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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Conference of the Parties

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session, held in New Delhi, India, from 2 to 13 September 2019

Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session

Addendum

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Decision 1/COP.14

Multi-year workplan for the Convention institutions (2020–2023)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 1/COP.13 and decision 10/COP.13,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(14)/7-ICCD/CRIC(18)/2 and ICCD/CRIC(18)/3,

Underlining the importance of the efficient and coordinated functioning of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies in supporting Parties in their implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Approves* the strategic orientation of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, as contained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2020–2023 in the annex to this decision;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to utilize the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2020–2023 in the annex to this decision, organizing their work in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Convention and the decisions taken at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and in line with the guidance outlined in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to prepare a multi-year workplan for the Convention (2022–2025), utilizing the results-based management approach, to be considered at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Annex

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2020–2023

UNCCD strategic objectives	*2020–2023 main outcomes*	*Outcome indicators*	*2020–2021 main outputs*
To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management (SLM) and contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN)	1.1 Reduction of the area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) 1.2 Up-to-date information on the status of DLDD 1.3 Affected Parties use science-based policy-relevant information derived from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in addressing DLDD and contributing to LDN	1.1 Affected Parties implement activities to achieve the voluntary targets they have set for addressing DLDD 1.2 Affected Parties have access to refined default data and upgraded tools for the next national reporting period under the UNCCD 1.3 Scientific cooperation involving the UNCCD delivers policy-relevant science-based information for addressing DLDD and contributing to LDN	- Technical advice, partnerships and access to capacity-building to support affected Parties in implementing activities to help achieve their voluntary LDN targets - Further development of the UNCCD reporting system and, with support from partners, improved quality of default data - Support for the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) in providing further guidance on LDN implementation - Publication of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook
To improve the living conditions of affected populations	2.1 Affected Parties use land-based activities to improve employment, stability and security 2.2 Gender issues are increasingly taken into account in plans to address DLDD	2.1 The potential of land-based activities in improving employment, security and stability is recognized 2.2 Affected Parties use the UNCCD guidance and technical advice on integrating gender issues into UNCCD implementation and the design of transformative projects	- Support for the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa - Partnerships and policy guidance on using SLM to increase economic opportunities and generate stability - Technical advice, policy guidance and partnerships on integrating gender issues into UNCCD implementation and the design of transformative projects

UNCCD strategic objectives	*2020–2023 main outcomes*	*Outcome indicators*	*2020–2021 main outputs*
To mitigate and manage the effects of drought, enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the preparedness of affected populations, and improve response and recovery capabilities	3.1 The effects of drought are better mitigated and managed, building on the support and information derived from the UNCCD 3.2 Early warning concerning drought and/or sand and dust storms (SDS) is increasingly applied, building on the support and information derived from the UNCCD	3.1 Affected Parties use the information derived from the UNCCD to complete and implement national drought plans 3.2 Affected Parties use the information derived from the UNCCD to mitigate the impact of SDS	- Support for the SPI in providing guidance for assessing and monitoring the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought - Roll-out and further development of the Drought Toolbox - Refinements to the global source map and technical guide for mitigating the impact of SDS - Technical advice, partnerships and access to capacity-building to support countries in implementing activities concerning drought and/or SDS
To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD	4.1 The UNCCD process contributes to, and benefits from, synergies with the other Rio conventions and related cooperation processes on climate change and biodiversity	4.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services take into account the inputs from the UNCCD 4.2 The development of joint indicators with the other Rio conventions advances	- Support for the SPI in delivering UNCCD priorities and concerns to scientific processes under other conventions - Cooperation on the joint indicators and selected thematic topics with the other Rio conventions - Technical advice and partnerships on integrating land-based activities, particularly those on LDN targets, into national plans concerning climate change and biodiversity
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	5.1 Improved access to implementation resources	5.1 Scope of funding sources to address DLDD 5.2 Improved capacity of affected country Parties to translate their project ideas for UNCCD implementation into high-quality projects	- Strategic partnerships and collaborations with international financial institutions - Support for the preparation of high-quality projects

Decision 2/COP.14

Enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity-building

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 3/COP.8, 1/COP.9, 1/COP.10, 1/COP.11, 3/COP.12, 13/COP.12, 7/COP.13 and 8/COP.13,

Restating the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and being cognizant of the importance of capacity-building in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that capacity-building at all levels, in particular at the local and community level, is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention,

Having considered document ICCD/CRIC(18)/8 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Welcoming the efforts made by Convention institutions and bodies, country Parties and other stakeholders in support of the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention and achieve land degradation neutrality, and recognizing the need to continue to enhance and increase efforts in this regard,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, within available resources, to:

(a) Continue targeted capacity-building to support gender responsive and transformative implementation of the Convention, and to further strengthen and deepen both formal and informal partnerships to better facilitate the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification capacity-building process;

(b) Work with partners, including the relevant media networks, to facilitate the development of suitable training materials for journalists as well as the identification and/or provision of the trainers;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and other appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification institutions and bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Continue supporting capacity-building efforts, in collaboration with relevant partners, to facilitate the achievement of land degradation neutrality, with particular focus on land degradation neutrality monitoring and the effective development of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;

(b) Foster collaboration on drought impact mitigation capacity-building activities by building on existing partnerships with, but not limited to, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the National Drought Mitigation Center, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and United Nations Water, and establishing new partnerships;

(c) Conduct online as well as face-to-face United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Drought Toolbox training sessions;

3. *Urges* Parties, as appropriate, to use the online Drought Toolbox to strengthen their capacity to enhance preparedness for and provide an appropriate response to drought;

4. *Encourages* Parties, as appropriate, and in particular affected developing country Parties, to develop and implement specific capacity-building programmes to facilitate a more efficacious implementation of the Convention, in particular on the themes of:

(a) Gender sensitive and transformative approaches, especially, but not limited to, land degradation neutrality;

(b) Potential economic, social and environmental development opportunities provided by the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

(c) Drought preparedness;

(d) Resilience to sand and dust storms;

5. *Invites* technical and financial institutions and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial support to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-accredited civil society organizations which are involved in and/or need capacity-building to facilitate their greater and more effective contribution to and participation in the implementation process;

6. *Also invites* developed country Parties and others in a position to do so, and technical and financial institutions to continue to provide technical and financial support for effective and targeted capacity development in support of the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at its future sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 3/COP.14

Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12, decision 3/COP.13, decision 8/COP.12 and decision 7/COP.13,

Recognizing that Sustainable Development Goal 15.3 has created momentum for the implementation of the Convention and that the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets supports countries in mobilizing funding in this regard,

Welcoming the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and new partnerships such as the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative and the Peace Forest Initiative, and *encouraging* Parties to develop further partnerships for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality,

1. *Invites* Parties, who have not yet done so, to formulate voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, as appropriate;

2. *Also invites* Parties that have committed to voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to implement measures to accelerate their achievement, as appropriate, by:

(a) Fostering synergies among the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, including the consideration of joint programming activities at the national and subnational level;

(b) Strengthening national-level coordination and cooperation based on, inter alia, integrated land-use planning, to guide the implementation of transformative projects and programmes;

(c) Creating an enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including the responsible governance of land and tenure security, the engagement of stakeholders and the improved access of smallholders to advisory and financial services;

3. *Further invites* all Parties, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, to enhance the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3, into their national strategies, plans and programmes to implement the Convention;

4. *Invites* developed country Parties, and others in a position to do so, to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification bodies, within their respective mandates, to:

(a) Continue to develop partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking note of, as appropriate, the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Changwon Initiative, the Ankara Initiative, the Peace Forest Initiative and other complementary initiatives, including national, subregional and regional scientific bodies, to provide support to the Parties;

(b) Continue to contribute to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(c) Develop the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme and support Parties in implementing and periodically reviewing and monitoring progress;

(d) Continue to promote synergies and knowledge-sharing among Parties participating in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at the future sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 4/COP.14

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 4/COP.13,

Noting that the UNCCD 2018−2030 Strategic Framework recognizes awareness-raising as a key element that can play a central role in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recognizing the importance of promoting consistent and coordinated messages about the objective of the Convention as well as on land degradation neutrality and drought issues, including as an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Aware of the additional opportunity for cooperation, coordination and synergies in the work related to ecosystem restoration among relevant United Nations entities through the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),

Welcoming the development and implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan, as reported in document ICCD/COP(14)/4,

1. *Calls for* Parties and *invites* civil society organizations, the media, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to leverage international awareness-raising opportunities such as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) and the Land for Life programme for outreach, including to women, girls and youth, around actions to combat desertification/land degradation and drought, and achieve land degradation neutrality and drought resilience;

2. *Encourages* Parties to consider identifying key audiences in order to most effectively leverage outreach around action to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and to achieve land degradation neutrality;

3. *Invites* Parties to raise public awareness and promote youth engagement on United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification issues by linking them to other sustainable development challenges, underlining the pivotal role of productive land in implementing the Convention and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while addressing gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of these messages;

4. *Also invites* Parties to actively support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan by providing the secretariat success stories, people-focused stories and photo/video footage from the field as a means of promoting the Convention in order to foster understanding, awareness and visibility among the public by adapting United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communications to local and national contexts or by hosting the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Review the communication plan and base it on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in its entirety;

(b) Identify key audiences, such as policy-makers, line ministries in charge of land-based sectors, the private sector, the farmer community and pastoralists, and propose relevant options for increasing awareness about the objectives of the Convention in support of its implementation, taking into account particular national and regional conditions;

(c) Build on experience in the observance of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) to actively contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) by identifying and developing possible activities, as appropriate;

(d) Enhance media engagement and develop partnerships with media organizations to expand outreach to non-English speaking audiences and achieve broader geographic reach and information dissemination;

(e) Raise the profile of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification outreach programmes and products, such as the Land for Life Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Land Ambassador Programme and the Rio Conventions Pavilion and exhibition, in partnership with other Rio conventions, and library services;

(f) Maximize the traditional and social media outreach potential by developing new multimedia content based on scientific and technical data from the Global Land Outlook, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land, and other major scientific assessments, as well as the performance review and assessment of implementation reports submitted to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and other success stories;

(g) Build communications capacity for appropriate staff of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to strengthen support for the communication activities;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on progress made in implementing the present decision.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 5/COP.14

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 5/COP.9, decision 5/COP.10, decision 5/COP.11, decision 5/COP.12 and decision 5/COP.13,

Emphasizing the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018−2030 Strategic Framework, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the work of the Civil Society Organization Panel and the importance of its continuation,

Also welcoming the implementation of the recommendations identified by the independent evaluation on the effectiveness of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification support for civil society organization participation,[1]

1. *Encourages* those countries with no or few civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to promote the involvement of their civil society organizations in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process at the international level to ensure more balanced participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its subsidiary bodies;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with key stakeholders, including youth, faith-based organizations, local governments, farmers, pastoralists, women's organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities;

3. *Also requests* the Civil Society Organization Panel to review its renewal procedure and explore options to increase the efficiency of this procedure;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the renewal of the membership of the Civil Society Organization Panel for two years in January 2020, in accordance with previously adopted decisions;

5. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* other Parties in a position to do so, international financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to consider contributing to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation and inclusion of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as the work undertaken by the Civil Society Organization Panel of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

6. *Requests* the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the Conference of the Parties at future sessions on its activities during the forthcoming biennium;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at future sessions on the implementation of the present decision.

