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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda

Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level

Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In paragraph 12 of decision 11/COP.11, Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to prepare draft amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the GEF, and to report on the proposed draft amendments to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twelfth session.

The COP will be invited to consider the draft amended MOU, and to take any appropriate action.

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I. Introduction

1. In its decision 11/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to consult with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on whether amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the GEF are required, and on possible proposals in the light of recent developments, and to report to the eleventh session of the COP.

2. By its decision 11/COP.11, the COP requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, to prepare draft amendments to the existing MOU between the UNCCD and the GEF, and to report on the proposed draft amendments to the COP at its twelfth session.

3. The UNCCD and GEF secretariats conducted consultations on this matter and have agreed on the requested amendments. They are provided in the table below for the consideration of the COP.

Proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding

<i>Section of MOU</i>	<i>Original text</i>	<i>Amendment proposed</i>
Preamble	Used “ <i>Recalling</i> ” to reference relevant documents and decisions	Uses “ <i>Whereas</i> ” to reference relevant documents and decisions Adds new text to include relevant decisions from recent COPs
Definitions		Includes definition of “land degradation”
Coherence	Referred to the “GEF Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management”	Refers to the “Land Degradation Focal Area”
Reporting		Item added on implementation of COP decisions
Interpretation		Section renamed “Dispute Resolution”
Miscellaneous		New section on public disclosure policy
Amendments	Required approval of the COP and the GEF Council	Proposes that these be carried out at any time by written agreement between the GEF and the UNCCD secretariats
Withdrawal		Section renamed “Termination” and amended
Effectiveness		New section on entry into force of the MOU

II. Conclusions and recommendations

4. The COP will be invited to consider the draft amendments to the MOU between the UNCCD and the GEF, and to take any appropriate action.