

Decision 3/COP.11

Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 3 (b) of the Convention and decisions 3/COP.3, 4/COP.4, 6/COP.5, 11/COP.6, 11/COP.7 and 3/COP.8 on Regional Coordination Units, as well as decisions 3/COP.9 and 3/COP.10 on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination, and decisions 6/COP.9 and 6/COP.10 on regional work programmes,

Taking into account the role of Regional Coordination Mechanisms in responding to existing and emerging challenges, capacities and the specific issues of regions as regards the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations contained in documents ICCD/COP(10)/MISC.1 and ICCD/COP(11)/21, the actions taken thus far by the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to implement the same as reported in document ICCD/COP(11)/14, and also the conclusions and recommendations outlined therein,

Recognizing the need to further improve the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, and the importance of ensuring that the Regional Coordination Units carry out their functions most effectively,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to provide to the Regional Coordination Units a document outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism with respect to the Regional Coordination Units;

2. *Also requests* affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, with the support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Establish or revise, as appropriate, the mandates for the Regional Committees, Regional Coordination Units and thematic programme networks, based on regional priorities, in order to specify and strengthen their role in implementing priority activities set by the regions;

(b) Establish links between national, subregional and regional action programmes and other regional environmental agreements, processes and institutions, including those focused on land management in drylands and other desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues;

(c) Review the respective roles of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in facilitating regional activities, which may involve the development of joint two-year work programmes;

(d) Promote regional scientific cooperation;

and make proposals for any changes of arrangements, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session;

3. *Further requests* affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, with the support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to establish or

activate a regional committee with the aim of guiding and promoting regional cooperation and supporting the incorporation of desertification/land degradation and drought issues into various regional processes, involving representatives of civil society organizations and the scientific community where appropriate;

4. *Requests* affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, subject to availability of resources and with the support of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to review, prior to the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, existing subregional and regional action programmes for implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to ensure that they reflect regional priorities and synergies with regional programmes, that they are consistent with and support the implementation of The Strategy, taking into account the updates proposed through the mid-term evaluation, and that they contribute to strengthening synergies at national level in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought and climate change/biodiversity loss;

5. *Also requests* the Regional Coordination Units to strengthen cooperation and partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and other key UNCCD stakeholders (e.g. farmers, women and youth), and to explore opportunities for further collaboration with the host institutions and the host countries;

6. *Further requests* affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, with the assistance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to improve their financial support to Regional Coordination Mechanisms in order to address their identified priorities by, inter alia, developing a systematic approach to mobilize resources for Regional Coordination Mechanisms and their activities, and involving various sources, including regional partnership platforms that are outside the Convention budget;

7. *Calls on* the affected country Parties concerned to take the necessary actions, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to ensure a speedy conclusion of the relevant host agreements, guaranteeing the proper institutional status necessary for the efficient functioning of the Regional Coordination Units for Africa and Asia;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to fill the vacant staff positions at the Regional Coordination Units in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, in accordance with decisions 3/COP.9 and 6/COP.10 and in consultation with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, by making the necessary appointments in an expeditious manner;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, to ensure that all regional entities identified as part of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms of the respective Regional Implementation Annexes, or those potentially participating in the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, are invited to all relevant UNCCD activities at the regional and global levels where the inputs of these Regional Coordination Mechanisms could be important to the Convention process at the said levels, subject to the availability of voluntary funds;

10. *Encourages* the Regional Committees, where they exist, to play a more active and meaningful role in supporting and strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanisms in their respective regions, including improving cooperation and collaboration with their respective Regional Coordination Units, with the aim of, inter alia:

(a) Providing support on request for the elaboration, alignment and implementation of action programmes at all levels, in particular for the integration of national action programmes of affected country Parties into the national development strategies;

(b) Providing support for the effective functioning of the thematic programme networks;

(c) Helping to promote awareness-raising about the UNCCD process throughout their respective regions, in particular at the political and policy levels;

(d) Supporting bilateral and multilateral cooperation at the regional and subregional levels;

(e) Strengthening and building capacity by encouraging the transfer of technology, the sharing of expertise and knowledge, and the general exchange of information by supporting the creation of subregional and regional knowledge management and sharing systems as part of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal;

(f) Supporting a more comprehensive and efficient reporting exercise at the regional level through cooperating and collaborating closely with the regional reporting entities as identified in decision 3/COP.10;

(g) Seeking to secure adequate and predictable financial resources to allow greater participation of civil society organizations in UNCCD processes at the subregional and regional levels;

(h) Supporting individual country Parties in their regions in these Parties' efforts to build partnerships and capacity, and to mobilize financial, human and technical resources necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention and The Strategy;

11. *Invites* Parties to consider the role that new initiatives could play as tools for strengthening the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, including, inter alia, the Changwon Initiative, the Kubuqi International Desert Forum and the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy;

12. *Also invites* Parties, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to become more involved with the Regional Coordination Mechanisms process by, inter alia, providing technical and financial support to the process and to the Regional Coordination Units, including through voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund and contributions in-kind, as appropriate;

13. *Requests* the Regional Committees and the secretariat to encourage and facilitate North–South and South–South cooperation platforms, especially with affected regions, with a view to exchanging lessons learned, best practices and knowledge management practices to enhance technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on the implementation of this decision.

*10th plenary meeting
27 September 2013*