



**Conference of the Parties**

**Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session,  
held in Ankara from 12 to 23 October 2015**

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

**Addendum**

**Contents**

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Page</i>
1/COP.12 Multi-year workplans of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies.....	4
2/COP.12 Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .....	6
3/COP.12 Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Working Group report on land degradation neutrality .....	8
4/COP.12 Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification .....	12
5/COP.12 Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.....	14
6/COP.12 Business engagement strategy and participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification .....	15
7/COP.12 Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention .....	16
8/COP.12 Addressing particular regional and national conditions .....	18
9/COP.12 Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions and promoting partnerships with other international agencies and bodies .....	19



<i>Decision</i>	<i>Page</i>
10/COP.12 Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 .....	21
11/COP.12 Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility .....	36
12/COP.12 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility .....	37
13/COP.12 Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy .....	38
14/COP.12 Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention .....	41
15/COP.12 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 .....	44
16/COP.12 Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention .....	50
17/COP.12 Date and venue of the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention .....	51
18/COP.12 Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference .....	52
19/COP.12 Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology .....	55
20/COP.12 Improvement of knowledge dissemination, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories .....	57
21/COP.12 Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface .....	59
22/COP.12 Roster of independent experts .....	64
23/COP.12 Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology .....	65
24/COP.12 Rule 47 of the rules of procedure; procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation; annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures .....	66
25/COP.12 Credentials of delegations .....	68
26/COP.12 Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification .....	69
27/COP.12 Ankara Ministerial Declaration .....	70
28/COP.12 Report on the Eleventh Round Table of Members of Parliament .....	71
29/COP.12 The Ankara Initiative .....	72
30/COP.12 Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties .....	73
31/COP.12 Ankara Declaration: Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum .....	74
32/COP.12 Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum .....	75
33/COP.12 Declaration of the Youth Forum .....	76
34/COP.12 Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties .....	77
35/COP.12 Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties .....	79

*Resolution*

*Page*

1/COP.12	Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey .....	80
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## Decision 1/COP.12

### Multi-year workplans of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 3/COP.8 and 11/COP.9,

*Having reviewed* documents ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2 and Corr.1 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/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 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

1. *Approves* the strategic orientation of the secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), as contained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) results framework for 2016–2019 in the annex to this decision;
2. *Requests* the CST, the CRIC, the GM and the secretariat to utilize the UNCCD results framework for 2016–2019 in the annex to this decision, organizing their work in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Convention and decisions taken at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, and in line with the guidance outlined in The Strategy;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the GM to prepare a multi-year workplan for the Convention (2018–2021), utilizing the results-based management approach, to be considered at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

Annex

**United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2016–2019**

*United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification strategic objectives*

*2016–2019 main outcomes*

*Outcome indicators*

1. Improvement in living conditions of affected populations	1.1 Improved resilience to the effects of climate change of people living in affected areas	1.1 The extent to which the UNCCD implementation by Parties contributes to climate change adaptation using land-based approaches
	1.2 Improved knowledge of reducing socio-economic and environmental vulnerability related to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)	
2. Improved condition of affected ecosystems	2.1 Reduction of the area affected by land degradation	2.1 The extent to which affected country Parties establish targets for addressing land degradation and rehabilitation
	2.2 Up-to-date information on the status of DLDD	2.2 Improved reporting on the status of DLDD, and related activities
	2.3 Targeted scientific inputs on addressing DLDD	2.3 The extent to which scientific cooperation involving the UNCCD provides robust data and ideas for effective implementation
3. Generation of global benefits	3.1 SLM and combating DLDD contributes to, and benefits from, activities on climate change and biodiversity, as well as on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	3.1.a The extent to which the UNCCD implementation by Parties contributes to climate change mitigation using land-based approaches
		3.1.b The extent to which affected country Parties address DLDD, and biodiversity loss in a synergistic manner
4. Resource mobilization through partnerships	4.1 Improved access to resources for implementation	4.1 Scope and extent of funding sources to combat DLDD
	4.2 Enabling policy environments are improved for the UNCCD implementation at all levels	4.2 The number of countries that have taken measures to develop enabling policy environments for the UNCCD implementation through partnerships

## Decision 2/COP.12

### **Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* articles 6, 9, 10 and 11 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decision 3/COP.8 containing The Strategy,

*Further recalling* decision 2/COP.9, decision 2/COP.10, and decision 2/COP.11,

*Having reviewed* documents ICCD/CRIC(14)/4 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Taking into consideration* decision 3/COP.12,

*Noting with concern* that only 20 per cent of Parties have so far aligned their national action programmes (NAPs) with The Strategy and that The Strategy is only in effect for another two years,

1. *Invites* affected country Parties to continue their efforts to formulate, revise, and align their action programmes in accordance with guidance from the Conference of the Parties so that the strategic and operational objectives set by The Strategy can be achieved by 2018;
2. *Decides* that the alignment process: (a) should continue in line with The Strategy and be achieved by 2018; and (b) should also include the subregional and regional strategies;
3. *Invites* affected country Parties, in accordance with decision 22/COP.11, to establish baselines and national-level voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets within their NAPs and to address ecosystem aspects at their discretion in their subregional and regional action programmes, making use of scientific and knowledge-based diagnostic tools at the national level;
4. *Also invites* Parties, other governments and other development partners to establish and increase partnership agreements for technical support to affected country Parties according to their bilateral priorities – giving special attention to the implementation of NAPs – and to assist them in monitoring progress towards achieving national targets;
5. *Further invites* affected country Parties to include voluntary national LDN targets in their national reports, as appropriate;
6. *Requests* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariats to continue consultations on the arrangements for the delivery of funding enabling activities for the sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6) with a view to securing technical and financial support for the next reporting exercise, including in the area of progress reporting and national target-setting towards achieving LDN;
7. *Invites* Parties and technical and financial institutions to provide support to affected country Parties in establishing, aligning and implementing NAPs, including, as appropriate, target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and LDN national voluntary target-setting;

8. *Requests* Parties at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to consider adding the first review of LDN voluntary targets and their implementation so far to the agenda of the intersessional meeting of the CRIC/CST prior to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
9. *Invites* affected country Parties to develop and implement strategies through their NAPs to achieve the objectives of the Convention in the light of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
10. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to:
  - (a) Enhance their assistance to country Parties in terms of technical and financial support for the implementation of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through the NAPs, including the LDN approach at national level;
  - (b) Engage with international organizations and funds, as well as other multilateral and bilateral donors, in order to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through the NAPs, including the LDN approach at national level;
11. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the next session of the CRIC on the implementation of this decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 3/COP.12

### **Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Working Group report on land degradation neutrality**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) (Rio+20) contained in *The future we want*, notably paragraphs 205–209 which, inter alia, stress that desertification, land degradation, and drought are challenges of a global dimension,

*Also recalling* that affected areas under article 1, paragraph (h), of the Convention means: “arid, semi-arid and/or dry sub-humid areas affected or threatened by desertification”,

*Further recalling* the particular conditions of the Regional Implementation Annexes to the Convention,

*Recalling* decision 22/COP.11,

*Also recalling* article 6 of the Convention,

*Further recalling* decision 8/COP.11 creating an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) as a “follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)”, specifically on outcomes related to LDN,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the outcome document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and target 15.3: “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world”,

*Noting* that paragraph 55 of that outcome document reads: “The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields”,

*Recalling* that in striving to achieve SDG target 15.3, it is also important to address wider elements of the 2030 Agenda, including, inter alia, ending poverty and hunger, tackling inequality, empowering women and stimulating economic growth,

*Also recalling* the commitments made by national governments on DLDD issues and the recognized need for joint action within the international community,

*Recognizing* the unique role of the UNCCD in addressing DLDD in affected areas, and the importance of these efforts to Parties to the UNCCD in addressing SDG target 15.3 at the national and subnational level,

*Also recognizing* that while the Convention will make a significant contribution to achieving LDN, the full implementation of SDG target 15.3 will require contributions from other bodies and agencies and the Convention should therefore seek to work cooperatively with other bodies in a partnership to that aim,

*Acknowledging* that SDG target 15.3 addresses, inter alia, the objective of the Convention and provides a basis for discussion on future actions and programmes to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD, respecting the scope of the Convention,

*Also acknowledging* that striving to achieve LDN would significantly contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development via the rehabilitation, restoration, conservation and sustainable management of land resources, and that this could potentially involve the development of national targets,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the IWG contained in part two of document ICCD/COP(12)/4;
2. *Endorses* the IWG science-based definition of LDN as follows: “Land degradation neutrality is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Recognizes* that for the purpose of the scope of this Convention, this definition is intended to apply to affected areas as defined in the text of the Convention;
4. *Decides* that striving to achieve SDG target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD, within the scope of the Convention;
5. *Invites* Parties to:
  - (a) Formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities, taking into account the list of options for operationalizing LDN at the national level as outlined by the IWG;
  - (b) Use the monitoring and evaluation approach adopted in decision 22/COP.11, including the progress indicators as listed in the annex to this decision, where reliable data is available pursuant to paragraph 7 of that decision and taking into consideration national circumstances and, as needed, add additional indicators to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target;
  - (c) Explore options on how to integrate the voluntary LDN targets in their NAPs as part of their overall discussion on the implementation of the SDGs;
  - (d) Promote the use of LDN targets and projects and other SLM initiatives as an effective vehicle for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and responsible and sustainable investments that address DLDD issues;
6. *Encourages* developed country Parties to actively support the efforts of developing country Parties in promoting SLM practices and in seeking to achieve LDN, by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support;

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<sup>1</sup> The IWG definition of LDN is included here as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/4 as amended and with the deletion of the text in square brackets.

