



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
8 December 2016

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Report of the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Nairobi 18 to 20 October 2016

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I. Opening of the session

A. Opening statements

1. On 18 October 2016, the Vice-Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), Mr. Raymond Baptiste (Grenada), opened the fifteenth session of the Committee and made a statement.
2. A statement was made by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Charles Sunkuli, on behalf of the Host Country of the fifteenth session of the CRIC.
3. A statement was also made by the Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, Mr. Ali Riza Diniz, on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP), Prof. Veysel Eroglu, Minister for Forestry and Water Affairs.
4. A statement was further made by the Director of the Division of Administrative Services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on behalf of the Host Institution of the fifteenth session of the CRIC.
5. A statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
6. An announcement was made by China on the hosting of the thirteenth session of the COP.

B. General statements

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Kenya (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (Annex I)), Bhutan (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II)), Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries), Italy (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)) and Armenia (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)).
8. A statement was also made by the representative of Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).
9. A statement was further made by the representative of Slovakia (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States).
10. A statement was made by the representative of Morocco as the host country of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
11. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.
12. A statement was further made by the representative of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus of Georgia on behalf of civil society organizations (CSOs).

C. Meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes

13. Meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes I, III, IV and V in preparation for the fifteenth session of the CRIC were held from 16 to 17 October 2016.

II. Procedural matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. At its first meeting, on 18 October 2016, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(15)/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (b) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee.
2. Implementation experiences:
 - (a) Experience in the optional reporting exercise;
 - (b) Land degradation neutrality (LDN) target-setting exercise.
3. Future implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group;
 - (b) Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties;
 - (c) Financing the implementation of the convention: opportunities for increased financing and options for tracking.
4. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention:

Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM).

15. Also at the first meeting, the Committee approved the schedule of work for the session, as contained in the annex to document ICCD/CRIC(15)/1.

B. Appointment of a Rapporteur of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

16. At the first meeting, on 18 October 2016, the Committee appointed Mr. Yuriy Kolmaz (Ukraine) as Rapporteur of its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions.

C. Informal consultations

17. Informal consultations took place regularly during the session under the guidance of the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Committee.

D. Attendance

18. The representatives of the following 119 Parties to the UNCCD attended the fifteenth session of the Committee:

Algeria	El Salvador	Libya
Angola	Eritrea	Madagascar
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malawi
Armenia	European Union	Malaysia
Austria	Fiji	Mauritania
Azerbaijan	Finland	Mongolia
Bangladesh	France	Morocco
Belarus	Gabon	Mozambique
Belgium	Gambia	Namibia
Benin	Georgia	Nepal
Bhutan	Germany	Niger
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Nigeria
Botswana	Grenada	Pakistan
Brazil	Guatemala	Palau
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Panama
Cambodia	Guinea-Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Cameroon	Guyana	Peru
Côte d'Ivoire	Hungary	Philippines
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Portugal
Chad	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Qatar
China	Iraq	Republic of Congo
Colombia	Israel	Republic of Korea
Comoros	Italy	Republic of Moldova
Cook Islands	Japan	Russian Federation
Costa Rica	Kenya	Rwanda
Cuba	Kiribati	Saint Lucia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kuwait	Samoa
Djibouti	Kyrgyzstan	Sao Tome and Príncipe
Dominica	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Senegal
Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Serbia
Ecuador	Lesotho	Seychelles
Egypt	Liberia	Sierra Leone
		Slovakia

Somalia	Timor-Leste	United Republic of Tanzania
South Africa	Togo	United States of America
Spain	Tonga	Uruguay
Swaziland	Trinidad and Tobago	Viet Nam
Switzerland	Tunisia	Zambia
Syrian Arab Republic	Turkey	Zimbabwe
Tajikistan	Uganda	
Thailand	Ukraine	

19. The session was also attended by observers from the following States not Party to the Convention:

Canada
Palestine

20. The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were also represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Global Environment Facility
International Atomic Energy Agency
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme

21. The session was also attended by six intergovernmental organizations and 14 CSOs, including non-governmental organizations.

E. Documentation

22. The documentation submitted for the consideration of the Committee is listed in the annex to this report.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Implementation experiences

1. Experience in the optional reporting exercise

23. Parties considered that the simplification of the reporting system and reporting tools since the adoption of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) has helped Parties to comply with the obligation to submit reports. Simplifications to the reporting tools that were brought about through the iterative process have successfully eased the reporting burden of Parties.

