

Decision 12/COP.14

Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the strategic objectives of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), article 23, paragraph 2 (b) and (c), and article 26, paragraph 1, of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13;

Further recalling the vision of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, its objectives and its implementation framework,

Having considered document ICCD/CRIC(17)/9 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Noting that the default data provided by the secretariat to the Parties was not sufficient to adequately support Parties in their efforts to report;

Further noting that in order for data related to strategic objectives 2,3, and 4 to be relevant and connected to strategic objective 1, they must refer specifically to affected areas,

Emphasizing the roles that combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality play in maintaining and restoring the land-based natural capital by tackling climate change, conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services while ensuring shared prosperity and sustainable livelihoods,

Acknowledging that the land degradation neutrality target-setting processes provide an opportunity for countries to promote synergies among the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements and policy coherence across multiple sectors, particularly as an accelerator for national-level achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming with appreciation the achievements of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme in support of the strong political momentum created by country Parties to achieve land degradation neutrality, which is reflected by the high number of participating countries, and *emphasizing* the importance of maintaining this momentum by fostering the implementation of land degradation neutrality,

Also welcoming with appreciation the role of the Global Mechanism and the secretariat in forging partnerships at global level and *noting with appreciation* the involvement of international technical and financial partners,

Reiterating that the Gender Action Plan is a good starting point for actions to mainstream gender,

Strategic objectives¹

1. *Urges* Parties that have committed to take on voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to periodically review progress in the implementation of those targets set at national level;

¹ The strategic objectives of the 2018–2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework are as follows: 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality; 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations; 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; and 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

2. *Requests* the secretariat to include regular stocktaking of the voluntary target-setting exercise in official documentation prepared for intersessional sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
3. *Invites* affected Parties in a position to do so to develop strategies to bolster national mapping networks for all indicators in order to improve data collection and increase the utility of national datasets;
4. *Encourages* affected Parties to establish joint monitoring platforms that integrate relevant tools to monitor land degradation at subnational and national levels;
5. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to availability of resources, and *invites* potential actors and other bilateral and multilateral partners in a position to do so to support developing country Parties in the implementation of the Convention through capacity-building, financing and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;
6. *Encourages* Parties that have committed to voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to (a) involve all relevant national stakeholders in the target-setting exercise, including all ministries concerned, local communities, civil society organizations and the private sector; and (b) further strengthen the integration of the land degradation neutrality concept and voluntary targets into relevant national policies and planning frameworks, including those related to land governance and responsible land tenure systems as well as sustainable development;
7. *Also encourages* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, and *invites* other bilateral and multilateral partners to continue their efforts in supporting countries in the integration of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets into national action programmes and other strategic national documents, including relevant policies and planning frameworks related to land governance and responsible land tenure systems as well as sustainable development;
8. *Urges* Parties to mainstream gender inclusivity to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality and ensure long-term success;

Implementation of the Gender Action Plan

9. *Encourages* Parties to fully implement the four priority areas of the Gender Action Plan: (a) Participation; (b) Land rights and access to resources; (c) Access to knowledge and technologies; (d) Economic empowerment in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;
10. *Requests* the secretariat to propose concrete activities and measures with a clear road map to be included in the Gender Action Plan to provide impetus and a focus on actions relating to both women and men and girls and boys;
11. *Also requests* the secretariat to enhance advocacy and policy guidance in order to systematically mainstream gender in the implementation of the Convention by implementing the Gender Action Plan through, inter alia: raising awareness; promoting collaboration between desertification/land degradation and drought specialists and experts on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; ensuring scientific work generated by the Convention is gender inclusive; engaging national gender equality mechanisms; improving capacities on gender analysis; and securing the necessary political support to ensure systematic gender mainstreaming in desertification/land degradation and drought;
12. *Encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to create enabling environments at national and subnational levels to make the implementation of the Convention gender-responsive and transformative, including by:
 - (a) Implementing policies and legal reforms that remove structural barriers to women's equality, secure land use and tenure rights; and inheritance, in accordance with the national context, for women;

(b) Promoting women's leadership and women's and girls' full and equal participation in decision-making, including over land;

(c) Promoting consultative processes that engage women at all levels in order to promote women's and girls' participation in the development and implementation of relevant plans and programmes;

(d) Coordinating and integrating the needs of women and girls within other plans and ensuring that women have an active role in project design from project inception;

13. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, to conduct in-house learning and capacity-building to support Parties in order to realize the full potential of measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and ensure such learning and capacity-building is gender-responsive;

14. *Further requests* the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, to dedicate staff with adequate expertise for developing and providing policy guidance and guidelines to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan as described in paragraph 11 and manage the related results;

15. *Requests* the secretariat to strengthen gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, building on existing good practices and guidelines, by (a) collaborating with relevant partners to gather sex- and age-disaggregated data, including the use of gender responsive indicators to measure women's empowerment at project level; and (b) presenting the data in user-friendly formats.

*13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019*