

Decision 15/COP.13

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 and article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Considering that the reporting process is an extensive and time-consuming process involving many institutions and stakeholders at national level,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.12, 15/COP.12 and 7/COP.13,

1. *Requests* further guidance from and the continuation of capacity-building measures by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat and other relevant bodies, institutions and organizations that aim at assisting Parties in efficiently using the work of different institutions directly or indirectly involved in providing data for the forthcoming reporting period at national level, including guidance and capacity-building measures on approaches available to establish monitoring systems for reporting to the UNCCD through the Global Support Programme;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to consider further simplifying the reporting templates and other reporting tools for future reporting processes, including making the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) platform more user friendly;
3. *Decides* to approve a four-year frequency for UNCCD reporting for countries to provide information on the strategic objectives and the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to provide the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention with a summary or synthesis of qualitative information submitted by Parties with a view to enabling the Bureau to select topics and/or themes of general interest for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 5 below;
5. *Invites* the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to include in its work programme the selection of topics or themes for interactive sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention which will be based on the qualitative information submitted by Parties on the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to include on the agenda of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, with the assistance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, where appropriate, opportunities for development partners to share their experiences in implementing the Convention and/or providing support for implementation;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and *invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate their respective support at the global, regional and national level (through the Global Support Programme II and umbrella projects) in order to provide targeted and timely support to capacity-building for reporting;

8. *Considers* the need for a specific indicator for the strategic objective on drought contained in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and *requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to assist in the work relating to the establishment of such a monitoring framework;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, as the custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1, to use the information submitted to it by Parties in their national reports that is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and to continue to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies and capacity building approaches for reporting on the relevant indicators;

10. *Considers* the proposed approach and timeline for forthcoming reporting on progress under the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

11. *Requests* the Convention institutions to finalize all necessary reporting tools for the forthcoming reporting process starting in November 2017.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017*