24. Some Parties suggested that monitoring should be a continuous effort at national level that would feed the planning process and eventually inform the reports to be submitted to the COP.

25. Parties noted that the collection of data and information for reporting under the UNCCD has been an important learning process at national level, where extensive efforts were made to collect information from projects directly relating to the objectives of the Convention, some of which is not stored in central databases.

26. Some Parties noted that the process of establishing a monitoring framework that will track the implementation of the UNCCD at national level is, however, still one of the main bottlenecks for Parties submitting reports and that collecting data from various sources and coordinating the work of the reporting team across many institutions has proven to be very challenging.

27. Some Parties recognized that experiences from Parties that succeeded in establishing a monitoring framework demonstrate that putting in place monitoring systems and developing their national action programme can streamline the reporting exercise and transform this complex process into an important and systematized tool to be used effectively at national level.

28. Some Parties noted that the low level of reporting in the 2014–2015 cycle was due to the fact that this reporting had been made optional and that no analyses of the reports were to be made by the secretariat.

29. Some Parties suggested that the reporting frequency be adjusted to every four years given the fact that two years are not sufficient to realistically monitor desertification and degradation-related matters and detect any variations or trends;

30. Other Parties suggested that the reporting frequency should remain every two years, as reporting every four years is considered too long a period given the fact that national teams working on reporting might change and progress made in building capacity for reporting might be lost.

2. Voluntary national land degradation neutrality target setting exercise

31. Most Parties welcomed the efforts made by the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat of the UNCCD for the timely implementation of the decisions taken by the COP at its twelfth session, including the operationalization of the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP), and called for its continued effective implementation.

32. Parties acknowledged the work being done by the Science–Policy Interface of the UNCCD in developing the LDN conceptual framework, including the LDN response hierarchy, for the provision of a sound scientific basis for LDN and guidance for the LDN target setting process and LDN implementation, for Parties wishing to take on targets.

33. Parties noted with appreciation the initiative of the GM and the secretariat of the UNCCD to forge partnerships with other institutions¹ on voluntary LDN target setting, and the ongoing efforts to seek further partners to support this process.

¹ As of 18 October 2016, the list of partners of the LDN TSP includes France, Germany, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the European Space Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Soil Reference and Information Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Joint Research

34. There was general recognition of the importance of linking the voluntary LDN target setting process with LDN implementation, taking into account the national action programmes as a new opportunity to promote effective action to achieve positive impacts on the ground in terms of ecosystem services and livelihoods, particularly in affected areas.

35. Most Parties considered that LDN provides opportunities to promote synergies and policy coherence across sectors and at all levels, particularly within national agendas relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among the Rio conventions (e.g. regarding nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets), and within relevant international commitments.

36. Most Parties emphasized the need to increase means of implementation to achieve the LDN targets, including capacity-building support and the development of transformative projects, and encouraged the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the GM to provide support for this purpose.

37. Developed country Parties were invited to provide substantial financial and non-financial resources for LDN implementation in the context of their obligations under the Convention.

38. Parties recognized the need to mobilize additional financial resources for voluntary LDN target setting and implementation from multiple sources such as the GEF, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) (once operational), national budget allocations and the private sector.

39. In order to effectively support the voluntary LDN target setting and implementation process, most Parties requested the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD to (1) assist with a range of efforts, including supporting relevant monitoring, evaluation and reporting efforts; and (2) continue providing guidance on methodological approaches, supporting the development of country-tailored communication materials, and assisting countries to identify suitable modalities to effectively mobilize and engage relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

40. Some Parties emphasized that more flexibility is needed with regard to the identification of activities to be funded within the framework of the voluntary LDN TSP, and while doing so, particular conditions and circumstances of different countries should be taken into account.

41. Some Parties invited the secretariat and the GM of the UNCCD to further increase coherence and harmonization, reduce duplication, increase geographical balance and enhance synergies related to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) initiatives by various institutions.

B. Future implementation of the Convention

1. Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group

42. Parties were requested at the fifteenth session of the CRIC to provide their comments on the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF), and the present document reflects the feedback

Centre of the European Commission, Soil Leadership Academy, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and World Resources Institute.

as expressed by Parties, without a hierarchical order, and does not necessarily reflect the views of all Parties.

a. General suggestions for the overall content and structure of the new draft strategy

Suggestions from Parties are as follows:

43. To align the new strategy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG target 15.3 and other interrelated SDGs.

