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## Convention to Combat Desertification

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### Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

#### **Eighteenth session**

New Delhi, India, 3–12 September 2019

Agenda item 3

**Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties: Outcomes of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on a monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought**

### **Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties**

#### **Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* articles 22 and 26 of the Convention,

*Having considered* document ICCD/CRIC(17)/9 and document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/7–ICCD/CRIC(18)/4, and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Noting with appreciation* the good cooperation between the two subsidiary bodies of the Convention in matters relating to the development of methodologies for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification indicators,

*Mindful* that the 2017–2018 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process marks the first time that Parties to the Convention have followed a standardized methodology for the provision of information on land-based indicators for the strategic objectives of the 2018–2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework,

*Recognizing* that the 2017–2018 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process established baselines against which future assessments will be made,

*Reminding* Parties and all stakeholders that all efforts are focused on the scope of the Convention to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the impacts of drought,

#### **Enabling environment for reporting**

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen coordination efforts with the United Nations agencies involved, especially when considering synchronization between a potential follow-up Global Support Programme and other projects relevant to enabling activities funded by

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the Global Environment Facility, to ensure adequate and timely technical and financial support for the next reporting process;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to use the available resources to (a) apply an efficient planning schedule for all aspects of the reporting process; and (b) improve reporting tools (i.e. the provision of default data for all strategic objectives; capacity-building activities; establishment of a geo-spatial platform; quality assurance process for submitted reports; and quality control audit of the data presented) to enable Parties to utilize the services provided for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting and improve their capacity to monitor the implementation of the Convention at national level;

3. *Further requests* the secretariat to provide default data for strategic objectives suitable for subsetting, where needed and where appropriate, according to national circumstances;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to further facilitate reporting on strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 by, inter alia, including additional data fields specific to affected areas in the reporting system;

5. *Invites* technical partners, including Conservation International and the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative, to collaborate with the secretariat, where possible, on targeted training at regional and subregional levels, including national statistical offices;

#### **Methodological issues**

6. *Encourages* the two subsidiary bodies of the Convention to work with their Bureaux to continue the good collaboration on topics related to methodology development for the indicators;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to use the resources available to further improve methodological guidelines and tools for the next reporting process and address bottlenecks highlighted by Parties in the last reporting process;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat to align the reporting process for strategic objectives 1–5 with the gender-responsive indicators and guidelines under development as part of the Gender Action Plan activities to ensure that the gender dimensions of land degradation are fully captured;

9. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface, in its review of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to update the Committee on Science and Technology on the direct and indirect drivers of land degradation and compare this review with the information reported by country Parties;

10. *Requests* the secretariat and *invites* technical partners and intergovernmental initiatives such as the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to continue improving the default data provided for strategic objective 1 in order to find solutions to the issue of harmonizing divergent data. Common underlying methodologies may be used in order to improve the spatial resolution of data provided in default datasets;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat to further analyse and present global and regional data in interactive formats;

12. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and *encourage* Parties to assess and further refine the baseline to be used in future reporting cycles;

#### **Actions at national level**

13. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, and *invites* technical partners to support national efforts to implement strategies for effective and efficient information-sharing systems at the national level to promote greater efforts to address desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and subnational level;

14. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to use the reporting quality assurance exercise as a part of national capacity-

building processes, making in-depth technical reviews of the reports of selected countries per region with broad stakeholder engagement;

15. *Further requests* the secretariat to collaborate with Conservation International to ensure that Trends.Earth can support the preparation and analysis of data for reporting in a form that can be automatically transferred to the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) and that the functions of Trends.Earth are expanded to help generate reports to serve at the national level;

### **Strategic objective 5**

16. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Explore options to strengthen coordination with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to (i) provide improved quantitative information from reporting on strategic objective 5; and (ii) continue developing a more integrated financial monitoring framework for tracking and better monitoring the resources for interventions under the Convention;

(b) Consider options to improve the reporting template by including additional quantitative data for reporting on strategic objective 5;

(c) Provide information before the commencement of the next reporting cycle on the possible development of progress indicators for strategic objective 5 in terms of technology transfer, to be applied in future reporting processes;

(d) Report at the next intersessional session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on the progress made in the implementation of this decision;

### **Monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought (strategic objective 3)**

17. *Adopts* the criteria, methodology and tiered approach for the establishment of an indicator and monitoring framework for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification strategic objective 3, outlined in the annex to this decision;

18. *Decides* that affected Parties are requested to report individually or in combination for level 1<sup>1</sup> indicator “trends in proportion of land that is under drought over total land area”, level 2 indicator “trends in proportion of population exposed to drought over total population”, and/or level 3 indicator “trends in degree of drought vulnerability”, as deemed appropriate according to national and subnational conditions and circumstances;

19. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization and its Global Multi-Hazard Alert System framework, and in consultation with, inter alia and as appropriate, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Water Partnership, the Integrated Drought Management Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant specialized institutions, to:

(a) Compile and provide affected country Parties with national estimates of candidate metrics/proxies associated with the level 1 and level 2 indicators from the identified global datasets as default data for validation, in accordance with the procedure established in decision 22/COP.11, as amended by any related United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national reporting decision adopted at future sessions of the Conference of the Parties; and

(b) Prepare methodological good practice guidance and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to affected country Parties on the compilation/validation and use of such default data, as well as approaches to assess drought vulnerability;

<sup>1</sup> See annex.