7. *Also encourages* developed country Parties and *invites* other countries in a position to do so, multilateral financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, and technical and financial institutions to:
  - (a) Provide scientific, technical and financial assistance to help affected country Parties requesting assistance to set and achieve LDN targets as well as to implement SLM practices and LDN initiatives;
  - (b) Establish equitable partnerships that encourage responsible and sustainable investments and practices by the private sector, which contribute to achieving LDN that supports the health and productivity of the land and its people;
8. *Further encourages* Parties requesting assistance to include this request for support in their priorities in discussions with bilateral, multilateral and other donors, based on their national development plans or strategies;
9. *Directs* the secretariat of the UNCCD, as the lead organization for DLDD, to take the initiative and invite other relevant agencies and stakeholders such as United Nations agencies, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to seek cooperation to achieve SDG target 15.3;
10. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD bodies, within the scope of the Convention, to:
  - (a) Develop options for scaling up and scaling out successful LDN initiatives and other SLM practices;
  - (b) Explore how they could further develop partnerships with other organizations to provide scientific and technical support to the Parties by, inter alia, developing a 'user guide' for implementing LDN at the country level;
  - (c) Develop guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiatives, including the identification, development and implementation of policy reforms, investment and incentive mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives to address DLDD;
  - (d) Make options available to Parties for the integration of national LDN targets and initiatives in their NAPs;
  - (e) Further develop, keep under review and facilitate, including through pilot projects, the use of the UNCCD indicator framework as a contribution to the monitoring, evaluation and communication of progress towards the national LDN targets;
  - (f) Improve the effectiveness of collaboration with the other Rio conventions and other partners at national and, as appropriate, subnational levels to support the implementation and monitoring of LDN targets and initiatives;
11. *Also requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to develop options for increasing incentives and financial support, including assisting in the possible creation of an independent LDN fund, to be made available for the full realization of LDN initiatives;
12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Annex

### Progress indicators for strategic objectives 1–3<sup>2</sup>

- Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas
- Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas
- Trends in land cover
- Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land
- Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground
- Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species

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<sup>2</sup> These progress indicators were agreed in decision 22/COP.11.

## Decision 4/COP.12

### **Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 4/COP.11 and 7/COP.11,

*Also recalling* advocacy, awareness-raising and education as one of the main pillars of The Strategy,

*Further recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/201 in which members, “committed to raising the awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at all levels, consistent with 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)”, recalled its decision to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) (UNDDD),

*Recalling* SDG 15 and its target 15.3,

*Welcoming* the progress made in implementing the comprehensive communication strategy and the General Assembly resolution on the UNDDD, as reported in document ICCD/COP(12)/2 and Corr.1,

*Also welcoming* the continued support of the UNDDD Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) in advocacy, communication and outreach,

1. *Encourages* Parties, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote the importance of combating desertification and land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought to achieving the new SDGs, through awareness-raising events and activities, including the World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD), UNDDD and the Land for Life programme;
2. *Also encourages* Parties to identify opportunities such as the National Dryland Champions programme, where the best SLM practices at grassroots level are recognized in order to share these practices beyond the national level;
3. *Invites* Parties and the international community to support the training of national and community-level journalists to enable them to report in an informed manner on DLDD-related issues;
4. *Also invites* Parties to support the international observance of the WDCD for national awareness-raising including, if appropriate, the hosting of an observance event in cooperation with the secretariat;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to:
  - (a) Develop a compelling communications narrative for action and to structure communications around key strategic themes in view of SDG target 15.3;
  - (b) Identify inspiring human-interest stories and testimonies from SLM projects for promotion and dissemination through the Land for Life multi-media products in order to

build awareness and public support for addressing DLDD by maximizing the expertise and strengths available through the UNDDD IATF;

(c) Continue coordinating the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the General Assembly mandated resolution on UNDDD;

6. *Invites* Parties to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to use social media and web-based communications and, where relevant, traditional media to strengthen advocacy and outreach, especially to affected communities, in and for implementation of SLM, land degradation neutrality and addressing DLDD;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the progress of the implementation of this decision at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 5/COP.12

### **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 UNCCD,

*Also recalling* decisions 5/COP.9, 5/COP.10 and 5/COP.11,

*Stressing* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their involvement in the implementation of the UNCCD and The Strategy,

*Recognizing* the work of the Civil Society Organization Panel (CSO Panel) in facilitating CSO involvement as stated in document ICCD/COP(12)/3 and *stressing* the importance of its continuation,

1. *Encourages* those Parties which have no or few CSOs accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote and support the involvement of CSOs in the UNCCD process at the international level in order to ensure more participation of CSOs from all regions in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
2. *Requests* the secretariat and the CSO Panel to make proposals to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on ways to support the work of the Panel and expand its membership;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the elections to the CSO Panel in January 2016;
4. *Invites* Parties, international and financial organizations, and CSOs and private sector institutions to consider contributing substantially and promptly to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, and to support the work of the CSO Panel;
5. *Encourages* CSOs to increase the synergies and interlinkages among the CSO communities and networks dedicated to the three Rio conventions;
6. *Requests* the CSO Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on the implementation of its tasks during the forthcoming biennium;
7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 6/COP.12

### **Business engagement strategy and participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* articles 6, 17 and 20 of the UNCCD,

*Also recalling* decisions 5/COP.9, 5/COP.10 and 5/COP.11,

*Stressing* the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the UNCCD and The Strategy,

*Having considered* document ICCD/COP(12)/3,

1. *Takes note* of the UNCCD business engagement strategy as contained in annex I to document ICCD/COP(12)/3, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue implementing it when engaging in partnership with the private sector;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to submit future amendments of the business engagement strategy to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and approval;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the present decision, including on any developments in the engagement with the private sector.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*23 October 2015*

## Decision 7/COP.12

### Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 3/COP.8, 12/COP.11 and 10/COP.12,

1. *Decides* to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF), within the scope and mandate of the Convention to:
  - (a) Assess the current 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), including the effectiveness of its implementation and the relevance of progress indicators for the future period;
  - (b) Consider options for the possible future strategic approach for the Convention, including whether the current Strategy should be extended or revised, or whether a new strategy should be adopted;
  - (c) Propose an approach the Convention should adopt for its future strategic direction and elements that should be included therein;
2. *Also decides* that the IWG-FSF will take into consideration the following:
  - (a) The text of the Convention;
  - (b) The current multi-year Strategy;
  - (c) The mid-term review of The Strategy;
  - (d) The role of a multi-year strategy, which provides an effective framework to guide the implementation of the Convention at national level;
  - (e) The relevant aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and its target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (f) Relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (g) Developments under and synergies with the Rio conventions;
  - (h) The limitations of Parties' ability to increase financial resources provided to the Convention;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a preliminary scoping paper for the first meeting of the IWG-FSF to inform its work;
4. *Decides* that the IWG-FSF will consist of a maximum of 5 representatives from each region, nominated by the respective regional groups on the basis of nominations by national Governments; 3 representatives from each region shall be funded by the resources identified in decision 10/COP.12, with the remaining representatives to be funded from voluntary resources;

5. *Requests* the IWG-FSF to:
- (a) Present its initial findings for comment at the fifteenth session of the CRIC;
  - (b) Present its proposals to Parties for their consideration and action at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## Decision 8/COP.12

### Addressing particular regional and national conditions

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 1, paragraphs (h) and (i) of the Convention,

*Also recalling* the particular conditions of the Regional Implementation Annexes to the Convention,

*Noting* that a significant proportion of land degradation occurs beyond arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas,

*Recalling* SDG 15 and its target 15.3,

*Noting* decision 3/COP.12 on the integration of the SDGs and targets into the implementation of the UNCCD and the IWG report on LDN,

*Having reviewed* document ICCD/COP(12)/16,

1. *Recognizes* that Parties may use the UNCCD to guide their policies relating to DLDD and voluntary targets when striving to achieve LDN at national and subnational levels;
2. *Invites* the secretariat, relevant Convention bodies, and bilateral and multilateral partners to provide assistance to Parties in that regard;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the present decision.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*22 October 2015*

## Decision 9/COP.12

### **Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions and promoting partnerships with other international agencies and bodies**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 1 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decision 9/COP.11, which requests a review and assessment of the progress made by the UNCCD secretariat in promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,

*Acknowledging* that making significant progress towards the strategic objectives of the Convention requires strong and effective relationships that are able to leverage the appropriate synergies with other organizations that have overlapping or convergent missions,

*Also acknowledging* that this includes not only the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements but also the organizations and institutions concerned with the issues addressed in this decision,

*Welcoming* the initiatives undertaken by the secretariats of the Rio conventions and the GEF on the development of common indicators,

