

## Decision 31/COP.13

### Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 9/COP.12, decision 3/COP.12, decision 8/COP.9 and decision 9/COP.11,

*Recalling* the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/195 entitled “Combating sand and dust storms” from 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms and United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/219 entitled “Combating sand and dust storms”,

*Taking note* of the Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms produced by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

*Noting* that sand and dust storms are a challenge with impacts on, among others, infrastructure, transport, communication, agriculture, ecosystems and human health and transboundary impacts that require institutional, technical and scientific responses, and that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries,

*Emphasizing* that consolidated and coordinated regional and national policies and action, as appropriate, on sand and dust storms can reduce the deterioration of health, well-being and livelihoods of people; desertification, land degradation and deforestation; and the loss of biodiversity and land productivity associated with sand and dust storms and their impacts on sustainable economic growth,

*Further emphasizing* that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

*Notes* that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes, and can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought,

*Recognizes* the Convention as an appropriate platform to address sand and dust storms,

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Use, as appropriate, the Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms, on a voluntary basis, in policy development and implementation for sand and dust storms at national and regional or international levels;

(b) Mainstream sand and dust storms issues in national disaster risk reduction policies;

(c) Explore anthropogenic source mitigation in national voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and options to integrate source mitigation measures into national voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting, as appropriate;

(d) Promote cooperation on sand and dust storms and facilitate information exchange and knowledge sharing and transfer, as appropriate, in the affected areas;

2. *Requests*, subject to the availability of resources, the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies to collaborate with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations in the process of assisting Parties in implementing the Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms, in particular anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation and strengthening of resilience;

3. *Invites* the Science-Policy Interface, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the issue of sand and dust storms as part of its work programme and contribute to the review and, as appropriate, the development of a UNCCD science-based communication on sand and dust storms;

4. *Invites* the relevant United Nations entities, as well as other concerned parties, to assist affected country Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms,

5. *Invites* the secretariat to participate in United Nations system-wide coordination, where appropriate, to address sand and dust storms,

6. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the provisional agenda of its fourteenth session, under the item entitled “Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level”, a subitem entitled “Sand and dust storms”,

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision and follow up on sand and dust storms.

*10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
15 September 2017*