[1] ICCD/COP(14)/13.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 6/COP.14

Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 17 and 20 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 5/COP.11, decision 6/COP.12 and decision 6/COP.13,

Stressing the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018−2030 Strategic Framework,

Noting the outcomes of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum and 'Interactive dialogue 3: Boosting sustainable value chains for land-based business' during the High-Level Segment,

1. *Takes note* of the initiatives undertaken within the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification business engagement strategy;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification business engagement strategy when engaging in partnerships with the private sector;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to evaluate options to be presented for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties for promoting greater participation of the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the development and mainstreaming of innovative and sustainable solutions for combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality, including in agriculture, agricultural technology, food systems, water, rangelands, mining, forestry and renewable energy;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to report at future sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the measures taken to facilitate and encourage the participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 7/COP.14

Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 7/COP.13 and decision 13/COP.13,

Acknowledging the importance of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention,

Noting that the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework will reach its midpoint in 2024,

Welcoming with appreciation the proposal of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Provisionally adopts* the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, as proposed by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties in document ICCD/COP(14)/3;

2. *Decides* that the Conference of the Parties will, at its sixteenth session in 2023, continue the preparations for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, including the finalization of its modalities, criteria and terms of reference and the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to oversee the evaluation process and, for this purpose:

(a) *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to review and, as needed, update the provisionally adopted modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, with a view to their adoption at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) *Also requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, when conducting the review referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, to consider:

(i) Including impact and sustainability in the evaluation criteria;

(ii) Broadening the assessment of effectiveness concerning the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework to also cover relevant stakeholders other than Convention institutions and bodies;

(iii) Ensuring geographical and gender balance in the external expertise that will be used for preparing the first component of the midterm evaluation, namely the independent assessment;

(iv) Emphasizing the importance of participatory consultations on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment;

(c) *Further requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to inform Parties at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties about the ongoing discussions on preparing for the midterm evaluation with a view to gathering further elements and identifying priorities for its proposal on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(d) *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to outline the terms of reference for an intergovernmental working group for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, including the purpose, composition and main working modalities of the intergovernmental working group, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session;

(e) *Also requests* the secretariat to include the estimated resource needs for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in its proposed 2024–2025 programme and budget that will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session;

(f) *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 8/COP.14

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 9/COP.13,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Convention benefits from strong and effective collaborations to leverage synergies with relevant organizations and international instruments,

Reaffirming the usefulness of the three land-based progress indicators as set out in decision 9/COP.12 for reporting under the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are coherent with the progress indicators/metrics adopted in decision 22/COP.11, namely: (i) trends in land cover; (ii) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (iii) trends in carbon stock above and below ground,

Acknowledging the important role of the members and participating organizations of the Group on Earth Observations and other partners in assisting the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat in finalizing the methodology and data management protocols and facilitating capacity-building for the 2018 national reports and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1,

Welcoming the establishment of the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative and its efforts to (a) facilitate data access and the development of quality standards; and (b) create interactive analytical tools/platforms and innovative capacity-building mechanisms that will reduce the reporting burden and increase national capacities to utilize Earth observation datasets to achieve land degradation neutrality and other sustainable development priorities,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to:

(a) Seek new partnerships to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in the context of the Paris Agreement and emerging issues such as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030;

(b) Continue working with the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to address gaps related to the land-based progress indicators and increase the policy relevance of Earth observation data, tools and interfaces for the next United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting cycle 2021–2022 and Sustainable Development Goals reporting in accordance with the data requirements and protocols established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

(c) Build on the collaboration initiated with relevant United Nations entities, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Rio conventions secretariats, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as development partners and relevant international organizations, to support gender mainstreaming at all levels, but especially at the national and subnational levels;

(d) Continue to strengthen collaboration with the Rio conventions secretariats and relevant United Nations entities, as well as with development partners and relevant international and regional organizations, to support activities on sand and dust storms, drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems, drought vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures;

2. *Also requests* both the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue to fulfil their respective roles in the established partnerships; seek new partnerships according to their respective mandates to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework; and, if appropriate, bring them to the attention of the Conference of the Parties for any necessary action;

3. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Parties in a position to do so, international financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to consider contributing, financially or in-kind, to initiatives related to desertification/land degradation and drought, particularly the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to present its report on the implementation of this decision at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

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 Office [1] 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. *Invite*s 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.gefieo.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/value-money-ld-2016.pdf>.

Decision 10/COP.14

Programme and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),[1]

Also recalling decision 7/COP.13,

Further recalling decision 9/COP.9 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2010−2011, paragraphs 13 and14,

Having considered the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the programme and budget,[2]

Programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021 in the amount of EUR 16,430,903 for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for its biennial voluntary contribution to the core budget of EUR 1,022,584 and its special contribution of EUR 1,022,584 (Bonn Fund) as host Government to the secretariat;

3. *Approves* the staffing table for the programme budget, as contained in table 2 below;

4. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 12 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure in the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw upon the available unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods for 2020–2021 in an amount up to EUR 242,821, provided that the use of the balance does not reduce the working capital reserve, and that any such utilization be distributed to programmes and the Global Mechanism proportionate to the approved budget;

6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2020 and 2021, contained in the annex to this decision;

7. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year, in accordance with paragraph 14 (a) of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on any such transfers;

9. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to establish lower-level positions in addition to the approved staffing table as set out in table 2 below within a budget for staff costs not to exceed EUR 10,946,166; *requests* the Executive Secretary to analyse the organizational structure and the staffing to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of the approved work programme; and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on:

[1] Decision 2/COP.1, annex.

[2] Documents ICCD/COP(14)/6; ICCD/COP(14)/7-ICCD/CRIC(18)/2; ICCD/CRIC(18)/3; ICCD/COP(14)/8; ICCD/COP(14)/9; ICCD/COP(14)/10; and ICCD/COP(14)/11.

(a) The level of positions filled against the approved staffing table; and

(b) The outcomes of the analysis;

10. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2020–2021, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

11. *Approves* a contingency budget as set out in table 3 below, amounting to EUR 2,104,660 for conference servicing, to be added to the programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021 in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget;

12. *Decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for the purpose expressed in paragraph 11 does not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing;

13. *Takes note* of the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 1,518,560 as set out in table 4 below, in the event that the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, Germany;

14. *Also takes note* of the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 688,170, as set out in table 5 below, in the event that the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is held in Bonn, Germany;

15. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 6 below, and *invites* Parties to make contributions to this Fund;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach;

17. *Notes* the ongoing discussion at the United Nations General Assembly and the recommendations expressed in the 2018 report of the Board of Auditors on the requirements for after-service health insurance and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue monitoring developments within the United Nations system and, on that basis, prepare a report with options on how to address this in the budget for the biennium 2022–2023, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2022−2023 in line with decision 1/COP.14, presenting two budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (b) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs or savings related to them;

Financial performance of the Convention trust funds

19. *Approves* the following amendment to the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat:[3]

Replace paragraph 12 (a) with the following:

"Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on the most recent scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted by the General Assembly;"

20. *Takes note* of the audited financial statements for the secretariat and Global Mechanism for 2017 and 2018, and of the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019, and the status of contributions as at 15 August 2019;

[3] Decision 2/COP.1, annex.

21. *Further takes note* of the observations made by the Board of Auditors in its report on the audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for 2017 and 2018, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to implement the recommendations, as appropriate;

22. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to further reduce the environmental impact of the operations of the Secretariat by rationalizing resource use and travel, such as by adopting wider use of videoconferencing facilities and prioritizing official travel that is directly related to the implementation of the approved work programme;

23. *Notes* that an agreement of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat with the internal audit service is still pending and *requests* the Executive Secretary to re-establish this service, as appropriate and in a cost-effective way;

24. *Requests* the secretariat to foster transparency and accountability, establish a section on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification website to publish up-to-date information relevant to the governance of the Convention and the Global Mechanism including, inter alia, the audit reports, applicable financial rules and regulations, and any other relevant budgetary and financial information;

25. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to use the remainder of the amount previously allocated from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD for the furtherance of the Drought Initiative described in decision 23/COP.14;

26. *Encourages* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to mobilize voluntary contributions as financial and non-financial resources to the Drought Initiative, as appropriate;

27. *Expresses appreciation* to Parties that have paid their contributions to the core budget in a timely manner;

28. *Calls upon* Parties that have not paid their contributions to the core budget to do so without delay, bearing in mind that contributions are expected on or before 1 January of each year, and *requests* the secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions to the core budget as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;

29. *Urges* Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to address this issue as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial stability of the Convention through contributions by all Parties;

30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue engaging Parties with outstanding contributions from past years with a view to the Parties entering into a voluntary plan to pay the outstanding contribution and to continue to report on the implementation of any arrangements regarding outstanding contributions;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods that have been received during the biennium 2020–2021;

32. *Expresses appreciation* for the contributions received from Parties to the Supplementary Fund, the Special Fund and the extrabudgetary funds of the Global Mechanism;

Evaluation reports

33. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the independent evaluations and assessments summarized in document ICCD/COP(14)/12, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to use these recommendations in planning and conducting their work;

34. *Takes note* of the proposed 2020–2021 workplan of the Evaluation Office, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the outcomes of the evaluations that will be conducted in 2020–2021 and on the action taken to meet the pending recommendations of earlier evaluations, as appropriate.

Table 1
Resource requirements by subprogramme
(Euros)

I. Secretariat programmes	*2020*	*2021*	*Total core budget*
A. Executive direction and management	1 013 419	1 013 419	2 026 838
B. Communications	561 295	561 295	1 122 590
C. External relations, policy and advocacy	1 091 937	1 091 937	2 183 874
D. Science, technology and implementation	1 602 685	1 602 685	3 205 370
E. Administrative services	1 153 523	1 153 523	2 307 045
II. Global Mechanism			
F. Global Mechanism	1 847 452	1 847 452	3 694 905
Subtotal (A-F)	7 270 311	7 270 311	14 540 622
III. Programme support costs (13%)	945 140	945 141	1 890 281
IV. Working capital reserve	-	-	-
TOTAL (I-IV)	8 215 451	8 215 452	16 430 903
Income			
Contribution from the host Government	511 292	511 292	1 022 584
Indicative contributions	7 582 749	7 582 749	15 165 498
Unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods (up to)	121 410	121 411	242 821
TOTAL Income	8 215 451	8 215 452	16 430 903

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Actual	Required	
	2019	2020	2021
Secretariat			
A. Professional category and above			
USG	1.00	1.00	1.00
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-2	1.00	1.00	1.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	7.00	7.00	7.00
P-4	7.00	7.00	7.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	4.00
P-2	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal A. Professional category and above	21.00	21.00	21.00
B. General Service category	10.00	10.00	10.00
Total (A + B)	**31.00**	**31.00**	**31.00**

	Actual	Required	
	2019	2020	2021
Global Mechanism			
A. Professional category and above			
D-1	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-5	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-4	2.00	2.00	2.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	4.00
P-2	2.00	2.00	2.00
Subtotal A. Professional category and above	10.00	10.00	10.00
B. General Service category	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total (A + B)	**14.00**	**14.00**	**14.00**
Grand total	**45.00**	**45.00**	**45.00**

Table 3
Contingency budget for conference servicing
(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2018–2019*	*2020–2021*
United Nations meetings services	1 835 000	1 862 530
Programme support costs	238 550	242 130
TOTAL	**2 073 550**	**2 104 660**

Table 4
Resource requirements for hosting the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn
(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2018–2019*	*2020–2021*
Incremental costs	1 204 000	1 222 060
Contingencies	120 000	121 800
Subtotal	1 324 000	1 343 860
Programme support costs	172 000	174 700
TOTAL	**1 496 000**	**1 518 560**

Table 5
Resource requirements for hosting the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2020–2021*
Incremental costs	548 100
Contingencies	60 900
Subtotal	**609 000**
Programme support costs	79 170
TOTAL	**688 170**

Table 6
Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2020–2021 (Special Trust Fund)
(Euros)

Sessions	*Estimated cost*
Nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	900 000
Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties [a]	1 300 000
	2 200 000

[a] Includes estimates for the participation of affected country representatives, e.g. national focal points, with a second representative from least developed countries, and science and technology correspondents.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Annex

Indicative scale of contributions for the core budget of the Convention for 2020–2021

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]	*United Nations scale of assessment*[b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2020–2021*	*2020 indicative contributions (euros)*	*2021 indicative contributions (euros)*	*Total amount payable (euros)*
Afghanistan	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Albania	0.008	0.008	591	591	1 182
Algeria	0.138	0.135	10 201	10 201	20 402
Andorra	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Angola	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Argentina	0.915	0.892	67 640	67 640	135 280
Armenia	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Australia	2.210	2.155	163 372	163 372	326 744
Austria	0.677	0.660	50 046	50 046	100 092
Azerbaijan	0.049	0.048	3 622	3 622	7 244
Bahamas	0.018	0.018	1 331	1 331	2 662
Bahrain	0.050	0.049	3 696	3 696	7 392
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Barbados	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Belarus	0.049	0.048	3 622	3 622	7 244
Belgium	0.821	0.800	60 691	60 691	121 382
Belize	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Benin	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	0.016	1 183	1 183	2 366
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.012	887	887	1 774
Botswana	0.014	0.014	1 035	1 035	2 070
Brazil	2.948	2.874	217 927	217 927	435 854
Brunei Darussalam	0.025	0.024	1 848	1 848	3 696
Bulgaria	0.046	0.045	3 400	3 400	6 800
Burkina Faso	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Burundi	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Cambodia	0.006	0.006	444	444	888
Cameroon	0.013	0.013	961	961	1 922
Canada	2.734	2.665	202 108	202 108	404 216
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Chad	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Chile	0.407	0.397	30 087	30 087	60 174
China	12.005	11.704	887 455	887 455	1 774 910
Colombia	0.288	0.281	21 290	21 290	42 580
Comoros	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Congo	0.006	0.006	444	444	888