*Taking into consideration* the relevant decisions taken by the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Proposes* the use of the three land-based progress indicators as set out in decision 15/COP.12 for reporting under the Rio conventions, 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;
- (iii) Trends in carbon stock above and below ground;

2. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To promote further harmonization of indicators and reporting procedures, including the land-based progress indicators across the Rio conventions;

(b) To continue working with the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) in order to define indicators for SDG target 15.3;

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

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to:

- (a) Continue improving partnerships fostering capacity development for national drought preparedness planning, drought early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, and enhanced drought risk mitigation;
- (b) Participate, within the mandate and scope of the Convention, in partnerships fostering capacity development to respond to dust and sand storms, and floods;
- (c) Report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
22 October 2015*

## Decision 10/COP.12

### Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD,<sup>3</sup>

*Also recalling* The Strategy,<sup>4</sup>

*Further recalling* decision 9/COP.9 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011,

*Having considered* the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat and the GM on the programme and budget,<sup>5</sup>

#### Programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 in the amount of EUR 16,188,082 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, subject to the reclassification approval by the Office of Human Resources Management of the post of Deputy Executive Secretary from D-1 to D-2;
4. *Recognizes* the important role of the secretariat in the implementation of the mandate of UNCCD and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and in this regard requests the Executive Secretary to expedite the recruitment for vacant posts within the secretariat and in particular that of the Deputy Executive Secretary;
5. *Further recognizes* the need to increase the level of the working capital reserve and in this regard authorizes the Executive Secretary to draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to increase the working capital reserve to 10 per cent for the biennium 2016–2017;
6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2016 and 2017 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

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2/COP.1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 3/COP.8.

<sup>5</sup> ICCD/COP(12)/5, Corr.1 and Corr.2; ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2 and Corr.1; ICCD/COP(12)/7; ICCD/CRIC(14)/3; ICCD/COP(12)/8; ICCD/COP(12)/9; and ICCD/COP(12)/11 and Corr.1.

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 10,581,075;

10. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2016–2017, 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 2,073,550, for conference servicing, to be added to the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget;

12. *Takes note* of the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 1,496,000, as set out in table 4 below, in the event that the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, Germany;

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

14. *Recognizes* that the holding of meetings of the UNCCD across all the five regions facilitates exchange of relevant experiences among Parties, encourages Parties to volunteer to host these meetings, and in this regard requests the Executive Secretary, where possible, to encourage rotation of the meetings among the regions, while mindful of the fact that hosting remains voluntary;

15. *Further decides* that in instances where the CRIC and the CST are to hold intersessional meetings, such meetings should preferably be held back-to-back;

16. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 5 below, *decides* to allocate adequate resources for funding the preparatory regional coordination meetings back-to-back to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties contemplating all Regional Implementation Annexes in a balanced and equitable manner, and *invites* Parties to make contributions to this Fund;

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

18. *Notes* the ongoing discussions at the United Nations General Assembly on the requirements for After Service Health Insurance, and in the event that a decision is reached on the subject, *requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programmes for the biennium 2018–2019, in line with decision 1/COP.12 on workplans, presenting budget scenarios and work programmes based on the projected needs for the biennium in (1) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (2) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and their associated costs;

#### **Financial performance of the Convention trust funds**

20. *Takes note* of the financial statements for the bienniums 2012–2013 and 2014–2015, the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work

programmes for the biennium 2014–2015 of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and the status of contributions as at 30 September 2015;

21. *Notes* that The Strategy is due to expire in 2018, *authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional one-time basis, to use up to and not exceeding EUR 300,000<sup>6</sup> from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD, to facilitate the consideration of the post-2018 strategic priorities for the Convention by Parties, through the work of Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention and, within the context of CRIC 15;

22. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on a one-time exceptional basis, to use an amount not exceeding EUR 120,000, from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD for the purpose of the budget of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI);

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

24. *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;

25. *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;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to engage Parties with outstanding contributions 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;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods that have been received during the biennium 2016–2017;

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

#### **Evaluation reports**

29. *Takes note* of the proposed 2016–2017 workplan of the UNCCD Evaluation Office.

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<sup>6</sup> Of this amount, up to a maximum of EUR 100,000 is allocated for the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention.

Table 1

**Resource requirements by subprogramme**  
(Euros)

<i>I. Secretariat programmes</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Total core budget</i>
<b>A. Executive direction and management</b>	1 022 042	1 028 043	2 050 085
<b>B. External relations, policy and advocacy</b>	1 077 000	1 095 900	2 172 900
<b>C. Knowledge management, science and technology</b>	751 700	764 100	1 515 800
<b>D. Facilitation of monitoring and implementation</b>	1 209 000	1 228 600	2 437 600
<b>E. Administrative services</b>	1 281 864	1 227 187	2 509 051
<i>II. Global Mechanism</i>			
<b>F. Global Mechanism</b>	1 765 650	1 874 650	3 640 300
<b>Subtotal (A-F)</b>	7 107 256	7 218 480	14 325 736
<b>III. Programme support costs (13%)</b>	923 943	938 403	1 862 346
<b>IV. Working capital reserve</b>	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL (I-IV)</b>	8 031 199	8 156 883	16 188 082
<b>Income</b>			
Contribution from the host Government	511 292	511 292	1 022 584
Unspent balances from prior financial periods	100 000	100 000	200 000
Indicative contributions	7 419 907	7 545 591	14 965 498
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	8 031 199	8 156 883	16 188 082

Table 2  
Staffing requirements

	Actual		Required	
	2015	2016	2017	
<u>Secretariat</u>				
A. Professional category and above				
ASG	1.00	1.00	1.00	
D-2 <sup>a</sup>	0.00	1.00	1.00	
D-1	1.00	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	
<b>Total (A + B)</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>	
<sup>a</sup> Subject to the reclassification approval by the Office of Human Resources Management				
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	Actual		Required	
	2015	2016	2017	
<u>Global Mechanism</u>				
A. Professional category and above				
D-2	1.00	0.00	0.00	
D-1	1.00	1.00	1.00	
P-5	2.00	1.00	1.00	
P-4	3.00	2.00	2.00	
P-3	0.00	4.00	4.00	
P-2	2.00	2.00	2.00	
Subtotal A. Professional category and above	9.00	10.00	10.00	
B. General Service category	4.00	4.00	4.00	
<b>Total (A + B)</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>45.00</b>	

Table 3  
**Contingency budget for conference servicing**  
 (Euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2014–2015</i>	<i>2016–2017</i>
United Nations meetings services	1 835 000	1 835 000
Programme support costs	238 550	238 550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 073 550</b>	<b>2 073 550</b>

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

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2014–2015</i>	<i>2016–2017</i>
Incremental costs	1 204 000	1 204 000
Contingencies	120 000	120 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 324 000</b>	<b>1 324 000</b>
Programme support costs	172 000	172 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 496 000</b>	<b>1 496 000</b>

Table 5  
**Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2016–2017**  
 (Euros)

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	900 000
Preparatory Regional meetings held back to back with COP 13	90 000
Thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties <sup>a</sup>	1 300 000
	<b>2 290 000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes estimates for the participation of affected country representatives, e.g. national focal points, with a second rep from least developed countries, and science and technology correspondents.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## Annex I

### Indicative scale of contributions for the core budget of the Convention for 2016–2017

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>a</sup></i>		<i>(<sup>b/</sup>)</i>	<i>United Nations scale</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2016</i>	<i>2016 indicative contributions (Euros)</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2017</i>	<i>2017 indicative contributions (Euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (Euros)</i>
1	Afghanistan	LDC	0.005	0.005	373	0.005	380	753
2	Albania		0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
3	Algeria		0.137	0.138	10,231	0.138	10,404	20,635
4	Andorra		0.008	0.008	597	0.008	608	1,205
5	Angola	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
6	Antigua and Barbuda		0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
7	Argentina		0.432	0.435	32,260	0.435	32,807	65,067
8	Armenia		0.007	0.007	523	0.007	532	1,055
9	Australia		2.074	2.087	154,878	2.087	157,502	312,380
10	Austria		0.798	0.803	59,592	0.803	60,601	120,193
11	Azerbaijan		0.040	0.040	2,987	0.040	3,038	6,025
12	Bahamas		0.017	0.017	1,269	0.017	1,291	2,560
13	Bahrain		0.039	0.039	2,912	0.039	2,962	5,874
14	Bangladesh	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
15	Barbados		0.008	0.008	597	0.008	608	1,205
16	Belarus		0.056	0.056	4,182	0.056	4,253	8,435
17	Belgium		0.998	1.004	74,527	1.004	75,789	150,316
18	Belize		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
19	Benin	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
20	Bhutan	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
21	Bolivia		0.009	0.009	672	0.009	683	1,355
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.017	0.017	1,269	0.017	1,291	2,560
23	Botswana		0.017	0.017	1,269	0.017	1,291	2,560
24	Brazil		2.934	2.953	219,100	2.953	222,811	441,911
25	Brunei Darussalam		0.026	0.026	1,942	0.026	1,974	3,916
26	Bulgaria		0.047	0.047	3,510	0.047	3,569	7,079
27	Burkina Faso	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
28	Burundi	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
29	Cabo Verde		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
30	Cambodia	LDC	0.004	0.004	299	0.004	304	603
31	Cameroon		0.012	0.012	896	0.012	911	1,807