20. *Requests* the secretariat and *invites* partners to assist affected Parties in their capacity-building efforts for collecting and using national data to enable the use of the level 3 indicator to supplement the application of default data for target-setting, monitoring and evaluation;
21. *Encourages* affected country Parties to provide timely feedback on the default data and the proposed methodology;
22. *Invites* relevant specialized institutions to provide access to data and methodologies and assist the secretariat in the compilation and provision of data/national estimates as well as their review, as mentioned in sub-items (a) and (b) of paragraph 19 above;
23. *Requests* the secretariat and *invites* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and other relevant specialized institutions to ensure that the establishment of the indicator framework for the UNCCD strategic objective for drought (strategic objective 3) is aligned with the vision and roadmap for the Global Multi-Hazard Alert System framework endorsed by the 18th World Meteorological Congress in resolution 5.1/2 (Cg-18) and with the Global Drought Indicator endorsed in resolution 5.1/6 (Cg-18) and related standardization processes;<sup>2</sup>
24. *Also requests* the secretariat to refer back to the detailed guidance provided in document ICCD/CRIC(17)/9 when implementing this decision;
25. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the next intersessional session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on the progress made in implementing this decision.

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<sup>2</sup> Specifically, these related processes should include the Report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (document A/71/644) and the recommendations for indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction contained therein, which were endorsed in United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/276.

## Annex

### Tiered drought indicator and monitoring framework

1. The criteria for establishing a specific indicator for the strategic objective on drought (strategic objective 3) and the establishment of a monitoring framework are:

(a) *Indicator set hierarchy and logic.* Following the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) indicator set hierarchy, which makes it possible to distinguish what to measure (progress indicators) and how it should be measured (candidate metrics/proxies):

#### I. Strategic objectives

##### a. Progress indicators

##### i. Metrics/proxies;

(b) *Sensitivity* of the indicator to the strategic objective which, here, focuses on how drought affects the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to future drought;

(c) *Comparability* of nationally reported data on candidate metrics/proxies for the indicator, with consideration of issues concerning the development and practical implementation of international standards in underlying data, methodologies and guidance;

(d) *Readiness* of candidate metrics/proxies for the indicator for operational use, based on the suitability of the indicator and *challenges* that may need to be overcome for its effective use, including:

(i) *Global coverage* of candidate metrics/proxies for the indicator to enable the development of national estimates and provide them to affected country Parties from global datasets, as default data; and

(ii) *Capacity to create ownership at the national level*, whereby countries can follow standardized guidance to develop indicator data, empowering them to validate, replace or reject the default data;

(e) *Gender disaggregation* potential or the ability for indicator data to be collected, analysed and reported upon with respect to gender in order to ensure assessment of the contributive differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men; and

(f) *Adaptability.* It is recommended that both the Drought Monitoring Framework and the indicator set be regularly re-evaluated for (i) suitability as monitoring and evaluation efforts mature; and (ii) usefulness in decision-making given that needs may change and scientific tools may improve.

2. The tiered approach for the establishment of an indicator and monitoring framework for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification strategic objective 3 on drought is provided in the table below.

Table  
**Summary of the indicators and the basis for the metrics/proxies relevant to each of the three levels of the proposed drought indicator and monitoring framework**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Progress indicator</i>	<i>Basis for candidate metrics/proxies*</i>
Level 1 – Simple drought hazard indicator	Trends in the proportion of land under drought over the total land area	World Meteorological Organization Global Drought Indicator (standardized into classes) monitored and mapped monthly, and aggregated for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting period.
Level 2 – Simple drought exposure indicator	Trends in the proportion of the population exposed to drought of the total population	Percentage of the population exposed to each drought class defined in Level 1.
Level 3 – Comprehensive drought vulnerability indicator	Trends in the degree of drought vulnerability	Composite index of relevant economic, social, physical and environmental factors that contribute to drought vulnerability.

\* The description provided for the candidate metrics/proxies should be considered preliminary as these will evolve through a multilateral process such as the World Meteorological Organization Global Multi-Hazard Alert System framework to help ensure progress towards the collaborative development of standards in methods and data supported by good practice guidance as well as national ownership of the reporting process.