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]	*United Nations scale of assessment*[b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2020–2021*	*2020 indicative contributions (euros)*	*2021 indicative contributions (euros)*	*Total amount payable (euros)*
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Costa Rica	0.062	0.060	4 583	4 583	9 166
Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	0.013	961	961	1 922
Croatia	0.077	0.075	5 692	5 692	11 384
Cuba	0.080	0.078	5 914	5 914	11 828
Cyprus	0.036	0.035	2 661	2 661	5 322
Czechia	0.311	0.303	22 990	22 990	45 980
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.006	444	444	888
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Denmark	0.554	0.540	40 954	40 954	81 908
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Dominica	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Dominican Republic	0.053	0.052	3 918	3 918	7 836
Ecuador	0.080	0.078	5 914	5 914	11 828
Egypt	0.186	0.181	13 750	13 750	27 500
El Salvador	0.012	0.012	887	887	1 774
Equatorial Guinea	0.016	0.016	1 183	1 183	2 366
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Estonia	0.039	0.038	2 883	2 883	5 766
Eswatini	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
European Union	2.500	2.500	189 569	189 569	379 138
Fiji	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Finland	0.421	0.410	31 122	31 122	62 244
France	4.427	4.316	327 260	327 260	654 520
Gabon	0.015	0.015	1 109	1 109	2 218
Gambia	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Georgia	0.008	0.008	591	591	1 182
Germany	6.090	5.937	450 196	450 196	900 392
Ghana	0.015	0.015	1 109	1 109	2 218
Greece	0.366	0.357	27 056	27 056	54 112
Grenada	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Guatemala	0.036	0.035	2 661	2 661	5 322
Guinea	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Guyana	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Haiti	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Honduras	0.009	0.009	665	665	1 330
Hungary	0.206	0.201	15 228	15 228	30 456
Iceland	0.028	0.027	2 070	2 070	4 140
India	0.834	0.813	61 652	61 652	123 304
Indonesia	0.543	0.529	40 141	40 141	80 282
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	0.388	29 422	29 422	58 844

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]	*United Nations scale of assessment*[b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2020–2021*	*2020 indicative contributions (euros)*	*2021 indicative contributions (euros)*	*Total amount payable (euros)*
Iraq	0.129	0.126	9 536	9 536	19 072
Ireland	0.371	0.362	27 426	27 426	54 852
Israel	0.490	0.478	36 223	36 223	72 446
Italy	3.307	3.224	244 466	244 466	488 932
Jamaica	0.008	0.008	591	591	1 182
Japan	8.564	8.349	633 083	633 083	1 266 166
Jordan	0.021	0.020	1 552	1 552	3 104
Kazakhstan	0.178	0.174	13 158	13 158	26 316
Kenya	0.024	0.023	1 774	1 774	3 548
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Kuwait	0.252	0.246	18 629	18 629	37 258
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Latvia	0.047	0.046	3 474	3 474	6 948
Lebanon	0.047	0.046	3 474	3 474	6 948
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Liberia	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Libya	0.030	0.029	2 218	2 218	4 436
Liechtenstein	0.009	0.009	665	665	1 330
Lithuania	0.071	0.069	5 249	5 249	10 498
Luxembourg	0.067	0.065	4 953	4 953	9 906
Madagascar	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Malawi	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Malaysia	0.341	0.332	25 208	25 208	50 416
Maldives	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Mali	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Malta	0.017	0.017	1 257	1 257	2 514
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Mauritania	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Mauritius	0.011	0.011	813	813	1 626
Mexico	1.292	1.260	95 509	95 509	191 018
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Monaco	0.011	0.011	813	813	1 626
Mongolia	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Montenegro	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Morocco	0.055	0.054	4 066	4 066	8 132
Mozambique	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Namibia	0.009	0.009	665	665	1 330
Nauru	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Nepal	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Netherlands	1.356	1.322	100 241	100 241	200 482
New Zealand	0.291	0.284	21 512	21 512	43 024

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]	*United Nations scale of assessment*[b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2020–2021*	*2020 indicative contributions (euros)*	*2021 indicative contributions (euros)*	*Total amount payable (euros)*
Nicaragua	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Niger	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Nigeria	0.250	0.244	18 481	18 481	36 962
Niue	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
North Macedonia	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Norway	0.754	0.735	55 739	55 739	111 478
Oman	0.115	0.112	8 501	8 501	17 002
Pakistan	0.115	0.112	8 501	8 501	17 002
Palau	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Panama	0.045	0.044	3 327	3 327	6 654
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Paraguay	0.016	0.016	1 183	1 183	2 366
Peru	0.152	0.148	11 236	11 236	22 472
Philippines	0.205	0.200	15 154	15 154	30 308
Poland	0.802	0.782	59 287	59 287	118 574
Portugal	0.350	0.341	25 873	25 873	51 746
Qatar	0.282	0.275	20 846	20 846	41 692
Republic of Korea	2.267	2.210	167 585	167 585	335 170
Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Romania	0.198	0.193	14 637	14 637	29 274
Russian Federation	2.405	2.345	177 787	177 787	355 574
Rwanda	0.003	0.003	222	222	444
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Samoa	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
San Marino	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Saudi Arabia	1.172	1.143	86 639	86 639	173 278
Senegal	0.007	0.007	517	517	1 034
Serbia	0.028	0.027	2 070	2 070	4 140
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Singapore	0.485	0.473	35 853	35 853	71 706
Slovakia	0.153	0.149	11 310	11 310	22 620
Slovenia	0.076	0.074	5 618	5 618	11 236
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Somalia	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
South Africa	0.272	0.265	20 107	20 107	40 214
South Sudan	0.006	0.006	444	444	888
Spain	2.146	2.092	158 640	158 640	317 280
Sri Lanka	0.044	0.043	3 253	3 253	6 506
State of Palestine	0.008	0.008	591	591	1 182
Sudan	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]	*United Nations scale of assessment*[b]	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2020–2021*	*2020 indicative contributions (euros)*	*2021 indicative contributions (euros)*	*Total amount payable (euros)*
Suriname	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Sweden	0.906	0.883	66 975	66 975	133 950
Switzerland	1.151	1.122	85 086	85 086	170 172
Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	0.011	813	813	1 626
Tajikistan	0.004	0.004	296	296	592
Thailand	0.307	0.299	22 695	22 695	45 390
Timor-Leste	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Togo	0.002	0.002	148	148	296
Tonga	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Trinidad and Tobago	0.040	0.039	2 957	2 957	5 914
Tunisia	0.025	0.024	1 848	1 848	3 696
Turkey	1.371	1.337	101 349	101 349	202 698
Turkmenistan	0.033	0.032	2 439	2 439	4 878
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Uganda	0.008	0.008	591	591	1 182
Ukraine	0.057	0.056	4 214	4 214	8 428
United Arab Emirates	0.616	0.601	45 537	45 537	91 074
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island	4.567	4.452	337 610	337 610	675 220
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
United States of America	22.000	21.448	1 626 323	1 626 323	3 252 646
Uruguay	0.087	0.085	6 431	6 431	12 862
Uzbekistan	0.032	0.031	2 366	2 366	4 732
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	76	76	152
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.728	0.710	53 816	53 816	107 632
Viet Nam	0.077	0.075	5 692	5 692	11 384
Yemen	0.010	0.010	739	739	1 478
Zambia	0.009	0.009	665	665	1 330
Zimbabwe	0.005	0.005	370	370	740
Total	102.510	100.000	7 582 749	7 582 749	15 165 498

[a] Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 31 May 2019.

[b] In accordance with A/RES/73/271.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Decision 11/COP.14

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

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 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[4] 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;

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;[5]

[4] See annex.

[5] 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.

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.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

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;

(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

Level	*Progress indicator*	*Basis for candidate metrics/proxies**
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.

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 objectives[1]

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

Decision 13/COP.14

Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 6 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, and decision 14/COP.13 on the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention,

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

Also having considered document ICCD/CRIC(18)/7 on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, and document ICCD/CRIC(18)/6 on the update on the Global Support Programme in support of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting,

Emphasizing the need to mobilize all sources of financing in support of the Convention,

Noting that innovative finance approaches should take into account integrated landscape approaches and local conditions,

Appreciating the role of the various international financial mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, in supporting country Parties on land issues, given the important role that land plays in climate change,

Taking note of the operationalization of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund,

Welcoming with appreciation the efforts made by the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund to develop projects and programmes related to desertification/land degradation and drought,

Acknowledging the support and assistance provided by the Global Mechanism to develop land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes at national level to achieve land degradation neutrality,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to continue the mobilization of funding from all sources in support of the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism to continue strengthening and establishing new partnerships with relevant institutions to facilitate the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, including with:

(a) The Global Environment Facility to support countries in the process of accessing resources from the Seventh Replenishment Phase of the Global Environment Facility, in particular as regards the enabling activities under the Global Environment Facility to support countries' obligations to the Convention; and

(b) Multilateral financial institutions, national development banks, and members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

3. *Further requests* the Global Mechanism to broaden its outreach to non-traditional funding sources (e.g. private and blended finance) to find ways to support countries in combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets;

4. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to continue to engage with multilateral development banks and other relevant funding institutions, including the Green Climate Fund, to facilitate

country Parties' access to funding in order to enhance national level synergies between addressing desertification/land degradation and drought and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

5. *Encourages* Parties to facilitate greater coordination between the Green Climate Fund national designated authorities and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national focal points to harmonize approaches to addressing land issues in the context of climate change and to maximize the use of diverse financial instruments;

6. *Invites* Mirova, as the manager of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, to provide regular updates on its operations, including detailed information on the selection of projects and the definition of priorities by the Fund and, along with the Global Mechanism, to provide support and capacity-building for accessing the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

7. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to submit a report on the operations of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund at sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

8. *Encourages* developed country Parties and others in a position to do so to continue to provide substantial financial and non-financial resources (e.g. voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and scientific and technical assistance) to affected country Parties in order to support their efforts to combat desertification/land degradation and drought, achieve land degradation neutrality, and advance the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Invites* developed country Parties to continue to report against strategic objective 5 to allow an accurate estimate of financial flows to be measured and analysed;

10. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates, to support country-level activities towards the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including through supporting land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes, and facilitating the mobilization of adequate financial resources from all sources of funding;

11. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, within their respective mandates and in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and relevant international partners, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Continue supporting the process of voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting in those country Parties that may still wish to engage in this process;

(b) Also continue sharing relevant knowledge and lessons learned on the outcomes of national voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting processes;

(c) Further continue supporting country Parties in the development and implementation of national drought plans and other drought-related activities;

(d) Support country Parties in establishing the necessary enabling environment for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation, including in the context of land degradation neutrality and activities related to sand and dust storms and drought;

12. *Invites* Parties to identify relevant case studies on land degradation neutrality implementation, and *requests*:

(a) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism, to collect these case studies and prepare a synthesis report for consideration by the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties; and

(b) The Science-Policy Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to contribute to this synthesis report;

13. *Also requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report to future sessions of the Conference of the Parties on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 14/COP.14

Programme of work for the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 22 and 23 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13,

Highlighting the importance of engaging development partners, such as United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and other groups, as appropriate, in the interactive sessions of the intersessional session,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for the Parties to review and discuss:

(a) Update on the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts;

(b) Update on the implementation of the Drought Initiative and related implementation efforts;

(c) Update on the operationalization of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund;

(d) Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention;

(e) Procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

(i) Reporting tools, including reporting templates and the reporting portal;

(ii) Default data for strategic objectives;

(iii) Progress in reporting on strategic objective 3;

(iv) Reporting on strategic objective 5;