32	Central African Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
33	Chad	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
34	Chile		0.334	0.336	24,942	0.336	25,364	50,306
35	China		5.148	5.181	384,433	5.181	390,945	775,378
36	Colombia		0.259	0.261	19,341	0.261	19,669	39,010
37	Comoros	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
38	Congo		0.005	0.005	373	0.005	380	753
39	Cook Islands		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
40	Costa Rica		0.038	0.038	2,838	0.038	2,886	5,724
41	Côte d'Ivoire		0.011	0.011	821	0.011	835	1,656
42	Croatia		0.126	0.127	9,409	0.127	9,569	18,978
43	Cuba		0.069	0.069	5,153	0.069	5,240	10,393
44	Cyprus		0.047	0.047	3,510	0.047	3,569	7,079
45	Czech Republic		0.386	0.388	28,825	0.388	29,313	58,138
46	Democratic People's Republic of Korea		0.006	0.006	448	0.006	456	904
47	Democratic Republic of the Congo	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
48	Denmark		0.675	0.679	50,406	0.679	51,260	101,666
49	Djibouti	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
50	Dominica		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
51	Dominican Republic		0.045	0.045	3,360	0.045	3,417	6,777
52	Ecuador		0.044	0.044	3,286	0.044	3,341	6,627
53	Egypt		0.134	0.135	10,007	0.135	10,176	20,183
54	El Salvador		0.016	0.016	1,195	0.016	1,215	2,410
55	Equatorial Guinea	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
56	Eritrea	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
57	Estonia		0.040	0.040	2,987	0.040	3,038	6,025
58	Ethiopia	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
59	European Union		2.500	2.500	185,498	2.500	188,640	374,138
60	Fiji		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
61	Finland		0.519	0.522	38,757	0.522	39,413	78,170
62	France		5.593	5.629	417,664	5.629	424,739	842,403
63	Gabon		0.020	0.020	1,494	0.020	1,519	3,013
64	Gambia	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
65	Georgia		0.007	0.007	523	0.007	532	1,055
66	Germany		7.141	7.187	533,263	7.187	542,296	1,075,559
67	Ghana		0.014	0.014	1,045	0.014	1,063	2,108
68	Greece		0.638	0.642	47,643	0.642	48,450	96,093
69	Grenada		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
70	Guatemala		0.027	0.027	2,016	0.027	2,050	4,066
71	Guinea	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149

72	Guinea-Bissau	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
73	Guyana		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
74	Haiti	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
75	Honduras		0.008	0.008	597	0.008	608	1,205
76	Hungary		0.266	0.268	19,864	0.268	20,200	40,064
77	Iceland		0.027	0.027	2,016	0.027	2,050	4,066
78	India		0.666	0.670	49,734	0.670	50,577	100,311
79	Indonesia		0.346	0.348	25,838	0.348	26,276	52,114
80	Iran, (Islamic Republic of)		0.356	0.358	26,585	0.358	27,035	53,620
81	Iraq		0.068	0.068	5,078	0.068	5,164	10,242
82	Ireland		0.418	0.421	31,215	0.421	31,743	62,958
83	Israel		0.396	0.399	29,572	0.399	30,073	59,645
84	Italy		4.448	4.477	332,160	4.477	337,786	669,946
85	Jamaica		0.011	0.011	821	0.011	835	1,656
86	Japan		10.833	10.903	808,967	10.903	822,670	1,631,637
87	Jordan		0.022	0.022	1,643	0.022	1,671	3,314
88	Kazakhstan		0.121	0.122	9,036	0.122	9,189	18,225
89	Kenya		0.013	0.013	971	0.013	987	1,958
90	Kiribati	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
91	Kuwait		0.273	0.275	20,387	0.275	20,732	41,119
92	Kyrgyzstan		0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
93	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
94	Latvia		0.047	0.047	3,510	0.047	3,569	7,079
95	Lebanon		0.042	0.042	3,136	0.042	3,190	6,326
96	Lesotho	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
97	Liberia	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
98	Libya		0.142	0.143	10,604	0.143	10,784	21,388
99	Liechtenstein		0.009	0.009	672	0.009	683	1,355
100	Lithuania		0.073	0.073	5,451	0.073	5,544	10,995
101	Luxembourg		0.081	0.082	6,049	0.082	6,151	12,200
102	Madagascar	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
103	Malawi	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
104	Malaysia		0.281	0.283	20,984	0.283	21,339	42,323
105	Maldives		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
106	Mali	LDC	0.004	0.004	299	0.004	304	603
107	Malta		0.016	0.016	1,195	0.016	1,215	2,410
108	Marshall Islands		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
109	Mauritania	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
110	Mauritius		0.013	0.013	971	0.013	987	1,958
111	Mexico		1.842	1.854	137,553	1.854	139,884	277,437

112	Micronesia (Federated States of)		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
113	Moldova, Republic of		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
114	Monaco		0.012	0.012	896	0.012	911	1,807
115	Mongolia		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
116	Montenegro		0.005	0.005	373	0.005	380	753
117	Morocco		0.062	0.062	4,630	0.062	4,708	9,338
118	Mozambique	LDC	0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
119	Myanmar	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
120	Namibia		0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
121	Nauru		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
122	Nepal	LDC	0.006	0.006	448	0.006	456	904
123	Netherlands		1.654	1.665	123,514	1.665	125,607	249,121
124	New Zealand		0.253	0.255	18,893	0.255	19,213	38,106
125	Nicaragua		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
126	Niger	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
127	Nigeria		0.090	0.091	6,721	0.091	6,835	13,556
128	Niue		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
129	Norway		0.851	0.856	63,549	0.856	64,626	128,175
130	Oman		0.102	0.103	7,617	0.103	7,746	15,363
131	Pakistan		0.085	0.086	6,347	0.086	6,455	12,802
132	Palau		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
133	Panama		0.026	0.026	1,942	0.026	1,974	3,916
134	Papua New Guinea		0.004	0.004	299	0.004	304	603
135	Paraguay		0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
136	Peru		0.117	0.118	8,737	0.118	8,885	17,622
137	Philippines		0.154	0.155	11,500	0.155	11,695	23,195
138	Poland		0.921	0.927	68,777	0.927	69,942	138,719
139	Portugal		0.474	0.477	35,397	0.477	35,996	71,393
140	Qatar		0.209	0.210	15,607	0.210	15,872	31,479
141	Republic of Korea		1.994	2.007	148,904	2.007	151,427	300,331
142	Romania		0.226	0.227	16,877	0.227	17,163	34,040
143	Russian Federation		2.438	2.454	182,060	2.454	185,145	367,205
144	Rwanda	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
145	Saint Kitts and Nevis		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
146	Saint Lucia		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
147	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
148	Samoa		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
149	San Marino		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
150	Sao Tome and Principe	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
151	Saudi Arabia		0.864	0.870	64,520	0.870	65,613	130,133
152	Senegal	LDC	0.006	0.006	448	0.006	456	904

153	Serbia		0.040	0.040	2,987	0.040	3,038	6,025
154	Seychelles		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
155	Sierra Leone	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
156	Singapore		0.384	0.386	28,676	0.386	29,161	57,837
157	Slovakia		0.171	0.172	12,770	0.172	12,986	25,756
158	Slovenia		0.100	0.101	7,468	0.101	7,594	15,062
159	Solomon Islands	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
160	Somalia	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
161	South Africa		0.372	0.374	27,780	0.374	28,250	56,030
162	South Sudan	LDC	0.004	0.004	299	0.004	304	603
163	Spain		2.973	2.992	222,012	2.992	225,773	447,785
164	Sri Lanka		0.025	0.025	1,867	0.025	1,899	3,766
165	Sudan	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
166	Suriname		0.004	0.004	299	0.004	304	603
167	Swaziland		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
168	Sweden		0.960	0.966	71,689	0.966	72,904	144,593
169	Switzerland		1.047	1.054	78,186	1.054	79,510	157,696
170	Syrian Arab Republic		0.036	0.036	2,688	0.036	2,734	5,422
171	Tajikistan		0.003	0.003	224	0.003	228	452
172	Thailand		0.239	0.241	17,848	0.241	18,150	35,998
173	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		0.008	0.008	597	0.008	608	1,205
174	Timor-Leste	LDC	0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
175	Togo	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
176	Tonga		0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
177	Trinidad and Tobago		0.044	0.044	3,286	0.044	3,341	6,627
178	Tunisia		0.036	0.036	2,688	0.036	2,734	5,422
179	Turkey		1.328	1.337	99,170	1.337	100,850	200,020
180	Turkmenistan		0.019	0.019	1,419	0.019	1,443	2,862
181	Tuvalu	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
182	Uganda	LDC	0.006	0.006	448	0.006	456	904
183	Ukraine		0.099	0.100	7,393	0.100	7,518	14,911
184	United Arab Emirates		0.595	0.599	44,432	0.599	45,185	89,617
185	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		5.179	5.212	386,748	5.212	393,299	780,047
186	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC	0.009	0.009	672	0.009	683	1,355
187	United States of America <sup>c</sup>		22.000	22.000	1,632,380	22.000	1,660,030	3,292,410
188	Uruguay		0.052	0.052	3,883	0.052	3,949	7,832
189	Uzbekistan		0.015	0.015	1,120	0.015	1,139	2,259
190	Vanuatu	LDC	0.001	0.001	74	0.001	75	149
191	Venezuela		0.627	0.631	46,822	0.631	47,615	94,437

192	Viet Nam		0.042	0.042	3,136	0.042	3,190	6,326
193	Yemen	LDC	0.010	0.010	747	0.010	759	1,506
194	Zambia	LDC	0.006	0.006	448	0.006	456	904
195	Zimbabwe		0.002	0.002	149	0.002	152	301
<b>Total from Parties</b>			99.518	100.000	7,419,907	100.000	7,545,591	14,965,498

<sup>a</sup> Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 30 September 2015.

