

Decision 9/COP.14

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 5, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 12/COP.13,

Taking note of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its fourteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(18)/5,

Also taking note of the evaluation of the Land Degradation Focal Area by the Independent Evaluation Office¹ of the Global Environment Facility and *welcoming* its findings, which confirm the high relevance of the Land Degradation Focal Area with regard to country needs in all regions, especially Africa,

Also welcoming the continuous support for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation provided through the Global Environment Facility,

1. *Welcomes* the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;
2. *Also welcomes* the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and *acknowledges* the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;
3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;
4. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;
5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and *encourages* the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;
6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;
7. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.

*13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019*

¹ <www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/value-money-ld-2016.pdf>.