(v) Timelines and modalities for reporting;

(f) Exchange of information through interactive dialogues on actions on the ground related to the implementation of sustainable land management practices, restoration and rehabilitation practices that assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services, the promotion of alternative livelihoods, and the establishment of systems for sharing information and knowledge on best practices and approaches to drought management;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations languages, at least six weeks prior to the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the items contained in paragraph 1 above, as well as any additional items necessitated by decisions adopted by the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 15/COP.14

Date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

1. *Decides*, subject to the availability of resources, that the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention should be held in the second half of 2020 at the most cost-effective venue of either Bonn, Germany − the site of the Convention secretariat − or any other venue with United Nations conference facilities in the event that no Party makes an offer to host the session and meet the additional financial costs;

2. *Invites* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to take the necessary measures to prepare for that session, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 16/COP.14

Follow-up on the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019: Objective 1

The Conference of the Parties,

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

Also recalling decision 3/COP.13, decision 18/COP.13 and decision 21/COP.13,

Further recalling the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strives to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and in particular strategic objective 1 to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019,

Also acknowledging that the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality[1] provides guidance for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring land degradation neutrality,

Recognizing that sustainable land management, pursued in the context of land degradation neutrality with a focus on maintaining and/or increasing soil organic carbon, can contribute significantly to (a) addressing desertification/land degradation and drought; (b) addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation; (c) providing a foundation for the conservation of biodiversity; and (d) achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals,

Also recognizing that creating an enabling environment for land degradation neutrality is fundamental to realizing the potential contribution of land degradation neutrality to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recalling article 24 of the Convention stating that the Committee on Science and Technology provides information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Recognizing that Parties take this information and advice and use it as appropriate within their national context,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/2 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Refined guidance for the implementation of land degradation neutrality

1. *Encourages* Parties to:

(a) Promote sustainable land management technologies, practices and approaches that contribute to maintaining or increasing soil organic carbon for multiple benefits;

(b) Use soil organic carbon as an indicator to monitor sustainable land management interventions to support the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

(c) Align soil organic carbon monitoring to national land degradation neutrality monitoring; and

[1] Decision 18/COP.13.

(d) Share the guidance provided in document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/2 with land managers at national and subnational levels;

2. *Invites* technical partners specializing in sustainable land management, in collaboration with relevant scientific and technical bodies (e.g. Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership) and in conjunction with the Science-Policy Interface in line with its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019, to design a framework for the management of soil organic carbon for land degradation neutrality to support investment decisions;

3. *Also invites* relevant technical partners to help develop/refine soil organic carbon estimation tools/models for application in land degradation neutrality assessments on sites where detailed measurements of soil organic carbon are not available or not cost-effective;

4. *Further invites* country Parties to develop partnerships with relevant technical and financial partners to strengthen national-level coordination and capacity for soil organic carbon measurement and monitoring by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening capacities of technical institutions and human resources by providing guidance on estimating and monitoring soil organic carbon for land-use planning, land degradation neutrality monitoring and other applications;

(b) Developing/reinforcing skills for designing soil sampling approaches and implementing measurement and monitoring programmes by, inter alia, exploring advanced technologies;

(c) Developing/enhancing processes, including those used in laboratory and in the field, for quality assurance, sample storage and data retention to support the development of tools/models for soil organic carbon estimation;

(d) Promoting the sharing of data on soil organic carbon estimation among country Parties;

5. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to:

(a) Integrate gender-responsive actions to promote women, youth and girls through the gender-inclusive design of preliminary land degradation neutrality assessments recommended by the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality;

(b) Develop gender-responsive land degradation neutrality interventions based on women's participation in decision-making for enabling inclusive land governance; and

(c) Take into account gender dimensions responsive to the concerns of women, youth and girls in land-use planning and in the design of interventions towards achieving land degradation neutrality;

6. *Invites* country Parties, as appropriate, to raise the profile of and mainstream land degradation neutrality in national policy agendas;

7. *Also invites* country Parties with land degradation neutrality voluntary targets to do so in pursuance of their national plans, strategies and action programmes by:

(a) Institutionalizing horizontal and vertical coordination taking into account multi-stakeholder participation in support of land degradation neutrality mainstreaming and implementation beyond the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme;

(b) Strengthening/developing mechanisms that support land degradation neutrality implementation and enforcement to better coordinate top-down and bottom-up actions related to land degradation neutrality;

(c) Ensuring institutional arrangements to enable the upscaling and outscaling of best practices;

(d) Supporting capacity-building to develop, implement and monitor land degradation neutrality interventions; and

(e) Encouraging the involvement of stakeholders for the adoption of sustainable land management technologies and approaches;

8. *Further invites* country Parties to develop partnerships with technical and financial bodies/entities to assess financial and capacity development needs to create an enabling environment for land degradation neutrality through mechanisms including, inter alia:

(a) Conducting financial needs assessments at national and other levels for achieving each national land degradation neutrality target; and

(b) Developing and investing in capabilities for land degradation neutrality monitoring and assessment, taking into account national data availability and local expertise;

9. *Encourages* country Parties to take into account land tenure and land-use planning conditions, as appropriate, for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for land degradation neutrality, following the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security to manage impacts of land degradation neutrality measures on land tenure by, inter alia:

(a) Integrating land tenure security into national strategies to achieve land degradation neutrality;

(b) Reconsidering programmes aimed at solely providing individual land titles, as these often fail to increase land tenure security;

(c) Recognizing and protecting customary land governance systems in national laws to enable customary land rights holders to be partners in land degradation neutrality;

(d) Recognizing the need to protect local communities from dispossession and loss of access to land when implementing policies and investments aiming at land degradation neutrality;

(e) Enhancing national capacities for the effective implementation of integrated land-use planning, establishing the full integration of a neutrality framework for counterbalancing assessed losses with equal or greater gains, and applying the land degradation neutrality response hierarchy for measures to avoid, reduce and/or reverse land degradation;

(f) Estimating the cumulative impacts of land-use decisions by assessing trends in land degradation neutrality indicators;

(g) Accounting for actors involved in private land governance who have an increasingly prominent role in shaping land governance and can therefore be instrumental to achieving land degradation neutrality;

10. *Invites* Parties and cooperating partners working on science-policy aspects relating to the enabling environment for land degradation neutrality to further engage in raising awareness and understanding of land degradation neutrality by:

(a) Enhancing awareness through facilitated access to information on land degradation neutrality beyond the lead entities already engaged in land degradation neutrality, including entities at higher political, administrative, policymaking and academic levels, and the public in general;

(b) Supporting research, training, capacity-building and the development of land governance systems conducive to avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation;

(c) Synthesizing and/or developing science-based methods to support land-use planning, including the use of scenario analysis and assessment of trade-offs;

11. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support national efforts to build capacity for improved assessment and monitoring of (a) land degradation neutrality; (b) multiple benefits; and (c) trade-offs to support integrated land-use planning;

12. *Invites* Parties pursuing voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to further engage in achieving multiple environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits in the context of land degradation neutrality by:

(a) Leveraging sustainable land-use activities and land-use planning for enhancing soil organic carbon and increasing land productivity;

(b) Creating multifunctional landscapes that simultaneously address land degradation neutrality, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the conservation of biological diversity;

(c) Applying available scientific tools and approaches to help build national and subnational capacities to evaluate environmental, economic and social co-benefits and trade-offs, as well as multiple benefits;

(d) Assessing multiple benefits during the design of land degradation neutrality programmes and initiatives, quantifying those potential benefits wherever possible;

(e) Engaging local communities and affected stakeholders at all phases of the design and implementation of land degradation neutrality programmes and initiatives to ensure that well-being and livelihood needs and outcomes, as well as potential trade-offs and multiple benefits, are effectively identified, discussed and taken into account; and

(f) Developing and implementing the land degradation neutrality national leverage plans within the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme to optimize multiple benefits from land degradation neutrality and minimize trade-offs or unintended consequences.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Decision 17/COP.14

Follow-up on the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019: Objective 2

The Conference of the Parties,

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

Also recalling decision 18/COP.13, decision 3/COP.13 and decision 21/COP.13,

Further recalling the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strives to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and in particular strategic objective 1 to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019,

Recognizing the strong linkages between land use and drought and that the management of both land and drought is fundamentally connected through water use,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/3 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation

1. *Invites* Parties to consider (a) strengthening the interlinkages between national land and drought policies including, inter alia, as appropriate, action programmes to combat desertification and land degradation, drought management programmes and national climate policies; (b) reviewing and promoting the adoption of such policies to fully reflect the influence of land use and management and land degradation on water availability and water scarcity; and (c) the positive role drought-smart land management practices, ecosystem-based adaptation and restoration measures, and drought recovery activities could have in building the resilience of communities and ecosystems to drought, when pursued in the context of land degradation neutrality;

2. *Also invites* Parties to take measures to ensure, as appropriate, that their institutions dedicated to drought management integrate land use, land-use change and land degradation as factors in drought and drought risk management practices and policies, while also ensuring that their land and water use institutions integrate drought-smart land management practices, climate variability and climate change impacts into their relevant policies and initiatives;

3. *Further invites* Parties and international organizations and cooperating partners to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination in their policies and programmes to promote the interventions necessary for optimized adoption, implementation and scaling-up of drought-smart land management to landscape level, focusing on, as appropriate, a set of five enablers, including:

(a) Implementing integrated land-use planning and landscape management;

(b) Strengthening national and local capacity on the multiple benefits of drought-smart land management across sectors, communities of practice and disciplines, taking into consideration persons with disabilities and gender-responsive actions to promote women, youth and girls;

(c) Ensuring the effective engagement of local institutions in combination with place-based policies and legal security on land tenure and water rights to ensure the inclusive

design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of land-based interventions to mitigate the effects of drought;

(d) Developing user-friendly tools which improve the access of policymakers, planners and practitioners at all levels to geospatial analysis that integrates Earth observations, including satellite and national in-situ data on land, water and meteorology, through the use of geographic information systems, which would allow for the integrated monitoring and mapping of land cover, including water bodies, land degradation and drought risk;

(e) Mobilizing as appropriate, inter alia, both conventional and innovative finance, including from public and private investors, such as ecosystem service payments, carbon emission offsetting, insurance coverage and responsible investment in inclusive, drought-resilient and sustainable value chains and food systems to support and promote drought-smart land management, ideally concurrent with local and national programming;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat and the Science-Policy Interface and *invites*, as appropriate, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and other relevant land, water, meteorological and disaster management organizations, in the context of the Integrated Drought Management Programme, to facilitate coordination and interaction between land degradation neutrality and drought risk management communities, notably by creating a common understanding of definitions and the cross-sectoral nature of drought risk management and land management;

5. *Also requests* the Secretariat to invite CGIAR and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and its Agricultural Stress Index System and other related agencies to share information on plant varieties and animal breeds that are tolerant to drought.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Decision 18/COP.14

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

The *Conference of the Parties*,

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

Also recalling decision 19/COP.13 on improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface and decision 22/COP.13 on cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/6,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021 as contained in the annex to this decision, and decides on priorities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(b) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology; and

(c) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the biennium 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

Table 1
Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021

Objective	*Deliverable*
1. Provision of science-based evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues.	A technical report providing science-based evidence of how, in the context of working to achieve or exceed LDN, integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management can contribute to positive transformative change, including examples of cases where these approaches have been applied. A demonstration, resulting from an open call, of how LDN can be incorporated into existing open source land use planning and trade-off analysis tools. Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of LDN transformative initiatives.
2. Provision of science-based evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, also considering the effect of climate change on drought risk.	A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which would provide science-based guidance on approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, including understanding the influence of climate change on drought risk.