<sup>b</sup> Least developed country.

<sup>c</sup> The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

## Annex II

### An overview of budget use in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework

*United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification strategic objectives*

*2016–2019 main outcomes*

*Outcome indicators*

1. Improvement in living conditions of affected populations	<p>1.1 Improved resilience to the effects of climate change of people living in affected areas</p> <p>1.2 Improved knowledge of reducing socio-economic and environmental vulnerability related to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)</p>	<p>1.1 The extent to which the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) implementation by Parties contributes to climate change adaptation using land-based approaches</p> <p>1.2 Availability of information to improve socio-economic drivers of sustainable land management (SLM), with a particular focus on UNCCD priorities</p>
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**Approximate resource allocation under the core budget for the achievement of strategic objective 1 amounts to 4.4 million euros, including both staff and non-staff costs.**

2. Improved condition of affected ecosystems	<p>2.1 Reduction of the area affected by land degradation</p> <p>2.2 Up-to-date information on the status of DLDD</p> <p>2.3 Targeted scientific inputs on addressing DLDD</p>	<p>2.1 The extent to which affected country Parties establish targets for addressing land degradation and rehabilitation</p> <p>2.2 Improved reporting on the status of DLDD, and related activities</p> <p>2.3 The extent to which scientific cooperation involving the UNCCD provides robust data and ideas for effective implementation</p>
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**Approximate resource allocation under the core budget for the achievement of strategic objective 2 amounts to 5.4 million euros, including both staff and non-staff costs.**

3. Generation of global benefits	<p>3.1 SLM and combating DLDD contributes to, and benefits from, activities on climate change and biodiversity, as well as on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>3.1.a The extent to which the UNCCD implementation by Parties contributes to climate change mitigation using land-based approaches</p> <p>3.1.b The extent to which affected country Parties address DLDD, and biodiversity loss in a synergistic manner</p>
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**Approximate resource allocation under the core budget for the achievement of strategic objective 3 amounts to 2.0 million euros, including both staff and non-staff costs.**

*United Nations Convention to  
Combat Desertification  
strategic objectives*

*2016–2019 main outcomes*

*Outcome indicators*

4. Resource mobilization through partnerships	4.1 Improved access to resources for implementation 4.2 Enabling policy environments are improved for the UNCCD implementation at all levels	4.1 Scope and extent of funding sources to combat DLDD 4.2 The number of countries that have taken measures to develop enabling policy environments for the UNCCD implementation through partnerships
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**Approximate resource allocation under the core budget for the achievement of strategic objective 4 amounts to 2.5 million euros, including both staff and non-staff costs.**

## Decision 11/COP.12

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 6/COP.6,

*Also recalling* decision 6/COP.7,

*Further recalling* decision 11/COP.10,

*Recalling* decision 11/COP.11,

1. *Invites* the UNCCD secretariat to continue working with the secretariat of the GEF to revise the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in light of the text of the Convention, including its objective, as well as decisions from the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, in particular 9/COP.12, paragraph 4, 8/COP.12, and 3/COP.12;
2. *Requests* the secretariat of the UNCCD to report on progress to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and, through the Bureau, to consult with Parties on the text of the draft MOU;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat of the UNCCD to report on the implementation of the present decision and to submit the draft MOU to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session for its consideration and decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 12/COP.12

### Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

*Taking note* of the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas,

*Having considered* the report of the GEF contained in document ICCD/CRIC(14)/5 and the conclusions and recommendations made by the CRIC at its thirteenth session,

1. *Welcomes* the continued support for the implementation of the Convention and the increase of resources for the land degradation focal area under GEF-6 as compared to GEF-5;
2. *Invites* the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-6 in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3;
3. *Also invites* the donors to the GEF to consider providing increased support to address country priorities relating to the implementation of the Convention, in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3, during the planning process for GEF-7;
4. *Encourages* Parties to engage in South–South cooperation under GEF-6 and *invites* the GEF to continue its support to Parties in this regard;
5. *Also invites* the GEF to consider enhancing its support to the GEF Small Grants Programme under GEF-7;
6. *Further invites* donors to the GEF to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and *encourages* Parties, through the GEF and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions;
7. *Also invites* the GEF to continue its GEF Country Support Programme, including GEF workshops aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties to utilize GEF resources for the effective implementation of the Convention;
8. *Invites* the GEF, in the context of enabling activities under GEF-6, to consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting;
9. *Invites* the GEF to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 13/COP.12

### Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 11/COP.9, 13/COP.9, 13/COP.10 and 13/COP.11,

*Also recalling* decision 22/COP.11,

*Bearing in mind* decision 3/COP.12,

*Recognizing* the need to improve national reports as effective tools to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, contributing to advocacy, awareness-raising and education,

*Also recognizing* that the scientific contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD should focus on providing applied scientific solutions, traditional knowledge and innovative approaches, and technology transfer, while replicating successful SLM practices at ground level in order to achieve concrete benefits for affected populations and ecosystems,

*Further recognizing* the importance of scaling up and increasing the number of voluntary land degradation neutrality pilot projects and taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals in the NAP alignment process, as appropriate,

*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the roles of the CST and the Science-Policy Interface, especially with regards to the implementation of SLM practices, with a view to improving the living conditions of affected populations, as well as cooperation between scientists and policymakers,

*Also emphasizing* the importance of national monitoring systems for policy- and decision-makers and other users, and their usefulness to complement information from international data sets,

#### **Operational Objective 1: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education**

1. *Invites* those country Parties having reported a percentage of national awareness of DLDD and its synergies lower than their national targets to step up their communication and education efforts in order to meet their targets, including, as appropriate, through the mobilization of resources for the capacity-building of social communicators, such as the media, CSOs, practitioners and social networks;
2. *Also invites* Parties unable to collect reliable quantitative data about national awareness of DLDD to provide information on national initiatives and practices for achieving operational objective 1;
3. *Further invites* Parties to assess and increase the effectiveness of their advocacy activities and methods of communication regarding DLDD-related issues through various means – including internet-based tools and participatory approaches – with a view to reaching and changing the behaviour, mentality and attitude of a wider audience;
4. *Encourages* affected country Parties to continue monitoring the implementation of their NAPs with regard to policy, measures and actions undertaken in the fields of advocacy, awareness-raising and education;

5. *Invites* Parties to promote DLDD-awareness in their national educational programmes;
6. *Also invites* developed country Parties to support the least developing countries by providing, inter alia, financial resources for advocacy, awareness-raising and education;
7. *Further invites* Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and cooperate with affected country Parties in raising awareness of DLDD;
8. *Encourages* affected country Parties to enter into South-South, South-North and triangular cooperation to enhance their efforts in setting and achieving their national targets on advocacy, awareness-raising and education;

### **Operational Objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge**

9. *Invites* affected country Parties to increase their efforts to develop, implement and maintain effective monitoring systems, based primarily on national official data at their discretion, taking into consideration national circumstances and conditions, and to recover discontinued monitoring systems that continue to have significant value and, eventually, to expand the monitoring systems that cover all DLDD issues in part, in order to provide the required specific information;
10. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the Regional Coordination Mechanisms and subject to the availability of resources, to undertake an analysis of national, subregional, regional and global monitoring systems focusing, inter alia, on their scope, functionality and efficiency with a view to making this information available, after consultation with Parties, to national planners and to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of such capacities, including the private sector;
11. *Invites* Parties to share their experiences in designing and implementing their national monitoring systems, including experiences on gathering knowledge on biophysical and socioeconomic factors and on their interactions in affected areas, and also invites developed country Parties and relevant financial and development institutions to support this effort;
12. *Also invites* affected country Parties to provide national information and technical advice on DLDD with the assistance of the secretariat, with a view to making this information available to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of monitoring systems, including the private sector;
13. *Further invites* affected country Parties to strengthen the implementation of outcomes 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas;
14. *Encourages* affected country Parties, with the support of developed country Parties, relevant financial and development institutions and CSOs, to share successful experiences in the context of national, subregional and regional programmes and South-South and North-South cooperation, which can be adapted as appropriate to the local needs of different countries;
15. *Invites* Parties and the Convention's institutions to enhance efforts aimed at developing knowledge-sharing systems including traditional knowledge on DLDD issues;

**Operational Objective 4: capacity building**

16. *Also invites* developed country Parties and development institutions to provide support to affected country Parties for capacity-building, including training, workshops and resource mobilization related to action programme alignment and implementation;