44. To build on The Strategy, focus on implementation and include LDN in the new strategy as the main element of innovation, one that could give impetus to the implementation of the UNCCD and efforts aimed at addressing DLDD.

45. To use the language agreed at the twelfth session of the COP 12 in general, especially that related to LDN and SDG 15 and its target 15.3 (decision 3/COP.12 and 8/COP.12), throughout the new strategy.

46. To quote the SDG target 15.3 in full for the sake of clarity.

47. To explicitly mention/not explicitly mention the reference to the “scope of the Convention” within the new strategy.

48. To remove multiple references to “the scope of the Convention” in order to keep the text short and concise.

49. To note that a significant proportion of land degradation and drought occur beyond arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and that the new strategy should also address particular regional and national conditions.

50. To note the different views concerning the nature of LDN targets within the new strategy as follows:

(a) LDN targets should remain voluntary in nature as agreed in decisions taken at COP 12;

(b) LDN targets should be made obligatory as a means to ensure more effective implementation;

(c) LDN and the voluntary LDN target setting exercise are tools for strengthening Parties’ implementation of the Convention and for mobilizing resources. The strategy’s focus must be broader than LDN in order to reflect the full breadth of the Convention’s mandate and the needs and interests of the Parties, some of which do not intend to take on targets;

(d) LDN is not only a target but also scientific guidance for combating desertification and land degradation;

(e) LDN targets are an option but not the only means to achieve SDG target 15.3.

51. To fully integrate the mitigation of drought and related targets in the new strategy.

52. To address issues related to drought and negotiate a possible decision on a drought protocol at COP 13.

53. To estimate the costs of implementing the new strategy, including efforts to achieve LDN in order to ensure adequate financial support, through sources such as the LDN Fund (once operational).

b. Specific comments on the sections of the new draft strategy

Suggestions from Parties are as follows:

- i. Title
 - 54. To keep the title short, time-bound and relevant to the conditions of each country.
 - 55. To ensure that the slogan of the strategic framework is attractive and understood by all stakeholders.
 - 56. To title the strategy as follows: “The 2018–2030 Strategy for combating desertification/land degradation and drought for present and future generations”.
- ii. Vision
 - 57. To reflect as a first priority the achievement of the objective of the Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
 - 58. To include poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.
 - 59. To rephrase the vision as follows: “By 2030, we should avoid, reduce and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels consistent with [...]”.
 - 60. To include reference to poverty and the vulnerability of populations.
 - 61. To reflect the LDN concept in the vision.
 - 62. To spell out in full the SDG target 15.3 for the sake of clarity.
- iii. Strategic objectives
 - 63. To maintain the strategic objectives (SOs) and related progress indicators as they were known in The Strategy.
 - 64. To list first the SO related to the living conditions of affected populations and to clearly articulate issues related to women and youth.
 - 65. To list first the SO related to the condition of affected ecosystems and LDN.
 - 66. To merge the first two SOs, as they are integrated and indivisible.
 - 67. To include in a different section of the new draft strategy SOs 3 and 4, as they are operational in nature, while SOs 1 and 2 are strategic in nature.
 - 68. To remove the brackets surrounding “land degradation neutrality” in SO 1.
 - 69. To retain the brackets around “within the scope of the Convention” and explicitly include “contribute to land degradation neutrality”.
 - 70. To add a new expected impact related to reducing migration and improving land ownership under the SO related to the living conditions of affected populations.
 - 71. To keep either expected impacts 1.4 or 2.4 or expected impact 3.1 as they overlap.
 - 72. To add a new expected impact on land-based adaptation to climate change.
 - 73. To explicitly refer to the Rio conventions, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NDCs in expected impact 3.2.
 - 74. To rephrase SOs 1 or 2 as follows: “To improve the conditions of affected ecosystems, promote sustainable land management and minimize the impacts of drought, within the scope of the Convention”.
 - 75. To rephrase expected impacts 1.4 or 2.4 as follows: “Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and

sustainable use of biodiversity, the minimization of the effects of drought and a reduction in the negative impacts of climate change”.

76. To rephrase SO 4 as follows: “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”.

77. To rephrase expected impact 4.1 as follows: “Adequate and timely public and private financial resources are further mobilized and made available to affected country Parties, including through domestic resource mobilization”.

78. To rephrase expected impact 4.2 as follows: “International support is provided for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building and on-the-ground interventions in affected country Parties to support the implementation of the Convention, including through North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation”.

79. To rephrase expected impact 3.2 as follows: “Synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and international processes relevant to food security, poverty alleviation, sustainable forestry and agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and climate change, including the United Nations Forum on Forests.

