

Decision 2/COP.11

Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment and implementation of action programmes with The Strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c), of the Convention,

Also recalling article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Further recalling decision 3/COP.8 that requested affected country Parties to align their action programmes with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy),

Recalling decision 2/COP.10,

Aware of decision 16/COP.11,

Recognizing that national action programmes should be integrated into national development plans and take advantage of partnerships,

Acknowledging the need to facilitate and simplify access to financing, including that obtained through the Global Environment Facility and climate financing, in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention at local and national levels,

Recognizing the roles, differing concerns and shared interests of the private sector and grassroots organizations in the alignment process, and that their engagement is essential in the alignment and implementation of national action programmes,

Recalling the urgent need for national, subregional and regional action programme implementation to receive adequate, predictable and timely financing and funding from national, bilateral and multilateral financing,

Alignment of action programmes to combat desertification

1. *Urges* affected country Parties to intensify their efforts to formulate and/or align, as appropriate, and review and update, their national action programmes (NAPs) with The Strategy, and adopt them as a policy document, in order to achieve the target of all affected countries having an aligned national action programme by 2014;
2. *Invites* affected country Parties to use the guidelines for national action programme alignment provided by the secretariat and adapt them to their countries' needs;
3. *Also invites* affected country Parties to use available national monitoring systems and incorporate, as appropriate, sustainable land management monitoring into them, with the aim of helping to build capacity and providing inputs and technical support for decision-making;
4. *Encourages* affected country Parties, while aligning their national action programmes, to: (a) address specific gaps in sustainable land management; (b) ensure coherence with other national sectoral policies and development plans at all levels; (c) establish specific internal coordination mechanisms in order to drive the process and ensure

coherence during implementation; and (d) apply a participatory process that is inclusive of all involved stakeholders, including, inter alia, those from the private sector and civil society, taking into account decentralization and local governance issues;

5. *Also encourages* affected country Parties to develop action programmes at subnational level, as appropriate;

6. *Further encourages* affected country Parties to use the national action programme alignment process, including its added value and documented benefits such as geo-referenced data, as a means to raise the awareness of policymakers;

7. *Calls on* Parties, as needed, to consider the added value of the alignment process in the light of the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, including possible incentive schemes for alignment;

Facilitating the alignment of action programmes

8. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with Parties, Regional Coordination Mechanisms, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, to continue providing: support for the alignment of action programmes, including through capacity-building on national action programme alignment in each region or subregion, and to evaluate the effectiveness of these activities for 2014–2015; technical support; awareness-raising; and high-level political advocacy, which are key to an effective alignment process;

9. *Invites* the secretariat to further explore ways to promote awareness-raising;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to continue facilitating the use and improvement of effective tools to guide the alignment process that take into account changing government priorities and the need for monitoring and independently evaluating the process at national and regional levels;

11. *Also requests* the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its thirteenth session, to agree on a clear understanding of the integrated financing strategy/integrated investment framework processes and their relationships with the national action programme alignment process, ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the same, and to advise on the ways to integrate integrated financing strategies/integrated investment frameworks into the national action programme alignment process;

12. *Further requests* the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention to discuss at its thirteenth session a plan for the national action programme alignment process vis-à-vis the overall sustainable land management goals;

13. *Requests furthermore* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to present options to mobilize the resources and capacities required for the realization of the plan mentioned in paragraph 12 above at the national level;

14. *Invites* affected country Parties to adopt (1) a participatory approach to operational planning, the identification of resource mobilization opportunities, as appropriate, and the outlining of challenges such as gaps in technical and human capacity; and (2) a systematic approach to the realization of synergies between the Rio conventions at national level;

15. *Also invites* the Environmental Management Group and other relevant United Nations system partners to continue their work on a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and tackling land challenges, in order to ensure maximum impact from limited resources and to mainstream desertification/land degradation and drought;

Support to the alignment and implementation of action programmes

16. *Encourages* development partners and financial institutions to provide resources for capacity-building for national focal points on advocacy for the national action programmes to be fully integrated into the national development planning process, in partnership with affected developing country Parties, in order to facilitate national action programme implementation;
17. *Also encourages* developed country Parties, other Governments, and technical and financial institutions to provide affected developing country Parties with the required regional and subregional support and training for the alignment process, and *requests* the secretariat to help in the regional assessment of national action programmes;
18. *Further encourages* affected developing country Parties to use financial resources made available by the Global Environment Facility for enabling activities in order to formulate and/or align their national action programmes and to inform Convention institutions on possible support needed in this regard;
19. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Governments, and technical and financial organizations to identify and support joint actions aimed at fostering the national action programme formulation and alignment process, including incentives for the implementation of aligned action programmes;
20. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to continue to provide advice to help affected country Parties to access Global Environment Facility funds for the implementation of national action programmes;
21. *Calls upon* Parties to engage civil society and the private sector to support the effective implementation of the Convention through greater incentives for investment, including financial and market-based incentives;
22. *Invites* the private sector to join national coordinating bodies where they exist and to support the implementation of national action programmes;
23. *Encourages* affected country Parties to strengthen the roles of science and technology institutions and civil society organizations in the national action programme alignment process;
24. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Governments to increase their support to the affected developing country Parties and to facilitate synergistic mechanisms among all stakeholders in affected country Parties;
25. *Urges* those subregions and regions that already plan to align their subregional or regional action programmes to undertake the steps required to revise them in accordance with The Strategy and the requirements of the guidelines on national action programme alignment; and *also urges* those subregions and regions which still have no such plans to take steps to formulate them;
26. *Invites* development partners, financial institutions and Governments to provide further assistance to affected developing country Parties or subregional and regional entities for the formulation and alignment of subregional action programmes and regional action programmes, as well as for the preparation of reports according to the provisions of the Convention;
27. *Also invites* development partners, financial institutions and Governments to provide specific support for project development within the framework of subregional and regional action programmes, thereby fostering their implementation;

28. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, with the assistance of Regional Coordination Units, as appropriate, to improve the effectiveness of the communication with donor agencies, in order to support the formulation and/or alignment of action programmes in affected developing country Parties, subregions and regions;
29. *Also requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and Convention bodies to improve the effectiveness of collaboration with other Rio conventions at national, subregional and regional levels to support the formulation and/or alignment of action programmes;
30. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
26 September 2013*