17. *Further invites* Parties and international organizations, including those in the United Nations system and the Global Environment Facility, to review their capacity-building plans with a view to increasing capacities on matters relating to DLDD in a more coordinated manner, and to enhance the effective use of resources while taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

18. *Requests* the Convention's institutions to make available information on affected country Parties which, according to the 2014 reporting, need further capacity-building assistance in collaboration and consultation with the interested country Party, with a view to the requests being considered by bilateral donors and multilateral agencies within the framework of possible projects and programmes;

19. *Encourages* Parties to engage in North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to address capacity-building requirements for effective implementation of the Convention.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 14/COP.12

### Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 6 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decision 14/COP.11,

*Noting with concern* the increasing challenges of DLDD issues, the limited resources to meet those challenges, and that integrated and strategic approaches to this problem are necessary,

*Recognizing* that there has been progress made in establishing integrated investment frameworks (IIFs) and the continuing need for both technical and financial support in this regard,

*Also recognizing* that additional financial resources are required to support activities such as restoring degraded lands, implementing SLM practices, establishing baselines, identifying priority areas, setting targets, promoting technology transfer, building capacity for implementing activities that achieve the objectives of this Convention, monitoring land degradation, sharing best practices, and promoting regional cooperation,

*Noting* that establishing and implementing the IIFs/integrated financing strategy requires further human and financial resources, as well as strategic partnerships and the engagement of development partners,

*Also noting* that there is a need to increase access to diversified funding from additional sources beyond the GEF to address DLDD,

*Stressing* the importance of technology transfer to improve implementation on the ground, rather than being limited to monitoring and reporting systems,

*Noting* that technology innovation must be further incorporated into countries' implementation of the Convention; that all progress achieved by countries in technology transfer should be recognized; that technology transfer should take place in circumstances conducive to innovation; and that countries should be able to own these technologies on mutually agreed terms and adapt them as appropriate,

*Also noting* the need to strengthen synergies among the Rio conventions and other related conventions or institutions at national, subregional, regional and international levels, and the importance of developing multipurpose projects and scaling up finance to implement them,

*Recognizing* the importance of public–private partnerships and the need to further mobilize resources, including from innovative funding sources and mechanisms, to support the implementation of the Convention,

#### **Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer**

##### *a. Integrated investment frameworks*

1. *Urges* affected country Parties, where appropriate, to increase their efforts in establishing, maintaining and improving the efficiency of their IIFs with a view to

mobilizing substantial resources for restoring degraded lands and implementing SLM and other objectives of the Convention, including through engagement with development partners, where appropriate;

2. *Invites* developed country Parties and multilateral financial institutions to increase their efforts to support the establishment of IIFs at national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, or other mechanisms where IIFs may not be appropriate because of national circumstances;

3. *Also invites* relevant stakeholders, including financing institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to support the establishment and implementation of IIFs, as appropriate;

4. *Encourages* Parties eligible to access the Green Climate Fund and other climate funds to develop project proposals that harness national-level synergies between addressing DLDD and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

*b. Adequacy, timeliness and predictability of financial resources*

5. *Invites* developed country Parties and multilateral institutions to increase the adequacy, timeliness and predictability of the resources provided to affected country Parties and relevant organizations responsible for the implementation of national, subregional and regional action programmes;

6. *Also invites* Parties affected by DLDD to scale up their efforts in using available internal and external resources for the implementation of their national action programmes, as appropriate;

*c. Number of proposals related to desertification/land degradation and drought*

7. *Further invites* affected country Parties to step up their efforts in submitting project proposals to multilateral financial institutions, facilities and funds, and to take advantage of support provided for this purpose, particularly (but not limited to) the resources allocated under the GEF and its System for Transparent Allocation of Resources;

*d. Access to technology*

8. *Invites* Parties to continue their ongoing efforts to facilitate access to technology transfer;

9. *Also invites* Parties and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, as appropriate, to support South–South, North–South and Triangular initiatives at national, subregional, regional and interregional levels to improve cooperation on technology;

10. *Encourages* developed country Parties to undertake, as mutually agreed to promote, finance and/or facilitate of financing transfer, and the acquisition, adaptation and development of technologies for affected country Parties, and to facilitate access to these on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, and taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights;

11. *Invites* Parties and relevant technical and financial organizations, including from the private sector, to support and cooperate with affected country Parties to implement SLM practices, mitigate the effects of drought, and establish and maintain national monitoring systems;

**Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention**

12. *Urges* developed country Parties to increase their efforts to report on financial support as an obligation under the Convention;

13. *Invites* developed country Parties to increase their financial commitments to financing the implementation of SLM activities by affected country Parties and other initiatives related to DLDD, and *further invites* voluntary support from donors, including governments and the private sector in particular, to reverse land degradation and reduce its negative impacts;
14. *Encourages* Parties requesting assistance to include requests for support for DLDD as a priority in discussions with bilateral, multilateral and other donors based on their relevant national plans or strategies;
15. *Invites* multilateral agencies to strengthen their efforts in providing substantial financial resources and other forms of support to assist affected country Parties in implementing their national actions plans and other initiatives related to DLDD;
16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation at its next intersessional session on the implementation of this decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## Decision 15/COP.12

### **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* article 26 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Convention,

*Further recalling* decisions 13/COP.9, 14/COP.11, 16/COP.11 and 22/COP.11,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7, ICCD/CRIC(14)/8 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/9,

*Taking into account* the report of the SPI on objective 1 of its work programme 2014–2015, as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7,

*Bearing in mind* decision 3/COP.12,

#### **Refinement of the set of progress indicators relating to the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 and associated methodologies**

1. *Decides*, as a means to understanding the status of land degradation and the potential for land restoration, that reporting is required for the following three progress indicators: ‘trends in land cover’, ‘trends in land productivity or functioning of the land’ and ‘trends in carbon stocks above and below ground’, provided that countries have sufficient national official data/information to report or validate national estimates derived from global data sources and that reporting should be provided primarily from official national data;
2. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with relevant specialized institutions, inter alia those included in the annex I to this decision, to:
  - (a) Compile and make available to affected country Parties national estimates of the metrics/proxies associated with these indicators from the global datasets, inter alia those indicators included in the annex I to this decision, as default data for validation in accordance with the procedure established in decision 22/COP.11;
  - (b) Prepare methodological guidelines and provide technical assistance to affected country Parties on the compilation and use of such default data, including for the preparation of national voluntary targets using the progress indicators;
  - (c) Undertake measures aimed at strengthening the capacities of affected Parties to validate, replace or reject the default data;
3. *Decides*, taking into consideration national circumstances and the availability of methodological guidelines, capacity building and financing, that affected country Parties should provide timely feedback where possible on the default data and the proposed methodology to formulate national voluntary LDN targets using the monitoring and assessment indicators framework, and complete the reporting and target-setting exercise for review by the CRIC at its intersessional session that will take place after January 2018;
4. *Invites* relevant specialized institutions, inter alia those included in the annex I to this decision, to provide access to data and methodologies and assist the secretariat in the compilation and provision of global datasets, as mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a user guide for practitioners and decision-makers in order to operationalize The Strategy progress indicators with respect to national monitoring and reporting, to be submitted for consideration to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

6. *Also requests* the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the SPI, to explore options for further harmonization of progress indicators and their use across the Rio conventions, contacting relevant experts associated with the other Rio conventions with a view to creating synergies, simplifying reporting and reducing the burden on Parties, to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration;

**Refinement of the set of progress indicators relating to strategic objective 4 and associated methodologies**

7. *Approves* the refined progress indicator in the format set out in the annex II to this decision;

8. *Requests* the GM and the secretariat to:

(a) Develop a template for data collection on the financial indicator under strategic objective (SO) 4 and include it in the common reporting template along with the land cover/productivity indicators under SOs 1, 2 and 3;

(b) Develop a methodology for data analysis as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(14)/8 in order to compare and monitor trends in the land cover/productivity indicators and the financial indicator;

(c) Provide technical assistance to affected country Parties, in cooperation with relevant institutions, for the quality collection and presentation of the financial data to the UNCCD according to the reporting template;

9. *Invites* Parties to provide timely feedback and present country reports with the requested information on the financial progress indicator under SO 4 to the secretariat during the next reporting cycle;

10. *Invites* the GEF and financial institutions to provide necessary financial assistance for developing national capacities for collecting and presenting UNCCD data on the financial progress indicator under SO 4, listed in the annex II to this decision;

**Adjustment of reporting procedures, including financial support provided to reporting**

11. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the GM, where appropriate, to:

(a) Introduce improvements to the electronic template for the compilation of financial data in order to allow for the disaggregation of financial flows between internal and external funding sources, as well as other data mining functionalities, as appropriate; and facilitate the comparison and visualization of current and historical datasets;

(b) Post the proposed adjustments to performance indicators and financial flows reporting, as well as their relative tools and guidelines, on the UNCCD website and the PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system) portal in order to facilitate feedback from Parties;

12. *Decides* to make optional the next reporting exercise in the light of the need to finalize the methodological approach to reporting, until revised reporting tools have been made available to Parties;

