

Decision 13/COP.11

Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 13/COP.9, decision 4/COP.10, decision 13/COP.10 and decision 15/COP.10,

Taking into account decision 2/COP.11 on strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment and implementation of action programmes with The Strategy and decision 14/COP.11 on assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention,

Having reviewed document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1,

Cognizant of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) comprehensive communication strategy,

Expressing concerns about the reliability and representativeness of information reported on operational objective 1, particularly the total percentage of population informed,

Acknowledging the effort made by countries and other stakeholders in raising awareness on the challenges of communicating the term “desertification” to the general public,

Stressing the need to strengthen messages on the objectives of the Convention and The Strategy for more effective awareness-raising activities,

Also stressing the importance of targeting policymakers, so that awareness-raising leads to concrete actions that benefit affected populations and ecosystems,

Underlining the importance of sustained technical and financial investments required for desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring systems, and *recognizing* the support already provided by country Parties and technical and financial organizations to several countries and subregions for the establishment of national desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring systems and for improving national capacity,

Also underlining the need to look into the socioeconomic dynamics that drive land-use patterns and land degradation processes at local level as part of desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring systems,

Recognizing that institutional coordination at national level and the use of different reporting formats and timelines represent challenges for the development of a common reporting system under the Rio conventions, as demonstrated by the Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions project,

Stressing the need for capacity-building among civil society organizations to be able to mobilize resources and access funds, and further engage in the reporting process,

Acknowledging the linkage between building national capacities and obtaining future financial resources following national action programme alignment as well as the importance of increasing focus and research into resource needs for capacity-building,

Also acknowledging the work of the Intersessional Working Group on the Mid-term Evaluation of The Strategy (IWG) and the recommendations contained in its report (ICCD/COP(11)/21),

Operational objective 1: advocacy, awareness-raising and education

1. *Invites* Parties which reported a low percentage of national awareness on desertification, land degradation and drought and its synergies to strengthen their efforts in order to meet the global target set by decision 13/COP.9⁶ for the consolidated performance indicator 1 (CONS-O-1), taking into account their national circumstances and in accordance with the mandate of the UNCCD;
2. *Also invites* Parties to assess and increase the effectiveness of their means of communication on desertification, land degradation and drought-related issues with a view to reaching larger audiences and raising not only the profile of desertification, land degradation and drought, but also the profile of the Convention;
3. *Encourages* Parties to:
 - (a) Strengthen linkages among national stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the media, private sector, and local and national governments in order to complement the awareness-raising activities undertaken by them;
 - (b) Streamline their awareness-raising efforts into national communication strategies in order to set priorities and key messages;
 - (c) Use mass media and information and communication technologies for further outreach, taking into account the effectiveness of local and alternative media in reaching rural and urban populations;
 - (d) Explore ways to easily communicate the term “desertification” to the general public, while sending a positive message on sustainable land management;
 - (e) Promote integration of desertification, land degradation and drought within the school curriculum on environment and natural resources, and to facilitate, where relevant, capacity-building for teachers to implement the curriculum;
 - (f) Support capacity-building for communities in order to mainstream environmental and land degradation issues into local activities and plans;
 - (g) Increase awareness-raising events at subregional and regional levels;
4. *Encourages* the secretariat to enhance the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal to increase access to databases on lessons learned and best practices in advocacy, awareness-raising and education, consistent with decision 17/COP.11 on the consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention;
5. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Governments and institutions in a position to do so to increase the support provided for awareness-raising and the participation of civil society representatives in UNCCD meetings, including through contributions to the Supplementary Fund;

⁶ By 2018, 30 per cent of the global population is informed about desertification, land degradation and drought and desertification, land degradation and drought synergies with climate change and biodiversity.

Operational objective 3: science, technology and knowledge

6. *Encourages* affected country Parties to increase their efforts to establish and/or strengthen desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring and evaluation and to strive, as appropriate, to include these issues in existing national monitoring systems, taking into account their national circumstances;
7. *Also encourages* affected country Parties to strengthen national support for desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring and evaluation systems by investing in capacity-building and bridging the gap between monitoring needs at local and national levels in order to increase their sustainability;
8. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Governments, developing countries in position to do so, and relevant technical and financial organizations to provide additional support to affected country Parties for the establishment and/or strengthening of desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring and evaluation, and, as appropriate, the inclusion of these issues into existing national monitoring systems, and to harmonize their interventions at national and local levels in order to avoid duplication and maximize the effective use of available resources;
9. *Also invites* developed country Parties, other Governments, developing countries in position to do so, and relevant technical and financial organizations to share the lessons learned with regard to the obstacles and challenges encountered in supporting national environmental and desertification, land degradation and drought monitoring initiatives;
10. *Urges* Parties to strengthen coordination and communication among the focal points of the Rio conventions in order to increase national support and efficiency in implementation at the ground level;

Operational objective 4: capacity-building

11. *Encourages* affected country Parties to further mainstream desertification, land degradation and drought issues in national capacity-building initiatives carried out by science, technology and research institutions;
12. *Also encourages* Parties to support the involvement of civil society organizations in the national reporting process and to assist them in developing the relevant capacities when required, particularly with regard to resource mobilization and access to funding;
13. *Invites* developed country Parties and technical and financial international organizations, including the Global Environment Facility, to provide further support to those affected country Parties with desertification, land degradation and drought-related capacity-building initiatives in order to effectively implement the Convention;
14. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to assist affected country Parties in assessing their financial needs for capacity-building, including through the integrated financial strategy exercise, integrating them into an investment framework and sourcing the required financial resources;
15. *Decides* to include a review and assessment of progress made in response to this decision in the programme of work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions.

*9th plenary meeting
26 September 2013*