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021

Activity	*Sub-activities*
1. Contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the procedures established by IPBES and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the secretariats of the IPBES and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030: (a) Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (b) Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).	The SPI will analyse the key messages of the SRCCL and AR6 relevant for the UNCCD for presentation at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
3. Follow up on current cooperation and explore future means and topics for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly confirmed by the SPI and the ITPS, bearing in mind the importance of soil organic carbon to land degradation neutrality (LDN). The SPI should be involved in any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (2017) and the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (2019). The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposiums relevant to the UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (2020).
4. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP) in accordance with the procedures established by UNEP-IRP and within the framework of its 2018–2021 work programme.	The SPI will follow up on relevant portions of three of the prioritized topics of the UNEP-IRP 2018–2021 work programme, particularly two thematic assessments: Resource Implications of Environmental Conflict and Migration, and Leveraging Resources for Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Development, and the think piece Resource Governance in Light of Fundamental Transitions in Systems of Production and Consumption, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review. Furthermore, the SPI will contribute in a review capacity to work on mineral resource governance following the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/L23 on the topic, which calls for further consultation on governance structures around resource extraction.
5. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of United Nations Human Settlement Programme to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII to measure tenure security globally and at country level, and land indicators used for measuring progress towards LDN.	The SPI will provide inputs to the GLII to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII and land indicators used by the UNCCD on the basis of existing data sources and standards that are globally collectible and comparable.

Activity	*Sub-activities*
6. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership on scientific issues related to drought.	The SPI will ensure the coherence and relevance of SPI work on drought, particularly towards the IDMP's second pillar of drought management, which focuses on vulnerability and impact assessment, and collaborate on two planned publications: a framework document on integrated drought management and a brochure on drought and water scarcity.
7. Assume a primary role in the quality assurance of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2), and review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.	The SPI will be a member of the GLO steering committee, contribute to and undertake a scientific review of the GLO 2 and all related documents, will approve the final versions prior to publication, and will be invited to review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.

Decision 19/COP.14

Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

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;

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.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Decision 20/COP.14

Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 23/COP.11, decision 19/COP.12 and decision 21/COP.13,

Also recalling decision 19/COP.13, decision 22/COP.13 and decision 3/COP.13,

Further recalling the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strives to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and in particular strategic objective 1 to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019,

Welcoming the completion of the Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration and the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Also welcoming the completion of the think piece Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recognizing the contribution of the Science-Policy Interface to the scientific review of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems,

Welcoming the initiative undertaken jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Science-Policy Interface to organize the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion, which established a common platform to present and discuss the latest information on the status of interventions and innovations in the field of soil erosion and related land management,

Acknowledging the cooperation between the Science-Policy Interface and the Global Land Indicators Initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which works to ensure the harmonization of land indicators developed by the Global Land Indicators Initiative to measure tenure security with land indicators used to measure progress towards land degradation neutrality,

Also acknowledging the role played by the Science-Policy Interface in planning for a future edition of the Global Land Outlook,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/4 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties, where and as appropriate, to incorporate land degradation neutrality into policy and planning across sectors in an integrated way to safeguard biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods by:

(a) Raising awareness and encouraging understanding of the benefits of land degradation neutrality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals across multiple sectors;

(b) Enhancing institutional capacities and knowledge in and across relevant sectors to mainstream and implement land degradation neutrality at subnational and national levels;

(c) Encouraging national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as national institutions that report on the Sustainable Development Goals and focal points for other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, to support coordinated activities to implement land degradation neutrality measures; and

(d) Encouraging broad stakeholder participation, involving land managers, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as experts and other knowledge holders, in policy for, planning for and implementation of land degradation neutrality;

2. *Encourages* Parties to document and report on experiences and lessons learned for all three levels of the land degradation neutrality response hierarchy, particularly measures to avoid land degradation;

3. *Also encourages* Parties, where appropriate, in partnership with relevant technical and financial partners, to develop national capacities for assessing land potential in order to facilitate choices which encourage better land-use practices that support the achievement of land degradation neutrality by:

(a) Inviting the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility to work with the Science-Policy Interface to develop guidance on the assessment and monitoring of land potential that is scientifically based and aligned with land degradation neutrality guidance;

(b) Encouraging the incorporation of existing sex-disaggregated data and information, including different knowledge systems, into land use planning processes at all levels that support the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

(c) Strengthening, as appropriate, national and regional capacities to undertake assessments of land potential that take into account both scientific and indigenous and local knowledge to implement land degradation neutrality; and

(d) Encouraging North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation that supports technology, scientific, indigenous and local knowledge, and other capacities in order to achieve land degradation neutrality;

4. *Further encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to enhance the potential to achieve land degradation neutrality by systematically linking the flows of consumption to the land that produces what is being consumed, which would involve:

(a) Collecting, compiling and sharing information for awareness-raising on how the benefits of achieving land degradation neutrality can be enhanced through sustainable consumption and production flows, patterns, practices and technologies;

(b) Encouraging country Parties to identify strategies to minimize the economic, social and environmental externalities arising from land degradation;

(c) Empowering women to make choices based on informed decisions on sustainable land management and consumption patterns through adequate access to information;

(d) Raising awareness in urban and peri-urban settings on how consumption patterns impact land to facilitate informed choices on consumption;

(e) Identifying strategies to reduce food waste and loss through the entire production and distribution chain;

(f) Recognizing the importance and diversity of indigenous and local knowledge and practices, also taking into account agro-ecological principles and practices; and

(g) Encouraging continued efforts to address unsustainable fuel wood extraction and usage which can lead to deforestation and human health impacts;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to update the list of direct and indirect drivers of land degradation listed in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting templates to reflect those listed in the annex to this decision in order to reflect the influence of consumption and production patterns and flows, accounting for different levels of confidence associated with each driver;

6. *Invites* relevant technical partners and the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to contribute to exploring options for better collaboration among relevant major restoration and rehabilitation initiatives, facilitate comprehensive communication on the impact of these measures to reverse land degradation, taking into consideration socioecological systems, and identify needs and required capacities for targeted actions;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to explore (a) enhancing United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting through the compilation of the spatial extent and status of relevant restoration and rehabilitation activities at national and subnational levels; and (b) sharing lessons learned and success stories emerging from interventions that consider land as integrated socioecological systems;

8. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface, in close collaboration with the secretariat, to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other scientific panels and bodies dealing with desertification/land degradation and drought issues, and *further requests* the secretariat to continue its efforts to clarify the potential benefits, costs, conditions and procedures for establishing more formal relationships with these panels and bodies.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Annex

Direct and indirect drivers of land degradation

Table 1
Direct anthropogenic drivers of land degradation identified in the Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[a]

Direct (anthropogenic)	*Direct (anthropogenic) subcategories*	*Linked degradation or restoration processes*
Deforestation and clearance of other native vegetation	N/A	Fragmentation; soil erosion; change in runoff and infiltration regime; climate feedbacks
Grazing land management	Livestock type; stocking rates; rotation regime; supplementary feeding; irrigation	Soil erosion; soil compaction; change in soil nutrient content; change in runoff and infiltration regime; invasive species; change in fire regime; secondary succession
Cropland and agroforestry management	Crop type; soil management; harvesting and fallow cycles; fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide; irrigation	Soil erosion; soil compaction; change in soil nutrient content; eutrophication; soil and water salinization; sedimentation; water contamination; species invasions; change in fire regimes (as related to agroforestry management)
Native and planted forest management	Harvesting intensity, rotation, silvicultural techniques; spatial zoning	Soil erosion; soil compaction; change in soil nutrient content; change in runoff and infiltration regime; water and soil salinization; change in species composition and species invasions
Non-timber natural resource extraction	Fuelwood harvesting; hunting; harvesting of wild foods, fodder, medicinal and other products	Changes in species composition
Fire regime change	N/A	Changes in species composition; soil erosion; loss of aboveground biomass; species invasions; change in runoff and infiltration regime
Invasive alien species	N/A	Changes in species composition
Land abandonment	N/A	Secondary succession; species invasions; change in fire regime; change in soil nutrient content
Mineral resource extraction	Mine type; extraction and refining techniques; pollutant discharge; spatial zoning	Soil pollution and contamination; water contamination
Infrastructure, industry, urbanization	Dams and hydroelectric; roads; pollutant discharge; irrigation	Soil pollution and contamination; water contamination; atmospheric pollutants
Climate change	Extreme weather events and long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, atmospheric composition	N/A

[a] <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/ldr>.

Table 2

Indirect drivers of land degradation identified in the Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[a] and their relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals

Indirect drivers	*Subcategories*	*Related Sustainable Development Goals*
Demographic	Population growth; migration (including to urban centres); density; age structure	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16
Economic	Demand; poverty; commercialization and trade; urbanization; industrialization; labour markets; prices; finance; consumer behaviour	1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15
Science, knowledge and technology	Education; indigenous and local and knowledge; research and development investments; access to technology; innovation; communication and outreach	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16
Institutions and governance	Public policy (regulatory and incentive-based); property rights; customary law; certification; international agreements and conventions (trade, environment, etc.); competencies of formal institutions; informal institutions (social capital)	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12,13, 15, 16
Cultural	Worldviews; values; religion; consumer behaviour; diet	2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16

[a] <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/ldr>.

Decision 21/COP.14

Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 23 and 24 of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.8 and decision 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operations of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Further recalling decision 19/COP.12 on improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Having reviewed the proposed work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020−2021, as contained in the annex of decision 18/COP.14,

1. *Decides* that the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should focus, inter alia, on the objectives and coordination activities identified in the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020−2021;

2. *Also decides* that the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should be organized in such a way as to facilitate a thematic dialogue between the Parties and the Science-Policy Interface regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs, and to enable the formulation of concise policy-relevant recommendations;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation, including a set of clear and concise recommendations for consideration by Parties at the appropriate session in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019

Decision 22/COP.14

Follow-up on the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions in the Convention and its annexes, where relevant, as they pertain to migration,

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/229 adopted on 21 December 2016,

Taking note of the increased recognition at the global level of the positive role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration,

Recalling that the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework recognizes that desertification/land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

Also recalling decision 28/COP.13, which requests the secretariat to support Parties, upon request, in promoting the positive role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration, commission a study on the same topic, support regional and international cooperation and initiatives that aim to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration, and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between desertification/land degradation and drought and migration,

Taking note of the study prepared by the International Organization for Migration on the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration,

Noting that a number of African countries have already taken action to address the drivers of migration related to desertification/land degradation and drought through the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security,

1. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate, to consider:

(a) Promoting the restoration of degraded land as one way of changing the narrative in communities impacted by desertification/land degradation and drought, and allowing United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation to focus on new opportunities and solutions which offer hope to young people;

(b) Reviewing development policies, including land-use policies and agricultural practices, with a view to promoting large-scale ecological restoration;

(c) Fostering renewable energy within different national contexts, as appropriate, including through partnerships, as a means to catalyse restoration of land and the development of rural enterprise, taking into account all relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Promoting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, inter alia, by creating sustainable value chains for local products, reducing pre- and post-harvest losses of agriculture and investing in clean rural industries;

(e) Encouraging responsible and sustainable investment by the private sector in land restoration, conservation and improvement, and livelihood development, as well as exploring how to develop a business case, including the consideration of public funding to facilitate increased private investment;

(f) Supporting the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa as well as creating initiatives in other regions that contribute to employment creation for rural communities by restoring degraded lands and facilitating access to land and land tenure security;

(g) Organizing conferences on desertification/land degradation and drought and migration, inter alia, to follow up on the recommendations of the Conferences of Almeria II in order to move from policies to action within the scope of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. *Also invites* Parties from the Africa region that are interested and have not yet done so to join the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Support Parties, upon request, in implementing the actions mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

(b) Also support regional and international cooperation and initiatives, within the scope of the Convention, that aim to promote the positive role sustainable land management can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

(c) Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between desertification/land degradation and drought and migration;

(d) Present for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at future sessions a report on the progress made in implementing this decision.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 23/COP.14

Policy advocacy on drought

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that droughts are occurring more frequently and becoming more common, intense, severe and extended in space and time,

Reaffirming the objective of the Convention in article 2, which is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious desertification or drought, particularly in Africa,

Recalling the particular conditions of the Regional Implementation Annexes to the Convention,

Recalling that the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework recognizes that desertification/land degradation and drought are challenges of global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems, such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

Mindful of the increasingly devastating impacts of drought, resulting in loss of life and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences, particularly on women and girls and vulnerable populations,

Noting the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land, which assessed information on the change in the frequency and intensity of drought in some regions and the role of land-based interventions to mitigate drought,

Recalling decision 7/COP. 13 and decision 29/COP. 13,

Emphasizing the importance of a holistic, integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities to shocks and natural disasters,

Noting the synergies in addressing drought with the other Rio conventions as well as a number of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those dealing with land, food, water, and energy security,

Welcoming the enhanced collaboration among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Water Partnership, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, the World Meteorological Organization and other partners in the framework of the Drought Initiative,