13. *Requests* the secretariat and the GM to clarify for reporting purposes the definition of technology transfer and the criteria for the identification of technologies to address desertification/land degradation and drought;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to report to the CRIC and the CST at their next sessions on the implementation of the present decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Annex I

### Availability of global datasets

<i>Indicator and related metrics</i>	<i>Global datasets</i>	<i>Disaggregation level</i>
<p><b>Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas</b></p> <p>Metrics: poverty severity (or squared poverty gap), income inequality</p>	<p>Data are based on primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. Data are made available by the Development Research Group of the World Bank. &lt;<a href="http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm">http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm</a>&gt;</p>	<p>National estimates only.</p> <p>Geographically disaggregated data is not available.</p>
<p><b>Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas</b></p> <p>Metric: proportion of population using an improved drinking water source</p>	<p>Data are based on primary household surveys and national censuses. Data are made available by the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. &lt;<a href="http://www.wssinfo.org/">http://www.wssinfo.org/</a>&gt;</p>	<p>National, rural and urban estimates.</p> <p>Geographically disaggregated data is not available.</p>
<p><b>Trends in land cover</b></p> <p>Metric: vegetative land cover</p>	<p>Data are based primarily on remote sensing. A review of available datasets is contained in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Three global land cover maps for the epochs 2000, 2005 and 2010 at 300 m spatial resolution have been released in 2014 by the Climate Change Initiative Land Cover team of the European Space Agency. The 2015 epoch is under preparation. &lt;<a href="http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/158">http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/158</a>&gt;</p>	<p>Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level</p>
<p><b>Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land</b></p> <p>Metric: land productivity dynamics</p>	<p>Data are based primarily on remote sensing databases of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and other vegetation indices/variables derived from different platforms and sensors.</p> <p>A global dataset of land productivity dynamics is made available by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. This dataset has been derived from a 15-year time series (1998 to 2012) of global NDVI observations composited in 10-day intervals at a spatial resolution of 1 km.</p>	<p>Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level</p>

<i>Indicator and related metrics</i>	<i>Global datasets</i>	<i>Disaggregation level</i>
<b>Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground</b> Metric: soil organic carbon stock	Data is available as the Harmonized World Soil Database, a 30 arc-second raster database with over 15,000 different soil mapping units that combines existing regional and national updates of soil information worldwide with the information contained within the 1:5,000,000 scale Soil Map of the World of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. < <a href="http://webarchive.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/External-World-soil-database/HTML/">http://webarchive.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/External-World-soil-database/HTML/</a> >	Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level
<b>Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</b> Metric: Global Wild Bird Index	No global datasets are available. Data for the Global Wild Bird Index are available for only 18 European countries, plus regional data for North America and Europe. Alternative biodiversity-related metrics relevant to the mandate of the UNCCD have been explored and no suitable global dataset could be found.	Not available

<sup>a</sup> IPCC, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Vol. 4 Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Geneva, IPCC, 2006). Available at <<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/vol4.html>>.

## Annex II

### Progress indicators under strategic objective 4

**Strategic objective (SO) 4:** To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

**Progress indicator 4.1:** Trends in public sector finance and enabling investments to implement the Convention

**Metrics:**

- SO 4-1. Trends in international bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance
- SO 4-2. Trends in domestic public resources
- SO 4-3. Trends in number of co-financing partners

## Decision 16/COP.12

### **Programme of work for the fifteenth 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* article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

*Bearing in mind* decision 15/COP.12,

*Recognizing* that regional meetings play an important role in reviewing progress and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy,

1. *Decides* that the fifteenth session of the CRIC (CRIC 15) should, in the form of a special intersessional session, review and discuss the following items:

- (a) Inputs from regional meetings in preparation for CRIC 15;
- (b) The land degradation neutrality target-setting exercise and pilot projects;
- (c) Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention with the aim of assisting its work;
- (d) The report by the secretariat on the overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties, including, as needed, proposals of guidelines and reporting tools for progress and performance indicators;
- (e) Improvements, as needed, to the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports;
- (f) Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific and Knowledge Brokering Portal and the Capacity Building Marketplace;

2. *Appreciating* the work by Parties regarding reports on indicators and, in this regard, *requests* the secretariat to facilitate:

- (a) An interactive discussion of Parties wishing to discuss their efforts and results;
- (b) An interactive discussion on issues addressed in paragraph 1;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations languages, at least six weeks prior to CRIC 15, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 17/COP.12

### **Date and venue of the fifteenth 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 11/COP.9 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the CRIC,*

*Further recalling decision 16/COP.12,*

1. *Decides*, subject to the availability of resources, that CRIC 15 should be held for three to five working days as early as possible after July 2016 but no later than March 2017, at the most cost-effective venue of either Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, or in any other venue with United Nations conference facilities in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial 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 CRIC 15;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare that session, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement on the international level with a host country/government.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*23 October 2015*

## Decision 18/COP.12

### Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions 13/COP.8, 18/COP.10, 21/COP.11 and 23/COP.11,

*Acknowledging* the efforts made by the Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development (STK4SD) Consortium, the Steering Committee of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and the Scientific Advisory Committee in organizing the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference,

*Noting with appreciation* the support provided by Parties to the organization of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference,

*Acknowledging* the work conducted by the SPI to review the outputs of the conference and develop policy-oriented proposals for consideration by the CST,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/CST(S-4)/3 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2,

#### **Thematic recommendations from the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference**

*Interlinkages between desertification/land degradation and climate change*

1. *Takes into consideration* the scientific findings of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on the interlinkages between desertification/land degradation and climate change and their effects on human well-being;
2. *Encourages* the SPI to initiate and coordinate interactions on these issues with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
3. *Invites* Parties to support, through extension services, civil society and other organizations, social learning about land degradation, climate change, SLM and land-based adaptation to climate change using appropriate language and information and communication technologies;

*Traditional and local knowledge*

4. *Encourages* Parties to support processes that ensure the consideration and use of traditionally and locally held knowledge;
5. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to scientifically test and validate traditional and local knowledge on SLM technologies in projects and programmes, including potential trade-offs;
6. *Also invites* Parties to integrate scientific, traditional and local knowledge when developing national and locally relevant indicators;

*System approach*

7. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to develop and use a systems approach to assess vulnerability and adaptation capacities;

**Policy relevance**

8. *Requests* the SPI, subject to the availability of resources, to develop policy briefs on policy implications of the latest developments in scientific research relevant to DLDD and land-based adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
9. *Also requests* the secretariat to support the SPI by providing it with information about ongoing activities which are relevant for the development of policy briefs;
10. *Invites* Parties and national, regional and international research programmes and organizations to promote research on the emerging policy issues identified by the SPI as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2;
11. *Encourages* Parties and regional, subregional and international organizations and networks to cooperate in developing drought management and water security policies and programmes that address the combined impacts of drought and land degradation;
12. *Also invites* Parties to develop policies that enable the implementation of SLM and strategies for land-based adaptation to climate change by providing incentives for adaptation and removing obstacles to implement such policies, exploring, for example, innovative governance schemes;
13. *Further encourages* Parties and *invites* public and private investors to respect the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security” adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012 and the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems” adopted by the CFS in 2014;
14. *Encourages* Parties to mainstream adaptation to the combined effects of climate change and land degradation in their national development plans;
15. *Also encourages* Parties to enhance support for systems research that can identify leverage points for potential interventions for land-based adaptation to climate change; this would encompass research into modelling the impacts of alternative scenarios, including top-down and bottom-up financing, delineation of value chains that capture market and non-market values, and the quantification of the socioeconomic, environmental and cultural trade-offs from a multi-stakeholder perspective;
16. *Requests* the GM, subject to available resources, and *invites* other international cooperation institutions to assist affected country Parties in identifying and accessing domestic, foreign and innovative sources of funding for land-based adaptation to climate change;

**Multi-sector collaboration**

17. *Encourages* Parties to institutionalize multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation, making use of state-of-the-art participatory process design, knowledge systems and communication technology;
18. *Urges* Parties to strengthen national networks including CSO networks, and work collaboratively to strengthen regional and global science and knowledge networks; these networks should contribute to enhancing the interaction among diverse stakeholders and supporting the provision and sharing of multiple forms of knowledge on DLDD, SLM and successful strategies for land-based adaptation; this should build upon the efforts to develop the ‘portal of portals’ for DLDD known as the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal;

### **Monitoring and reporting**

19. *Invites* the secretariat, supported by the SPI, to explore progress on the development of interoperable international observatories (for example, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems being built by the Group on Earth Observations, the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Biodiversity Observing System, and UNEPLive) in order to ensure that DLDD and LDN monitoring and assessment needs are fully integrated into existing efforts to systematically collect environmental observations;

20. *Also invites* Parties to support and incentivize the establishment or expansion, as applicable, of integrated national observatories to assess the status of land degradation and the impact of climate change, SLM and land-based adaptation to climate change, and to contribute actively to common global reporting initiatives in relation to the state of the land;

21. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* relevant technical and financial organizations, including from the public and private sector, to provide adequate support to affected country Parties for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems and for capacity-building to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement in monitoring SLM.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*22 October 2015*

## Decision 19/COP.12

### Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions 13/COP.8 and 21/COP.11,

