

Decision 16/COP.11

The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and progress indicators, methodology and reporting procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention,

Also recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of the Convention,

Further recalling decision 14/COP.10,

Recognizing that reporting helps countries to engage in national-level assessments on progress made in the implementation of the Convention and that it benefits national processes and, in particular, national planning,

Also recognizing that information submitted by countries and compiled through the performance review and assessment of implementation system is the only quantitative source that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) can rely on, and which was used to inform the global review undertaken by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its ninth and eleventh sessions, as well as the mid-term evaluation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

Further recognizing that national reporting under the UNCCD and, in particular, indicator-based reporting, is a long-term effort and needs capacity-building, technical and financial support,

Taking note of documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/15 and ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.4,

Also taking note of document ICCD/COP(11)/21,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and ICCD/CRIC(11)/19/Add.1 and in particular the recommendations made by Parties with regard to the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties,

Having also reviewed document ICCD/CRIC(12)/7,

Mindful of the limited number of national reports received in the 2012–2013 reporting process and *recognizing* the need to improve the quantity and the quality of information provided to the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention in order to make the review process more effective,

Aware of the need to ensure consistency of the reporting process and to implement adjustments in the methodological structure of the system in order to obtain coherent information by the end of 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), while improving performance and user-friendliness of the performance review and assessment of implementation system,

Aware of decision 22/COP.11 on advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, and in particular its annex containing the refinements to the provisionally adopted progress indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy,

Further aware of decision 20/COP.11 on the date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to prepare revised guidelines and templates for reporting on the basis of an analysis, including cost-efficiency analysis, of the information currently requested, the level of response by Parties and other reporting entities, including the completeness of sections of the report, its actual use according to the analytical framework, and its utility in the review process – both at national and global levels;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to simplify the performance review and assessment of implementation system, including the requirements for financial reporting, and reduce the overall number of performance indicators, while not adding any new indicators, in order to reduce the overall reporting burden on Parties and other reporting entities;
3. *Invites* the secretariat to pay particular attention to the e-SMART (economic – Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Relevant –Time-bound) criteria and results of the previous reporting process when reducing the number of indicators;
4. *Requests* the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fourteenth session to consider the possibility of requesting some entities to investigate possible new indicators;
5. *Also requests* the secretariat to improve the reporting format and enhance the usability of online reporting, so it can also be used as an effective tool for communication, awareness-raising and advocacy at national and international levels;
6. *Further requests* the secretariat to develop special narrative sections to report on additional voluntary indicators and/or specific actions taken by countries to combat desertification, land degradation and drought;
7. *Urges* the secretariat to improve the functioning of the performance review and assessment of the implementation system database, as well as the way data is extracted and classified for the preliminary analysis, and implement plans to establish a public interface that allows for dynamic and analytical online functions;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to continue improving the performance review and assessment of the implementation system portal in order to address some technical issues that occurred during the current reporting exercise, inter alia, increasing its user-friendliness and language accessibility, as well as implementing low-cost improvements with regard to data quality within the system;
9. *Also requests* the secretariat to ensure that data and information from the reporting process are available and accessible to all, especially at the national and local levels;
10. *Further requests* the secretariat to make available indicator values derived from global datasets through pre-populated performance review and assessment of implementation system forms for those indicators for which global datasets are available, including the development of guidelines and standardized methodologies for the Parties;
11. *Further requests* the secretariat to explore mechanisms and a data quality framework, including validation checks of data received and the use of quality standards and procedures in the analysis of information, prior to the review by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, in order to increase the reliability of information and the trust of end-users;
12. *Urges* country Parties and subregional and regional reporting entities, as well as relevant United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations, to compile and submit the required information for the next reporting and review process in a timely manner, and in compliance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on communication of information and review of implementation;

13. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to improve its templates, guidelines and analysis of information received through the standard financial annex and project and programme sheet in order to match the information compiled through the performance indicators on operational objective 5 and – to the extent possible – the progress indicators on strategic objective 4, and to simplify reporting, including by reducing the overall number of required fields;
14. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism to simplify reporting on financial flows and seek to the extent possible synergies with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's reporting framework;
15. *Invites* affected country Parties, even if the national action programme alignment process has not yet been completed, to establish voluntary national targets – consistent with the global targets identified by the Conference of the Parties – to measure progress in achieving the priorities established in the national action programme;
16. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in revising reporting templates and guidelines for developed country Parties on strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5, to include the possibility of using existing data systems;
17. *Invites* reporting entities to plan the required data acquisition on performance and progress indicators over the upcoming reporting cycles, and to maintain databases, or a record of existing databases containing the data collected and reported on, as well as information on technical, economic, social and environmental aspects related to desertification, as appropriate;
18. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to refer Parties to sources of technical support and information relative to relevant database management;
19. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with Parties, regional coordination mechanisms, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, to undertake capacity-building activities on the alignment of national action programmes, performance and progress reporting in each region or subregion, including, inter alia, regional workshops, online consultations and distance learning, and to report on these activities during the 2014–2015 reporting cycle;
20. *Further requests* the secretariat and interested stakeholders to facilitate coordination of training and technical assistance for national action programme alignment and reporting at the national and subregional levels in order to promote cost-effectiveness;
21. *Invites* development partners and financial institutions, particularly the Global Environment Facility, to complement the enabling activities funding with targeted capacity building in order to ensure a satisfactory level of reporting under the Convention;
22. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology as required, to provide guidance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in the implementation of the present decision;
23. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the next session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on the implementation of the present decision.

*9th plenary meeting
26 September 2013*