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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Agenda item 3 (a)

Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices

Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 23/COP.11, decision 19/COP.12 and decision 19/COP.13,

Also recalling decision 21/COP.10, decision 24/COP.11, decision 20/COP.12 and decision 20/COP.13,

Noting with appreciation the good performance of the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its 2018–2019 work programme and the significant progress made by the Science-Policy Interface toward achieving the objectives that were set for it,

Also noting with appreciation the work done by the secretariat on developing and maintaining United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) knowledge-sharing services, brokering scientific and technical knowledge, and interfacing science and policy through, inter alia, the provision of easy access to the knowledge developed by the Science-Policy Interface and through the further development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub,

Acknowledging the continuing efforts by the secretariat and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of sustainable land management best practices;

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/5 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology to refine the Science-Policy Interface renewal procedures so that all applicants to a single call for new members could be considered in the process of identifying and selecting global independent scientists as well as in the regional processes for identifying and nominating one scientist to represent each respective region;

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2. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue the mobilization of resources for the effective functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;
3. *Further requests* the secretariat to continue the expansion and further enhancement of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub in response to the needs and priorities of country Parties to facilitate the dissemination of relevant knowledge to all stakeholders;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to work in coordination with other Rio conventions and relevant partners to ensure coherence and alignment in the way ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management are categorized through the UNCCD science-policy instruments and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;
5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* experts nominated by country Parties and other stakeholders, in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, to continue to share information on knowledge-sharing systems, recent publications and other relevant desertification/land degradation and drought and sustainable land management information through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;
6. *Also encourages* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on sustainable land management;
7. *Invites* developed country Parties and other countries in a position to do so to support the activities of the Science-Policy Interface, and *requests* the secretariat and the Science-Policy Interface to continue ensuring such support will be used effectively;
8. *Also invites* Parties and financial and technical institutions to support the maintenance, expansion, and further enhancement and development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to report at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on (a) the implementation of this decision; and (b) measures taken to facilitate (i) the sharing of knowledge; and (ii) the interfacing of science and policy.