Emphasizing the importance of coordinating efforts of multiple actors in this area, avoiding duplication and enhancing synergies, including global networks such as the Global Network against Food Crises as well as regional initiatives,

Noting with appreciation the progress made so far in the implementation of the Drought Initiative and in particular the support to Parties to develop plans for drought preparedness, regional advocacy and capacity-building,

1. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification bodies, within their respective mandates, to build on the Drought Initiative during the biennium 2020−2021 by, inter alia:

(a) Further upgrading and expanding the Drought Toolbox, recognizing national contexts, in collaboration with regional and subregional stakeholders, and supporting country Parties in building capacity on its effective usage, including on early warning and monitoring systems, impact and vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures;

(b) Expanding collaboration and partnerships with relevant agencies, organizations and platforms to design and test innovative, gender-responsive and transformative approaches to supporting countries in mitigating the impacts of drought;

(c) Engaging with humanitarian actors in the development and implementation of national drought preparedness plans in order to ensure better complementarity and, where needed, operationalize a coordinated humanitarian and development response;

2. *Encourages* Parties to use the Drought Toolbox, developed within the framework of the Drought Initiative, to strengthen their preparedness for drought, including through enhanced regional efforts;

3. *Also encourages* Parties to enhance the integration and coherence at national and local levels with sustainable water management strategies and actions, mindful of the respective needs of certain sectors;

4. *Invites* Parties to use a variety of technical approaches, such as sustainable land and water management, agro-ecological approaches, ecosystem restoration and watershed management, for addressing drought and increasing resilience of ecosystems and communities to extreme weather and *requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with partners, to support them by making available related information, technical assistance and capacity-building, and promoting peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing;

5. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to identify potential and innovative financing instruments, based on clearly identified added value, for addressing drought, such as, but not limited to, insurance products, bonds and microfinance, and to make available related information and guidance for facilitating the access of Parties to these instruments;

6. *Encourages* Parties to engage their respective stakeholder communities, as appropriate, in the implementation of their national drought planning processes and activities;

7. *Also encourages* Parties to use the indicators for the drought strategic objectives recommended by the Science-Policy Interface as found in the annex of decision 11/COP.14 and engage their respective stakeholder communities in affected areas to develop methods, metrics and indicators for the drought vulnerability indicator (level 3);

8. *Further encourages* Parties to translate appropriate drought-related United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification materials into relevant local languages;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to compile an inventory of existing drought-related tools beyond the Drought Toolbox and make this information available to Parties;

10. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental working group, subject to the availability of resources, on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Also decides* that this intergovernmental working group will have the following terms of reference;

(a) The terms of reference of the intergovernmental working group are to take stock of and review the existing policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response and to consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention, in the context of a wider holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems;

(b) The intergovernmental working group will comprise Parties, international organizations, the Science-Policy Interface, civil society organizations and key stakeholders, as appropriate;

(c) The intergovernmental working group will consist of a maximum of three Party representatives nominated by the respective regional group on the basis of nominations by national governments;

(d) The secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, will nominate participants from key stakeholders, including United Nations organizations, the Science-Policy Interface, and other scientific organizations, regional organizations and civil society organizations, with a maximum of 15 additional members;

(e) At its first meeting, the intergovernmental working group will select a chair from its members;

(f) The intergovernmental working group will prepare an interim report for consideration by Parties at the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

12. *Requests* the secretariat to inform key United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders and relevant regional organizations, including, where appropriate, United Nations regional economic commissions, on the establishment of the intergovernmental working group and *invites* their collaboration to promote regional coordination in support of the discussions of the intergovernmental working group, taking into account their role in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Invites* Parties, international organizations, and stakeholders to make submissions on:

(a) Policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks and implementation measures for addressing drought under the Convention: and

(b) Barriers, challenges, opportunities and implementation measures as well as preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought;

14. *Requests* the intergovernmental working group to present its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Also requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at future sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 24/COP.14

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender

The Conference of Parties,

Recalling decision 7/COP.12, decision 9/COP.10, decision 9/COP.11 and decision 30/COP.13,

Reaffirming that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the UNCCD 2018−2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 15.3,

Reiterating our strong commitment to the effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan,

Welcoming with appreciation the work done by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism as well as by the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification of the United Nation Development Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its related country support,

1. *Encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to create enabling environments at the national level to make the implementation of the Convention gender-responsive and transformative;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates, to continue their support to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification country Parties on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the Gender Action Plan;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue collaboration and partnership-building with the other Rio conventions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, other United Nations entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations to explore further ways of strengthening awareness-raising, improving the Gender Action Plan and developing further tools and guidelines for the use of Parties in the thematic areas of the Gender Action Plan and the gender-responsive implementation of the Convention;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to strengthen gender-related knowledge and capacity, both in the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, by providing training to all staff on gender mainstreaming methods, tools and techniques on a regular basis to enhance systematic gender mainstreaming in all work areas and support the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Present a report on implementation efforts relevant to this decision to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation at its nineteenth session;

(b) Present a report on policy issues relevant to this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 25/COP.14

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 31/COP.13, decision 9/COP.12, decision 3/COP.12, decision 9/COP.10, and decision 8/COP.9,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 and 4/10 and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 70/195, 71/219, 72/225 and 73/237,

Noting that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes that can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought,

Urging a proactive approach to enhance cooperation and coordination at global, regional and subregional levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms while promoting and supporting initiatives to streamline comprehensive sand and dust storms preparedness that reduces the risks and boosts the resilience of affected and vulnerable communities and ecosystems,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms,

1. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate, to:

(a) Further explore options to integrate mitigation measures addressing anthropogenic sources of sand and dust storms into the subnational, national and regional implementation of the Convention;

(b) Enhance the preparedness and resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and populations to the adverse and negative impacts of sand and dust storms;

(c) Strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional initiatives that contribute to addressing sand and dust storms, taking note of the regional and subregional nature of the impacts;

(d) Take note of the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks Posed by Sand and Dust Storms and make use of it on a voluntary basis, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification institutions and bodies, within the scope and the mandate of the Convention and subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Finalize and publish the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks Posed by Sand and Dust Storms in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations and promote its use;

(b) Refine, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map at global, regional and national levels;

(c) Build the capacity of Parties to address sand and dust storms by developing a toolbox including decision-making support tools, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, institutions and partners;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and other relevant United Nations entities as well as member agencies of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms to continue their collaboration to assist affected country

Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms and explore the potential elements of a broader sand and dust storms initiative;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to the availability of resources, to continue participation in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance its cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address sand and dust storms source mitigation;

5. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, within its scope and mandate, to support the development of transformative desertification/land degradation and drought projects and financing options related to anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a report for future sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 26/COP.14

Land tenure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 5/COP.13, 7/COP.13, 27/COP.13 and 30/COP.13,

Noting the importance of land tenure within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also noting the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, to the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing that tenure rights should take into account the rights of others and matters of public interest that promote general welfare, according to national legislation,

Also recognizing that responsible land governance is a fundamental component of sustainable land management and is important to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought,

Welcoming the work of the Science-Policy Interface on this issue, particularly the technical report on "Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its potential contribution to enhancing well-being, livelihoods and the environment",

Also welcoming the initiative taken by civil society organizations to promote the discussion of land tenure in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Taking note of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are relevant to tenure rights to land,

1. *Encourages* the Parties to follow the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security principles, taking into account the principles of implementation, in the implementation of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality;

2. *Invites* Parties to review and, where appropriate, adopt national land governance legislation and procedures in order to support sustainable land use and land restoration;

3. *Encourages* Parties to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, consistent with the national legal framework;

4. *Invites* Parties to legally recognize equal use and ownership rights of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security as well as the promotion of gender-sensitive measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context;

5. *Encourages* the Parties to provide effective, timely and affordable access to justice and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms;

6. *Also encourages* the Parties to recognize and promote fair and inclusive community-based conflict resolution mechanisms;

7. *Invites* the Parties to ensure that measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought are carried out in a non-discriminatory and participatory way so that they promote equal tenure rights and access to land for all, in particular vulnerable and marginal groups, within the national context;

8. *Encourages* Parties to promote responsible and sustainable private and public investments in combating desertification/land degradation and drought, including restoration programmes that adhere to environmental and social safeguards in line with the Voluntary

Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and national legislation;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to explore options for the integration of existing globally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to land governance into the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process, with a view to avoiding duplication of reporting efforts and ensuring the widest reach among different national contexts;

10. *Also requests* the secretariat and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking into account national contexts for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session;

11. *Further requests* the secretariat to explore options to be presented at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on how, within its scope and mandate, to promote awareness-raising on responsible land governance for combating desertification/land degradation and drought among all stakeholders, particularly among vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples and local communities;

12. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at future sessions on the implementation of the present decision.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 27/COP.14

Special segment

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework,

Having heard the summary reports on the parallel ministerial/high-level round tables, submitted by:

H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Chair of Round table 1: Land, climate and renewable energy,

H.E. Ms. Ana Cristina Quiros, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica – Chair of Round table 2: Rural and urban communities – failing or flourishing together,

H.E. Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso – Chair of Round table 3: Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration,

Having heard the summary reports on the interactive dialogue sessions, submitted by:

H. E. Mr. Ezekiel Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives of St. Lucia, Moderator of the Interactive dialogue 1: A values-based approach to land stewardship,

H.E. Mr. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga, Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection of Zambia, Moderator of the Interactive dialogue 2 on: Healthy land – healthy people,

H.E. Ms. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana, Moderator of the Interactive dialogue: Boosting sustainable value chains for land-based business,

1. *Welcomes* the New Delhi Declaration with appreciation;

2. *Takes note* of the Chairpersons' and Moderators' summaries with appreciation and gratitude;

3. *Decides* to include the New Delhi Declaration as an annex to this decision.

4. *Also decides* to include the Chairpersons' and Moderators' summaries as an annex to this decision.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Annex I

The New Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities

We, the Ministers and Representatives gathered for the high-level segment at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held on 9–10 September 2019 in New Delhi at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India,

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India for its hospitality and to the UNCCD secretariat for the organization of the high-level segment,

Recognizing that desertification/land degradation and drought undermines health, development and prosperity in all regions and *acknowledging* that dryland ecosystems are areas of special focus,

Deeply concerned that the impacts of desertification/land degradation and drought are felt most keenly by vulnerable people,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and *looking forward* to comprehensively reviewing and monitoring progress with the aim of accelerating the implementation of both,

Recalling also that striving to achieve land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing to implement the Convention,

Acknowledging those practices which conserve and restore land and soil affected by desertification/land degradation, drought and floods, contribute towards achieving land degradation neutrality and can also have long-term multiple benefits for the health, well-being and socioeconomic development of the entire society, especially for the livelihoods of the rural poor,

Noting the link between the restoration and sustainable management of land and the creation of decent jobs, including green jobs initiatives and other employment-generating opportunities, for vulnerable communities in degraded areas,

Recalling that the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth session, called for synergies in addressing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change,

Noting the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment and its Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems, which recognize the role of the land-use sector,

Recognizing the contribution of effective and responsible governance and stewardship of natural resources, especially land and water, for combating desertification/land degradation and drought and for the sustainable development of current and future generations,

Convinced that diverse multi-stakeholder participation, as appropriate, at local, subnational, national and regional levels and from all sectors of society, including civil society organizations, local government and the private sector, will be crucial to achieving the objectives of the UNCCD,

Renewing our commitment to concerted international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention,

1. *Encourage* the development of community-driven transformative projects and programmes that are gender-responsive, at local, national and regional level, to drive the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Also encourage*, in the context of projects aimed at combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality and resilience-building, inter alia and as appropriate, the transition and increased access to energy in rural and urban communities, within the scope of the UNCCD;

3. *Further encourage* a proactive approach to reducing the risks and impacts of desertification/land degradation and drought through the implementation of drought preparedness plans and increased risk mitigation for drought and sand and dust storms;

4. *Invite* development partners, international financial mechanisms, the private sector and other stakeholders to boost investments and technical support for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality, create green jobs and establish sustainable value chains for products sourced from the land;

5. *Promote* opportunities that support, as appropriate and applicable, the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the development of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into consideration land-based solutions for climate action and biodiversity conservation and the mutually supportive implementation of the three Rio conventions;

6. *Welcome* the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), *commit* to adopting an integrated, best-practice approach to land restoration based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge that offers hope to vulnerable communities and *invite* Parties, observers and other relevant UNCCD stakeholders, including the private sector, to accelerate and scale up relevant initiatives at all levels;

7. *Take note* of the benefits brought to participating countries by the accelerated implementation of initiatives that support a transformative narrative in the Sahel through, inter alia, the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security;

8. *Also take note* of the launch of the Peace Forest Initiative and its potential contribution to increasing cooperation on land degradation neutrality, including land restoration and reforestation in transborder areas in participating countries, where appropriate;

9. *Reaffirm* the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security for better access, control and stewardship over land and equitable tenure security, in accordance with relevant national legislation, for the implementation of the Convention and the promotion of sustainable land management;

10. *Encourage* local governments to adopt integrated land use management and enhanced land governance to rehabilitate the natural resource base that makes cities sustainable, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, including by reducing rates of land consumption and soil sealing along with biodiversity and ecosystem loss;

11. *Welcome* the various initiatives targeting land degradation neutrality by India such as Har Khet Ko Pani, More Crop Per Drop, the National Afforestation Program, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and the Soil Health Card Scheme;

12. *Also welcome* the proposed adoption of a voluntary land degradation neutrality target by India that includes the restoration of degraded land and the legacy programme announced to support South–South cooperation following this Conference of Parties.

