

Decision 17/COP.11

Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 26 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 3/COP.8 as well as decisions 1/COP.9, 11/COP.9 and 12/COP.9 and the specific provisions contained therein on the compilation and dissemination of best practices in the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling further its decisions 15/COP.10 and 21/COP.10,

Having considered document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1, as well as documents ICCD/CRIC(12)/5 and ICCD/CRIC(12)/4-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/7 and Corr.1,

Underlining the importance of ensuring that the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies function in an efficient and coordinated manner in supporting Parties in their implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), and *welcoming* the efforts of the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology to ensure coordination with respect to the issue of knowledge management and best practices,

Recognizing the need for information on best practices in sustainable land management to be consolidated and made available in a centralized best practice repository or through a data sharing initiative to prevent duplication and enable comparisons between countries, particularly with regard to the database of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation, with a view to facilitating comparisons between data at global level through standard data collection and dissemination,

Being aware that making data reported through the performance review and assessment of implementation system portal publically available and easily accessible would bring many benefits, including being able to connect with other environmental processes and forums, raising awareness and advocating for sustainable land management approaches and practices,

Welcoming the identification of elements of a data access policy as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/13 and Add.1,

Compilation and dissemination of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation and compilation and dissemination of best practices, including those relating to other thematic topics as referred to in annex V of decision 13/COP.9

1. *Invites* the institutions which have expressed interest in supporting the work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on best practices

relating to thematic topic (a)⁷ (sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation) to continue their joint efforts in making such information available to decision makers and end-users, including through the continued development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate consultations among relevant organizations with a view to defining a framework for replicating the model developed for thematic topic (a) for all other thematic topics, including by providing access to best practice databases through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and through an open-ended informal working group that would meet virtually;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to complete the selection of the primary recommended database for thematic topic (a) and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to make arrangements immediately after the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties on modalities on its operation provided that the arrangements are cost-effective and sustainable;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to apply this framework, including by selecting a primary recommended database for each of the remaining thematic topics where possible, using criteria provided by the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology;

5. *Invites* the institutions participating in the continued development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal, including its components on best practices in sustainable land management to document the effectiveness of best practices and to contribute this information to the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal by contributing to one of the databases connected to it;

6. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to identify the services that primary recommended institutions and databases should deliver in order to assist the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in compiling and disseminating best practices on thematic topic (a), and the tentative period for which such services should be rendered;

7. *Invites* developed country Parties and technical and financial institutions to contribute to the continued development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the recommended databases;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to conclude the required administrative and legal arrangements in order to transfer data and information on best practices in sustainable land management, including adaptation, that are stored in the database of the performance review and assessment of implementation system;

9. *Invites* Parties and other reporting entities, including civil society organizations, to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) knowledge base on sustainable land management;

10. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to review the schedule contained in the annex to decision 15/COP.10, and to propose to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its thirteenth session a revised timeframe and the resource requirements for the compilation of best practices in accordance with the present decision;

⁷ The thematic topics mentioned throughout this decision were introduced to the process in annex V of decision 13/COP.9.

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue consultations with relevant institutions and organizations, including United Nations system organizations, with a view to identifying recommended databases for the remaining thematic topics of best practices;

12. *Further requests* the secretariat, when further developing the knowledge management infrastructure within the secretariat, including the performance review and assessment of implementation system portal and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal, to ensure the interoperability of the systems for the transferability of information, and to implement appropriate multilingual communication tools according to the resources available for these matters;

13. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate cooperation between partners of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the institution(s)/database(s) that will be tasked with the compilation and dissemination of relevant best practices pursuant to decision 15/COP.10;

Data accessibility

14. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a UNCCD policy to access data and information provided by Parties and other reporting entities, including through the performance review and assessment of implementation system, building on the practices and policies of other conventions and multilateral bodies, and to utilize intellectual property provisions to protect innovations submitted as best practices while implementing this data access policy;

Validation and ensuring the effective use of best practices

15. *Decides* that information and data on best practices should be reviewed for quality, relevance and accuracy at the appropriate level in order to make validated and highly-reliable data available;

Cooperation between the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology

16. *Decides* to review, taking into account decision 12/COP.9 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the mechanisms by which the two subsidiary bodies cooperate in the review of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy according to their respective mandates, and *invites* the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology to provide advice to Parties at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties in this regard;

17. *Invites* the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology to continue interacting on ways to promote coordinated knowledge management efforts and the analysis and dissemination of best practices, including through joint meetings of the two Bureaux, with a view to contributing to the development of an overall knowledge management infrastructure for the UNCCD, and *requests* the two Bureaux to facilitate these interactions;

18. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to focus its work on best practices relating to decision 13/COP.9 on the following three thematic topics (other topics may be included, if needed): (a) sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation; (c) desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable land

management monitoring and assessment/research; and (d) knowledge management and decision support;

19. *Also requests* the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and, as appropriate, the Global Mechanism, to focus their work on best practices relating to decision 13/COP.9, including increasing access through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal to information on the following thematic topics: (b) capacity building and awareness-raising; (e) policy, legislative and institutional framework; (f) funding and resource mobilization; and (g) participation, collaboration and networking;

20. *Further 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, to provide guidance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in the implementation of the present decision;

21. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to report to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present decision;

22. *Also requests* the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology to report jointly to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on the implementation of the present decision with regard to the specific provisions relating to the tasks of the subsidiary bodies and their Bureaux.

*10th plenary meeting
27 September 2013*