80. To explicitly incorporate water management at watershed level in an expected impact.²

iv. Implementation framework

81. To add explicit reference to national action programmes.

82. To add the roles and responsibilities of national focal points.

83. To rephrase (c) under “Policy and planning” (in chapter IV.A of the annex to document ICCD/CRIC/(15)/2) as follows: “Leverage synergies and integrate desertification/land degradation and drought into national plans related to the other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the other Rio conventions, and other international commitments as appropriate, within their respective mandates, optimizing efficacy and eliminating duplication of efforts”.

84. To rephrase paragraph 7 under “Parties” (in chapter IV.A of the annex to document ICCD/CRIC/(15)/2) as follows: “Parties bear the main responsibility in the implementation of The Strategy and would need to steer implementation in accordance with their national priorities and in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership, aligning their current national action programmes with The Strategy”.

85. To rephrase (a) under “Action on the ground” (chapter IV.A of the annex to document ICCD/CRIC/(15)/2) as follows: “Implement sustainable land management practices”.

86. To rephrase (b) under “Action on the ground” (in chapter IV.A of the annex to document ICCD/CRIC/(15)/2) as follows: “Implement restoration and rehabilitation practices in order to assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services within the framework of national action programmes”.

87. To rephrase paragraph 10 (b) under “Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention” (in chapter IV.B of the annex to document ICCD/CRIC/(15)/2) as follows: “Facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties through formal and informal interactive sessions and online

² Only access to drinking water is mentioned in the present version.

platforms on topical issues, including capacity-building, best practices and lessons learned relating to on-the-ground implementation, as part of the national action programmes.

v. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

88. To further substantiate narrative reporting on the implementation framework and adjust reporting templates accordingly.

89. To add indicators for SO 4.

vi. Other suggestions

90. To develop a glossary to ensure shared understanding of concepts and terms included in the new strategy.

91. CSOs expressed concerns regarding the limited reference to land rights, indigenous peoples and gender considerations in the new strategy and called for the role of CSOs to be fully integrated in the implementation framework.

2. Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties

92. Many Parties recognized the efforts made by the secretariat for the simplification of the reporting process by improving the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) and by making available simplified reporting tools. Some Parties encouraged the secretariat to further simplify the reporting process.

93. Some Parties supported maintaining the two-year reporting cycle and considered a four-year reporting cycle to be insufficient, and noted that the two-year reports are useful for the CRIC to analyse and review the implementation of the Convention.

94. Other Parties welcomed the proposed four-year reporting frequency considering that reporting is a complex, time-consuming and costly exercise and because land degradation is a long-term phenomenon.

95. Some other Parties suggested establishing a reporting frequency similar to what currently is undertaken under The Strategy, namely (1) reporting on the implementation framework proposed in the new strategy by sharing experiences derived from the narrative sections of the reports every two years; and (2) reporting on progress indicators every four years. This would allow Parties to assess trends related to biophysical indicators and report on financial topics, while not losing momentum for reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

96. Some Parties suggested that the reporting process should be aligned with the corresponding SDGs reporting process in order to improve synergies and reduce the reporting burden.

97. Most Parties noted the importance of securing sufficient funding and capacity-building measures from the GEF to enable Parties to submit their reports in a timely manner and invited developed country Parties to also assist in this effort.

98. Many Parties expressed an interest in revising the terms of reference of the CRIC in order to ensure that adjustments to its mandate and functions are made in line with the new strategy that the COP is likely to adopt at its thirteenth session.

99. The majority of Parties acknowledged the importance of maintaining the CRIC as a standing subsidiary body of the COP and emphasized its importance as a platform for exchanging information and sharing experiences, thereby giving Parties the opportunity to acquire knowledge.

100. Most Parties expressed an interest in maintaining the current two-year frequency of sessions of the CRIC, including those held between ordinary sessions of the COP, during which the CRIC should focus its work on (1) the assessment of implementation, reviewing opportunities for the mobilization of financial resources, interactive dialogue and experience-sharing emerging from the activities implemented on the ground; or (2) any specific issue decided by the COP.

101. Some Parties stressed the vital role of the CRIC sessions as preparatory meetings for the COP and its contribution to the constant improvement of the Convention, as well as its role in the transparency and governance of the UNCCD.

102. Some Parties expressed concerns that the current duration of the CRIC does not allow for the adequate discussion and effective management of the CRIC agenda and recommended increasing the duration of the CRIC.