Annex II

Summary of the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session

Ministerial round table 1: Land, climate and renewable energy

Chair	H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Iceland
Speaker	Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

1. Approximately 200 people actively participated in Round table 1: Land, climate and renewable energy. The discussions featured 42 interventions in total from state Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

2. The round table opened with welcoming remarks by H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, noting the impact of climate change and land degradation on communities everywhere and the challenges faced by small island developing States.

3. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Achim Steiner, gave an inspiring speech focused on the interlinkages between land, climate and renewable energy. He noted that land is fundamentally linked to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is also fundamental to the development of people and particularly critical if we plan to mitigate the energy requirements of the poorest communities across the world. Renewables are at the forefront of the energy transition, with solar and wind energy more compatible with sustainable land use. But renewable energy can also become a competitor for productive land if not managed carefully. Land is a precious resource, and though the specific tenure may vary, there is a need to recognize that land is "owned" by those who use it. The current 'business as usual' model is not enough. The UNDP Administrator asked several provocative questions: "Can we create the right kind of economies to deliver on the climate mitigation targets, land degradation targets and biodiversity targets at the same time? Can we construct the appropriate economic development model, policy instruments, and best practices that offer the right incentives to achieve the tangible benefits of sustainable land management?" Mr. Steiner suggested that options are indeed available, as well as scientifically doable and economically viable. However, we have reached a point where ambition and action are urgently needed to change the paradigm.

4. Mr. Steiner was followed by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Mr. Hoesung Lee, who reported on the findings of the recently approved special report on climate change and land. He emphasized that land as a mitigation tool has positive implications on all Sustainable Development Goals, but to achieve these multiple benefits, ambitious climate action on land is required now. It would lead to opportunities but requires full international cooperation and commitment with great emphasis on environmental and social needs, ranging from the protection of biodiversity to social justice and equity.

5. The Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Iceland, then moderated the round table discussion with 42 interventions from ministers and heads of delegation. The panel also welcomed the private sector, intergovernmental organizations and a representative of accredited civil society organizations.

6. The key message emanating from the discussions was that there is no Planet B.

7. Lands is increasingly exposed to the impact of climate change, droughts and flash floods, and considerable damage can already be directly attributed to this. Vulnerability to climate change is a growing issue in many regions.

8. Many countries emphasized the cascade effect associated with the influence of both land degradation and climate change. For example, once land degradation starts a chain reaction of economic challenges, an incidence of drought may then trigger social unrest. Others emphasized the impact of land degradation on water availability, which can affect both energy and food supply and eventually a reduction in the availability of safe drinking water. The result is higher costs and outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Bioenergy and biofuels were mentioned by many countries as a major factor in the solution, but only if carefully managed to prevent unintended impacts on the food supply and environment. While several countries mentioned the risks associated with bioenergy, they also said that they were starting to use renewables as an entry point to both address climate change and create an enabling environment to pursue restoration and rehabilitation initiatives. While many spoke of solar and wind power, it was emphasized that current renewables are dominated by hydro-power, and several countries mentioned their progress with geothermal energy. Diversification of new energy sources to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources was viewed as essential.

9. Some highlighted the power of integrating clean energy and sustainable land management (SLM). Others pointed out that urbanization not focused on sustainability accelerates land degradation and reduces the resilience of both urban areas and surrounding rural land to climate change. All of the positive solutions begin with a combination of good policies and governance and full engagement of communities. A comment that resonated with many countries was that the path to solving land degradation, water quality and quantity issues, and food security starts with women.

10. Several countries made it clear that there needs to be a strategy for behavioural change based on resource reuse and greater exploitation of nature-based solutions which address both environmental and social challenges simultaneously. For example, we will need to transition our food systems away from industrialized agriculture and embrace agroecological solutions to keep food, energy and the environment in balance. A discussion on the importance of a circular economy broached sustainable consumption and better information about the land where food is grown.

11. States have developed action plans to address land degradation and climate change and set land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and carbon dioxide emission reduction targets. There are considerable synergies in SLM, land restoration, climate mitigation and adaptation and social resilience. The solutions are nature-based with the ability to deliver on challenges faced by the earth and humanity.

12. LDN was viewed as a framework to deliver on potential synergies among the three Rio conventions, and there was a great deal of discussion about the importance of pursuing synergies in a meaningful and practical way. It is important to ensure more effective collaboration and commitments to working together at global and national level. Many countries then commented on how important integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management would be to the success of LDN and the achievement of multiple benefits. On the ground, smart design could ensure optimized co-location of food, energy and nature while indigenous and local knowledge could assist in the identification of locally effective nature-based solutions. Good governance and incentives for good land stewardship are essential to the successful navigation of difficult trade-offs.

13. The representative of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) pointed out that while land restoration is a powerful part of the solution to climate change, we must overcome the USD 300 billion SLM financing gap. GCF proposed several innovative finance options for deliberation, including an equity fund for small- and medium-sized enterprises pursuing commercially viable SLM practices.

14. Parties noted the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessments and the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems, which recognized the role of the land-use sector as critical to getting land and climate right. The science on land and climate is improving steadily. However, knowledge management and capacity-building were mentioned numerous times. Several countries welcomed the enhancements to the UNCCD Knowledge Hub (e.g. the Drought Tool Box) and the value of practices databases for SLM (e.g. World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies). Some countries talked about cooperation and harnessing the growing influence of South–South cooperation to ensure that science was translated to policy and action.

15. The Co-Chair closed the meeting and summarized the key messages.

16. He noted that the discussion sends a strong message to the Nature-Based Solutions work stream of the upcoming United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit (23 September 2019) where Parties are being asked to be practical and ambitious. Land management and restoration can deliver many of the solutions the world is looking for in terms of mitigation and adaptation and resilience-building.

17. As one Party eloquently put it, "It is up to the international community to rise up as one".

18. The UNCCD should be proactively engaged in promoting and helping Parties deliver on the potential of land for climate action. Together, we can promote opportunities that support the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the development of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into consideration the growing relevance of land-based solutions for climate action and biodiversity conservation and the mutually supportive implementation of the three Rio Conventions. Land restoration as a synergetic tool with multiple potential benefits should therefore be prioritized as a nature-based solution and receive higher levels of international financing. More emphasis is needed on synergies between the three Rio Conventions, but with the impact of climate change set to hit, it is important to remember the challenge of water scarcity and abundance and the need to develop a circular economy. In particular, the joint development of land and renewable energy for the benefit of rural communities would be a strategic business case. Gender issues are crucial to SLM and must be given continuous attention at all levels, including in conversations about land, climate and renewable energy where the resource access issue is critical.

19. Ending on a high note, the Co-Chair said that if we revive our spirits and get the work done, we can deliver on our ambitions and do much better because there is no Planet B.

Ministerial round table 2: Rural and urban communities – failing or flourishing together

Chair	H.E. Ms. Ana Cristina Quiros, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Niger
Speaker	Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission

20. Approximately 70 people attended and actively participated in Round table two: Rural and urban communities – failing or flourishing together.

21. H.E. Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC), opened the discussions by highlighting (a) the alignment of the round table with Africa's Agenda 2063 strategy; and (b) the fact that there is a great need to address gender imbalances related to the insecurity of land tenure. The African Union has a youth engagement initiative to create 11 million jobs by 2021, while its Rural Africa Task Force focuses on developing rural areas.

22. The Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Niger, then moderated the round table discussion with 26 interventions from ministers and heads of delegation. The panel also welcomed the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, a Sustainable Development Goals advocate and a representative of accredited civil society organizations.

23. The key message emanating from the discussions was that rural and urban communities will stand or fall as one, so a joined-up approach is now critical. As one participant noted, "We all agree on what the problems are. They touch on the issues of land planning, land management, agriculture production, employment, capacity-building, rural identity and the preservation of natural resources."

24. Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chair of the Global Environment Facility, observed though that the international community is still operating in silos. The way we think about land-use planning should be considered together with natural ecosystem conservation. She highlighted the need to increase the linkages with the market and promote collaboration between the public and private sectors to bring together sustainable supply and value chains.

25. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, said via video message: "We need to transform the way we plan, build and manage our urban spaces, while ensuring that the rural areas are not left behind." She proposed a joined-up approach towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and land degradation neutrality.

26. Mr. Ahmed Aziz Diallo, Mayor of Dori in Burkina Faso, emphasized that the degradation of soils in rural areas affects the whole of society, economy and lives, forcing communities to migrate in search of a means to survive.

27. Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Founder and President of Governance and Policies for Sustainable Development and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), warned that Africa will experience the biggest growth in urbanization of any continent in the coming years. Cities are increasingly vulnerable to climate change effects such as floods and droughts. As an architect, he believes that no cities can be resilient by themselves. Instead, he said, "we should talk about sustainability in cities and rural areas together and ensure shared planning", and make sure to involve the most vulnerable.

28. Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Executive Director of ICLEI South Asia, noted that urbanization has led

to increased energy demands, migration, economic loss and high levels of stress on resources such as productive land and water. With a positive approach, he highlighted that cities are not only part of the problem but can also be an important part of the solution, including with the promotion of green jobs and technologies.

29. The H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba concurred and noted that “green jobs and holistic planning and management are essential”.

30. Almost all of the participants referred to linkages between high rural/urban income, opportunity and infrastructure disparities and migration. Some highlighted the need to focus on the most vulnerable, including youth and women. The importance of strengthening land tenure was consistently reiterated. Zimbabwe warned that if not properly managed, rural and urban areas will fail together. Several Parties highlighted that the same challenges relating to national resources management can also be applied at the transboundary level. The increasing competition over access to productive and land resources was a matter of concern between urban and rural communities alike.

31. The Co-Chair closed the meeting and the Chair summarized the key messages as follows.

32. Rural and urban communities need to act as partners and not competitors. This can only be achieved if there are opportunities in rural areas, especially for youth and women. In addition, fostering a circular economy system and an integrated approach to land-use planning are a part of the solution, and these will work best with the greater involvement of the private sector and local governments.

33. The challenges are accelerating. With that in mind, Mr. Ahmed Aziz Diallo confirmed “we are compelled to act with vigour and a sense of urgency”.

34. The UNCCD and its Parties should actively encourage local governments to adopt integrated land-use management and enhanced land governance to rehabilitate the natural resource base that makes cities sustainable, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, including by reducing rates of land consumption and soil sealing along with biodiversity and ecosystem loss.

Ministerial round table 3: Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration

Chair	H.E. Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment of Fiji
Speaker	Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

35. Approximately 160 people actively participated in Round table 3: Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration. The discussions were enriched by a total of 33 interventions from Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

36. The Chair, H. E. Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso, welcomed the distinguished representatives and opened the round table discussion. Nature is declining at an unprecedented rate with serious effects on human populations around the world. He noted the opportune timing of these discussions as the global community is moving towards the implementation of the land degradation neutrality targets, discussing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and designing the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) for maximum action and impact on the ground.

37. Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, delivered and inspirational keynote speech and put forth the analogy: “We are like a man living in a house built on wooden stilts, chipping away at this wood to fuel his fire. Chip for long enough, and the house will collapse.” Ecosystem restoration makes sense at every possible level; this entails sweeping shifts in the way we use and manage our land. She stressed the need to break out of the environment and development sphere and into boardrooms and other ministries. This means working with the agriculture, infrastructure and other sectors to help them become biodiversity-positive, land-improving and nature-enhancing.

38. The Co-Chair, H. E. Mr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment of Fiji, set the stage by elaborating what effective ecosystem restoration means to the livelihoods of the South Pacific nations. The rich biodiversity of the Fiji Islands and the ecosystems supporting it are now at risk. These ecosystems provide a great source of revenues for Fijian people and its economy. Indeed, Fiji’s main tourism attraction is its natural environment and pristine marine waters. Thus, ecosystem restoration is essential to Fijian livelihoods, and Fiji stands with other Parties in fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration.

39. The key message emanating from the discussions was that desertification and land degradation is a global responsibility, and that there is a need for partnerships and coordinated action at all levels, from local to national, and from regional to global.

40. We can no longer separate environmental problems from social problems. Land degradation is particularly acute in the drylands with serious impacts on the economies and well-being of the resident populations. Knowledge, science and technology should lead policy and action, followed by the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. A holistic and integrated approach is the most promising way of delivering livelihood benefits while at the same time ensuring the full range of the ecosystem services we need to survive.

41. The speakers highlighted a wide range of projects and programmes in their respective countries, such as sustainable land management, watershed management, and sand and dust storm source mitigation initiatives, as well as projects designed to create green jobs and avoid forced migration. Many speakers emphasized the role of forests and trees and the need to

establish a concrete action strategy linking the three Rio conventions to harness ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions. Several speakers emphasized that gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element in the success of restoration activities.

42. Food security is of paramount importance for most countries, and the loss of soil quality in some regions is alarming. Restoring the health and productivity of the land for food production is a top priority for many countries. Most reaffirmed their commitments to their land degradation neutrality targets and recognized that implementation of those targets on the ground has great potential for creating transformational change. Some acknowledged that some of the more successful restoration efforts are being led by local communities and municipalities, including indigenous peoples, and that community engagement cannot ignore property rights and tenure security. Continuing to build these capacities and scale up restoration efforts must come into sharper focus. The principles in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were referenced by several speakers as essential to our efforts to combat land degradation.

43. All speakers noted that the conservation and sustainable management of land resources is less expensive than restoration and that we need national legal frameworks and regional and global cooperation to address the human-induced drivers of land degradation. There needs to be systemic change in the way we think about and manage our lands along with public–private partnerships to ensure sustained investments. This will require smart restoration targets that are implementable and measurable.

44. The Parties should welcome and embrace the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and commit to adopting an integrated, best-practice approach to land restoration based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge that offers hope to vulnerable communities.

45. There was a strong feeling in the round table that we all need to act together and engage together with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; this is the only way we will succeed and scale up restoration activities to the level that is demanded of us. The Chair and Co-Chair thanked the participants and closed the round table with their final remarks of hope: where there is sincere commitment and political will, there is a way to safeguard our ecosystems for future generations.

Interactive dialogue 1: A values-based approach to land stewardship

Chair	H.E. Mr. Ezechiel Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning Natural Resources and Co-operatives of Saint Lucia
Speakers	Sadhguru (Isha Foundation), Mr. Baaba Maal, Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Father Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam (Holy See)

46. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, the panel explored, in dialogue with Ministers, what drives people to become good stewards of the land.

47. With a rapidly growing population expected to reach more than 9.7 billion by 2050, societies must urgently grapple with the central moral question of how to protect our increasingly finite natural capital in the face of the limitless human desire to expand and consume. Our behaviours and patterns of consumption are putting immense pressure on global land resources. Parties agreed that humanity has a responsibility to find equitable solutions for the poorest in our societies while adopting a values-based approach to land stewardship, rooted in the respect for our precious natural capital.

48. The discussions paid particular attention to the role of indigenous communities. It was felt that they need to be recognized as the guardians of our global land resources, protecting 80 per cent of biodiversity on Earth. If we are to stand a chance of arresting the degradation of our natural world, the implementation of the Convention can help the global community recognize, promote and harness indigenous communities' invaluable knowledge and intuitive connection with nature.

49. The moral imperative of championing a global restoration movement is not limited to governments, business or civil society organizations alone. Culture itself can be a key vector in inspiring action and delivering a transformative message that resonates with people across the globe. Senegalese musician Baaba Maal urged us all to use our respective platforms as global citizens to raise our voices to tackle the planetary emergency we are facing, recounting his own journey as a musician driven by a sense of deep personal responsibility. In order to inspire a revolution in the way we manage our global land resources, we can explore deep-rooted cultural norms to trigger behavioural change.

50. Finally, all world religions remind us in their sacred texts that land is 'holy'. The discussions explored how to build a broader dialogue between people of all faiths and creeds to inspire collective action in protecting our global lands. Religions of the world are working hand-in-hand with the scientific community to impact change, and this will be ever more crucial to create a harmonious future built on the strong foundation of healthy land for all.

51. Delegates noted that this dialogue was a departure from previous sessions, but the approach of engaging a wider group of motivated stakeholders, with a range of different backgrounds and experience, was positive and could evolve further in future.

Interactive dialogue 2: Healthy land – healthy people

Chair	H.E. Mr. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga, Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection of Zambia
Speakers	H.E. Ms. Lorena Aguilar Revelo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Ambassador Howard Bamsey, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership

52. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, Interactive dialogue 2 explored, in dialogue with Ministers, a variety of perspectives on how land and human health can be integrated. There were more than 200 participants, including Ministers of countries from various regions, heads of United Nations agencies, and representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.

53. Participants discussed how healthy land is an essential part of our life support system. If the health and productivity of land decreases, human health will suffer. The negative impacts on health are disproportionately experienced by certain groups, especially those living in vulnerable conditions. Environmental risk factors associated with desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) include lack of food and water security, air and soil pollution, lack of sanitation and hygiene, exposure to hazardous chemicals, change in vector distribution, and climate-related disasters. These result in communicable and noncommunicable diseases, malnutrition, disability and mortality.

54. In the discussions, H.E. Ms. Lorena Aguilar Revelo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, highlighted the importance of gender in addressing health issues. Gender equality and the collection of disaggregated data on the differentiated health impacts of land degradation and water scarcity should guide policy discussions and implementation.

55. Ambassador Howard Bamsey, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership, said “We can’t have healthy land and healthy life without healthy water.” He stressed that the vulnerability of water systems is also affecting the health of land. He shared his concern that the world is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 because of long-term water scarcity for humans and ecosystems. Collaboration will be key, and the Global Water Partnership’s 3,000 partners across the world could be instrumental in this. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations highlighted soil pollution: without clean soils there can be no health. Soil pollution impacts food quality, security and human and ecosystem health.

56. The need for behavioural change was emphasized by many who noted the successful reduction in tobacco consumption as a good example of the role that raising awareness among consumers could play in bringing back the health of the land.

57. The key message is that humans should be at the centre of efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, as highlighted in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Certainly, populations are not equally vulnerable and gender inequality is an important factor. Ill health and sickness caused by land degradation and drought are the human face of the implementation of the Convention. Strategies that reduce DLDD would provide for better overall human health. At the same time, public health systems will need to adapt to a changing world. Many speakers agreed that women’s empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development as well as for the ‘healthy land, healthy people’ agenda. The vulnerability of our water supply and demand systems resulting from poor governance affect the health of land. Participants recommended strengthening broader water and soil partnership at all levels.

58. This interactive dialogue session provided critical insights and policy guidance on how to effectively proceed on land-related human health issues in the context of the Convention. The session demonstrated that Parties to the Convention are united in a common goal to guarantee healthy and productive land to promote human health. Now is the time to plan for the future.

Interactive dialogue 3: Boosting sustainable value chains for land-based business

Chair	H.E. Ms. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana
Speakers	Mr. Bernard Giraud (Livelihoods Venture), Mr. Nick Salter (Aduna), Mr. Francesco La Camera (International Renewable Energy Agency), Mr. Anil Jain (Jain Irrigation Systems), Mr. Cai Mantang (Elion Resources Group), Mr. Tony Siantonas (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)

59. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, Interactive dialogue 3 explored, in dialogue with Ministers, a variety of perspectives on ways to promote and strengthen sustainable value chains for land-based businesses.

60. The fruitful discussion stressed the need for global and local business leaders to play a transformational role in linking smallholder producers in dryland areas to lucrative local and international markets. Speakers highlighted the numerous challenges smallholder producers are facing and underscored the need to create an enabling environment fitting the national context to strengthen technical capacities and mobilize incentive mechanisms for sustainable land management. To meet local and global market demand smallholder farmers will need to guarantee a reliable, high-quality supply. Such supply is often hindered by the lack of access to resources, including equipment and energy, as Mr. La Camera of the International Renewable Energy Agency highlighted.

61. The need for creating coalitions of stakeholders, including businesses, governments, research institutions and civil society organizations, was underlined by many as the key to creating shared value for all by encouraging businesses to build solutions and create the financial instruments that will bring the necessary resources to farmers.

62. Achieving sustainable development at scale is a major challenge that will require all stakeholders to focus on the long-term economic sustainability of value chains and on the engagement of major businesses. In the discussions, Mr. Salter from Aduna stressed the importance of not only working on the supply side, but also of engaging with consumers to build awareness and increase demand. This will help create new markets and transform existing value chains.

63. While participants pointed out the importance of technology to promote the development of value chains, Mr. Giraud from Livelihoods Venture also emphasized the need to invest in human capital, in particular in women and youth who represent the majority as well as the future in the production and transformation of farming and wild collection in the dryland areas.

64. This dialogue session provided critical insights as to how coalitions, flexibility and agility will be crucial to accelerate the sustainable transformation of supply chains and the creation of new markets that will provide economic opportunities for smallholder farmers while ensuring the restoration of severely degraded land. The session demonstrated that Parties are already making progress in promoting sustainable value chains, and that private sector engagement should continue in the future to create the tangible coalitions needed to achieve transformation in land-based sustainable value chains.

Decision 28/COP.14

Credentials of delegations

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/22 on the credentials of delegations and the recommendation contained therein,

Decides to approve the report.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 29/COP.14

Declaration of civil society organizations attending the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration made by the representative of the civil society organizations attending the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the discussions held during the two Open Dialogue Sessions with the civil society organizations on "Inclusive dialogue on land tenure in the context of land degradation neutrality" and on "Intergenerational cooperation for Land Restoration including land tenure security, green jobs and migration",

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 30/COP.14

Declaration from the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* contributions to the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum and *takes note* of the UNCCD Delhi Declaration from Business with appreciation;

2. *Decides* to include the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Delhi Declaration from Business from the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 31/COP.14

Declaration of the Youth Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the Youth Forum which took place from 6–7 September as a way to foster the involvement of future generations in the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Youth Forum with appreciation;

3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Youth Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session.

13th plenary meeting
12 September 2019

Decision 32/COP.14

Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5, 29/COP.6, 30/COP.7, 27/COP.8, 35/COP.9, 38/COP.10, 39/COP.11,34/COP.12 and 35/COP.13 on its programme of work,

Taking into consideration the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its fifteenth session and, if necessary, its sixteenth session:

(a) UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework:

(i) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(ii) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

(iii) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(iv) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(c) Policy frameworks and thematic issues;

(d) Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;

(e) Procedural matters:

(i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and business engagement strategy;

2. *Also decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including ministers, civil society organizations, the business community, the scientific community and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare an annotated provisional agenda, in agreement with the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session, taking into consideration provisions contained in the relevant decisions taken during that conference;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

5. *Further requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties a single document with all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the Conference of the Parties and to ensure that draft decisions are clearly written and properly formatted.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Decision 33/COP.14

Date and venue of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling rule 3 of the rules of procedure,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, in autumn 2021, or at another venue arranged by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional costs;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019

Resolution 1/COP.14

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of India

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in New Delhi, from 2 to 13 September 2019 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of India for having made it possible for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in New Delhi and for the excellent facilities placed at its disposal;

2. *Requests* the Government to convey to the people of the Republic of India the profound gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

14th plenary meeting
13 September 2019