limited number of countries that used national data to set the LDN baseline in the context of the LDN TSP demonstrates a general lack of national data, especially on land productivity and soil organic carbon. While global data sources provide a viable alternative in the absence of other suitable national datasets, the development of harmonized/standardized national methods for quantitative mapping of land cover, land productivity and soil carbon content provides the best basis for the objective assessment and monitoring of land degradation, with the ability to capture drivers of change that are important within a specific country.

35. LDN TPPs have the potential to effectively support countries in moving towards implementation by making LDN targets a reality on the ground. During the TPP process, increasing dialogue and coordination between all stakeholders, from government to implementing partners and funding sources, is critical to ensure successful LDN implementation at country level. Achievement of LDN targets will require increased efforts to incorporate the LDN concept in national and local land use planning processes. Special attention must be paid to gender mainstreaming in developing gender responsive LDN TPP.

## V. Conclusions and Recommendations

36. **The following are conclusions and recommendations for possible consideration by the Parties at CRIC 17:**

(a) **Encourage Parties to regularly review the LDN targets formulated and the progress made towards achieving these targets. Request the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD to support Parties in this endeavour through targeted capacity building. Request the GM of the UNCCD to take stock of LDN implementation at all levels to identify and disseminate good practices;**

(b) **Also encourage Parties to fully exploit the opportunities identified in the LDN leverage plans by integrating LDN targets in national planning and monitoring systems, including national SDGs frameworks, fostering policy coherence, enhancing synergies between voluntary LDN targets and other commitments (e.g. restoration, climate and biodiversity) and tapping into innovative finance such as climate finance. Request the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD to support Parties in this endeavour;**

(c) **Further encourage Parties and request the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD to continue providing successful and innovative cases/practices/stories of LDN leverage online in order to facilitate cross-country learning, including integrating LDN into national policies and strategies and building synergies with other national commitments, including the SDG framework and awareness raising campaigns;**

(d) **Encourage Parties to integrate LDN data into their national spatial data infrastructure in collaboration with NSOs and relevant specialized agencies to ensure coherence with the SDG reporting process and long term data curation;**

(e) Invite the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), under the framework of its GEO LDN initiative, to provide expertise, tools and training to build national capacities for the use of Earth Observation in LDN planning, implementation and monitoring, and assist with the further development of quality standards, data analytics and protocols for the indicators, with particular emphasis on bridging national to local scale in order to enhance project-level implementation and linkages to national reporting;

(f) Encourage Parties to enhance the linkages between national spatial data infrastructure and national land administration systems to make relevant LDN environmental data more readily available for land use planning processes;

(g) Also encourage Parties to develop country-level partnerships, leading to the design of TPPs with the support of relevant international partners, multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions and climate finance institutions. Request the GM of the UNCCD to support Parties, international partners, multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions, and climate finance institutions in this endeavour. Also request the GM of the UNCCD to continue developing innovative finance approaches in support of relevant LDN implementation initiatives in a synergistic manner;

(h) Further encourage Parties, relevant international partners, multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions and climate finance institutions to use the checklist for LDN TPP to underpin the design of effective LDN interventions.

## Annex

### **List of countries participating in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme as of 30 September 2018**

#### **Africa (Annex I)**

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Botswana
5. Burkina Faso
6. Burundi
7. Cabo Verde
8. Cameroon
9. Central African Republic
10. Chad
11. Comoros
12. Côte d'Ivoire
13. Democratic Republic of the Congo
14. Egypt
15. Equatorial Guinea
16. Eritrea
17. Ethiopia
18. Gabon
19. Gambia
20. Ghana
21. Guinea
22. Guinea-Bissau
23. Kenya
24. Lesotho
25. Liberia
26. Madagascar
27. Malawi
28. Mali
29. Mauritania
30. Mauritius
31. Morocco
32. Mozambique
33. Namibia
34. Niger
35. Nigeria
36. Republic of the Congo

37. Rwanda
38. Sao Tome and Principe
39. Senegal
40. Seychelles
41. Sierra Leone
42. Somalia
43. South Africa
44. South Sudan (Republic of)
45. Sudan
46. Swaziland (Kingdom of Eswatini)
47. Togo
48. Uganda
49. United Republic of Tanzania
50. Zambia
51. Zimbabwe

**Asia (Annex II)**

52. Bangladesh
53. Bhutan
54. Cambodia
55. China
56. India
57. Indonesia
58. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
59. Iraq
60. Jordan
61. Kazakhstan
62. Kuwait
63. Kyrgyzstan
64. Lao People's Democratic Republic
65. Lebanon
66. Mongolia
67. Nepal
68. Niue
69. Pakistan
70. Papua New Guinea
71. Philippines
72. Samoa
73. Sri Lanka
74. Syrian Arab Republic
75. Thailand
76. Timor-Leste
77. Uzbekistan
78. Viet Nam

**Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex III)**

79. Antigua and Barbuda
80. Argentina
81. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
82. Brazil
83. Chile
84. Colombia
85. Costa Rica
86. Dominica
87. Dominican Republic
88. Ecuador
89. El Salvador
90. Grenada
91. Guatemala
92. Guyana
93. Haiti
94. Jamaica
95. Mexico
96. Nicaragua
97. Paraguay
98. Peru
99. Republic of Panama
100. St. Kitts and Nevis
101. St. Lucia
102. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
103. Suriname
104. Trinidad and Tobago
105. Uruguay
106. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

**Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV) & Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)**

107. Armenia
108. Azerbaijan
109. Belarus
110. Bosnia and Herzegovina
111. Georgia
112. Italy
113. Montenegro
114. Republic of Moldova
115. Russian Federation
116. Serbia
117. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
118. Turkey
119. Ukraine