103. Some Parties expressed an interest in establishing specific voluntary targets and indicators for strategic objective 4 in the new strategy in order to ensure that sufficient funding will be made available for implementing the new strategy.

104. CSOs welcomed the four-year reporting cycle, which creates opportunities for Parties to institutionalize a means to involve the CSOs in matters relating to reporting. They also suggested creating a communication mechanism in order to inform accredited CSOs about reporting cycles.

3. Financing the implementation of the Convention: opportunities for increased financing and options for tracking

105. Parties welcomed the efforts of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM for mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Convention and for preparing a comprehensive report on opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the Convention and options to track finance in the context of future UNCCD reporting.

106. Parties recognized that at global level, land degradation continues to occur at an alarming rate and that a paradigm shift is needed. All Parties recognized the urgency to increase financing for the implementation of the Convention. Most Parties highlighted that Sustainable Development Goal 15.3 and LDN represent an opportunity to tap into new sources of financing, including climate finance.

107. Parties underlined that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement provide a new window of opportunity for scaling up finance to support the implementation of the Convention, including through existing sources such as the GEF and the GCF and innovative forms of financing in line with the future strategic approach for the Convention (2018–2030 Strategy). Several Parties highlighted the need for increased funding from developed countries consistent with their obligations under the Convention. Some Parties stressed the importance of public funds leveraging private sector resources.

108. While many Parties supported the adoption of option 1 (implementing decision 15/COP.12) as the most appropriate for reporting with a slight modification in line with the 2018–2030 Strategy, other Parties were in favour of a combination of option 2 (analysis of global datasets) and option 3 (in-depth country analysis) (see chapter V of document ICCD/CRIC(15)/5 for a description of these options).

109. With regard to option 3, some Parties recommended that it should not be limited to selected “champion” countries (see para. 37 of document ICCD/CRIC(15)/5) and that the selection of countries should be based on a transparent process and criteria. They also

recommended that such an approach should include an assessment of (1) resource mobilization; (2) public expenditure reviews; and (3) socioeconomic and environmental impact demonstrating the benefits of LDN investments. They welcomed the compilation of specific countries' lessons learned as outlined in option 3 as a means for improved resource mobilization and public expenditure for the implementation of the Convention.

110. Some Parties inquired whether the data analysis went beyond the mandate of the GM and noted that its current mandate is to leverage resources to enable the secretariat to support building Parties' capacities, including potentially undertaking such analyses.

C. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention: Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM)

111. Parties recognized the importance of sharing best practices and information among Parties and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the UNCCD.

112. Parties noted with appreciation the work done by the secretariat in improving the UNCCD knowledge sharing services to Parties, particularly the development of the SKBP and the CBM, and in integrating various knowledge tools under one UNCCD Knowledge Hub.

113. Parties welcomed the best practices database established by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), which provides access to all best practice cases submitted through the PRAIS portal and is linked with the SKBP.

114. Parties further recognized that those Parties willing to do so may continue to submit their best practices to the WOCAT database, and will receive support from the UNCCD secretariat and WOCAT where needed.

115. Parties encouraged the secretariat to continue making available links to relevant existing national online knowledge repositories through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.

116. Parties further encouraged the secretariat to continue to develop the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, including further integration of various UNCCD knowledge tools under one platform.

117. Parties encourage the secretariat to improve access to information through submission of audiovisual and other materials where possible and in all United Nations official languages as appropriate.

IV. Conclusion of the session

A. Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations

118. At its sixth meeting on 20 October 2016, the Committee considered the draft report on its fifteenth session.

119. The Committee then approved the draft report as a whole and entrusted the Rapporteur to finalize it in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat.

B. Closure of the session

120. Also, at the sixth meeting, statements were made by Kenya (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (Annex I)); Bhutan (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II)); Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean); Armenia (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)); the European Union, Brazil and Turkey.

121. Closing remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

122. The Vice-Chair made concluding remarks and declared closed the fifteenth session of the CRIC.

Annex

Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fifteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(15)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(15)/2	Initial findings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention. Report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(15)/3	Report on the voluntary national land degradation neutrality target setting exercise. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(15)/4	The overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(15)/5	Report on opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the Convention and options to track finance in the context of future UNCCD reporting. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(15)/6	Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the Capacity Building Marketplace. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(15)/INF.1	Information for participants
ICCD/CRIC(15)/INF.2	Compilation of 2016 reports. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(15)/INF.3	List of participants