*Acknowledging* the work conducted by the SPI to assess the effectiveness of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st, 2nd and 3rd Scientific Conferences in supporting the UNCCD decision-making process,

*Recognizing* that investments in the UNCCD Scientific Conferences have had direct and indirect influences on UNCCD policymaking and that this positive trend has the potential to be enhanced,

*Also recognizing* that issues associated with the structure and funding of the UNCCD Scientific Conferences impacted the benefits derived from these conferences, as they influenced the quality of the recommendations and their timely availability,

*Further recognizing* that cost-efficient institutional arrangements are required to improve the scientific input to the UNCCD process,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.2,

1. *Decides* that future scientific meetings on DLDD should be decoupled from official sessions of the CST; these scientific meetings can take the form of UNCCD-related scientific conferences, stand-alone expert meetings or expert meetings held in conjunction with existing international scientific conferences;
2. *Also decides* that the SPI mandate, as contained in decision 23/COP.11, paragraph 3, should be extended to enable the SPI, under the leadership of the Bureau of the CST, to: (i) provide the CST with clear and well-defined thematic guidance on scientific knowledge requirements (e.g. thematic assessments, scientific studies and/or user guides) for implementing the UNCCD; (ii) identify the most optimal way forward (e.g. commissioning an individual or group of experts, organizing expert meetings, encouraging the organization of regional meetings by regional scientific institutions or networks) to address these knowledge requirements; (iii) draft terms of reference for the scientific work to be commissioned to external experts or institutes and ensure the quality of content according to the contract administered by the secretariat; and (iv) select experts, including from scientific societies, science and knowledge organizations, and CSOs, and networks known for their expertise in DLDD;
3. *Further decides* that any scientific output prepared under the supervision of the SPI should undergo an international, independent review process; and that any output published under the name of the UNCCD should be reviewed by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties prior to publication;
4. *Decides* that future sessions of the CST should be organized in such a way to facilitate a dialogue between the Parties and the SPI regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs and to enable the formulation of policy-relevant recommendations;

5. *Also decides* that the CST, with the support of the SPI, should regularly monitor the short, medium and long-term impacts of the scientific work carried out for the UNCCD.

*4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
16 October 2015*

## Decision 20/COP.12

### Improvement of knowledge dissemination, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* articles 6, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 26 of the Convention, decisions 15/COP.10, 17/COP.11 and 24/COP.11,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to ensure coordination with respect to the issue of best practices,

*Acknowledging* the efforts by the secretariat, the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices on SLM,

*Recognizing* the difficulties faced by the secretariat and the GM with finding databases relevant to the other thematic topics on best practices, the resources required to complete the process outlined in decisions 15/COP.10 and 17/COP.11 for the SLM best practices, and the need for more cost-effective approaches,

*Also acknowledging* the progress made by the secretariat in developing the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and in operating the Capacity Building Marketplace,

*Recalling* document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/9 containing the outcome of the knowledge needs assessment conducted to identify the critical knowledge needs of UNCCD stakeholders, and thereby to clarify priorities for the development of the SKBP,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(14)/6 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5,

1. *Invites* the University of Bern/CDE and WOCAT to:
  - (a) Finalize the process for the provision of a revised reporting template and technical guidelines to be tested by Parties;
  - (b) Finalize the establishment of an online facility to allow country Parties and other reporting entities to continue uploading information on “sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation” best practices;
  - (c) Make data and information on SLM best practices available by allowing access through the SKBP, as relevant;
2. *Encourages* Parties to test the revised reporting templates and to provide WOCAT with feedback to enable further adjustments and improvement;
3. *Also encourages* Parties and *invites* other reporting entities to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices through WOCAT in order to increase the knowledge base on SLM;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to integrate an SLM best practices component into the capacity-building activities organized in preparation for the next reporting and review exercise, and in any other opportunity that may arise, as appropriate;
5. *Decides* that, with the exception of the “SLM technologies, including adaptation” theme, best practices reporting for the other six thematic topics identified in annex V of

decision 13/COP.9 should be discontinued, and reporting entities should be released from the current relevant reporting obligations;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to identify institutions having the required expertise, knowledge and information regarding the remaining six thematic topics, provide a link to their websites and/or databases where relevant information is made available, and channel this information through the SKBP and/or the Capacity Building Marketplace, as relevant;

7. *Also decides*, in particular, that:

(a) With regard to the “capacity-building and awareness-raising” thematic topic, the secretariat should continue to meet its obligations through the Capacity Building Marketplace, with any adjustments necessary;

(b) With regard to the “funding and resource mobilization” thematic topic, the GM should improve its “Finance Info Kit”, establishing partnerships with appropriate funding institutions, mechanisms and funds, and facilitating access to information on existing and emerging funding opportunities relevant to DLDD;

(c) With regard to the “DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research” and “knowledge management and decision support” thematic topics, the secretariat should post relevant information on the SKBP;

(d) With regard to the “policy, legislative and institutional framework” thematic topic, the secretariat and the GM should post relevant information on the UNCCD website;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat, in consultation with Parties, to continue developing and enhancing the SKBP in cooperation with partners in order to increase relevance for the different target groups and to expand the collection of information accessible through the portal to national and subnational actors in particular. The SKBP should facilitate and promote access to relevant knowledge from multiple sources through the internet, mobile phones and other communication channels;

9. *Encourages* developed country Parties, and *invites* countries in the position to do so and financial institutions to provide financial resources:

(a) To ensure the functioning and sustainability of the repository on SLM best practices; and

(b) To support the annual costs, expansion and further enhancement and development of the SKBP;

10. *Further requests* the secretariat and the GM to report to the next subsidiary body meetings on the implementation of this decision.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*22 October 2015*

## Decision 21/COP.12

### Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 23/COP.11,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the work conducted by the SPI in implementing the work programme for the biennium 2014–2015,

*Recognizing* the contributions of the SPI to the scoping process for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA),

*Welcoming* the efforts of the SPI to initialize the collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS),

*Acknowledging* the work conducted by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF in developing the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4,

#### **Follow-up on collaboration activities included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2014–2015**

1. *Requests* the SPI to contribute to the review process of the LDRA within the given timeframe and in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
2. *Encourages* experts included in the UNCCD roster of independent experts and other independent experts with relevant expertise and/or publications to their name to contribute to the review process of the LDRA within the given timeframe and in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to:
  - (a) Notify Parties, the SPI, experts included in the UNCCD roster of independent experts, and other scientific networks as appropriate when the call for expert reviewers for the LDRA is launched and when draft versions of the LDRA become publicly available for peer review;
  - (b) Continue to facilitate the participation of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of the IPBES as an observer;
  - (c) Continue to facilitate the participation of the SPI as a key reviewer in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
  - (d) Facilitate the involvement of the SPI in the steering and reviewing of the Global Land Outlook;
  - (e) Include the SPI in the work level exchange with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
4. *Encourages* the SPI to continue the collaboration with the ITPS with a focus on the topics agreed during the joint ITPS–SPI meeting on 20 April 2015;

5. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to support the refinement and testing of the RAPTA framework in relevant projects;
6. *Encourages* the SPI to:
  - (a) Continue to collaborate with the STAP of the GEF to support the further development and pilot testing of resilience-based assessment frameworks and provide advice and guidance where relevant;
  - (b) Promote the application of resilience-based assessment frameworks as a common approach to planning, monitoring and reporting on land-based adaptation and agroecosystem resilience;
  - (c) Consider, as part of its work programme 2016–2017, how the resilience-based assessment frameworks approach can be applied in its future work on developing guidance for the UNCCD on operationalizing the voluntary land degradation neutrality target;
  - (d) Consider how the resilience-based assessment frameworks approach could contribute to the development of quantitative and narrative indicators at the national/subnational level to complement the UNCCD progress indicators;

**Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017**

7. *Decides* to adopt the SPI work programme for the biennium 2016–2017 as contained in the annex to this decision;
8. *Requests* the SPI to:
  - (a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations, for each objective included in its work programme for 2016–2017 at the thirteenth session of the CST;
  - (b) Report on the coordination activities conducted during the biennium 2016–2017 to the CST at its thirteenth session;
  - (c) Develop policy briefs, including policy-oriented options, on the topics covered in the work programme.

*11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
22 October 2015*

## Annex

### Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017

Table 1

#### Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
1: Provide scientific guidance to the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) target	A user guide for implementing LDN at the country level based on a review of proposed conceptual and methodological frameworks that would scientifically underpin the implementation of LDN
2: Highlight the science-based synergistic potential of sustainable land management (SLM) practices to address DLDD, climate change mitigation and adaptation	A report that will include the following three sections as well as associated policy brief(s):
2a: Foster and facilitate the adoption of SLM practices which address DLDD while mitigating climate change	<p>Section 1 of the report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Explore the potential of SLM practices to contribute to both climate change mitigation and addressing DLDD;</li> <li>(ii) Review incentives and obstacles for the adoption of sustainable land use practices at different scales;</li> <li>(iii) Provide options for enhancing climate change mitigation (increasing carbon sequestration and/or reducing emissions) and addressing DLDD through SLM practices.</li> </ul>
2b: Foster and facilitate the adoption of SLM practices which address DLDD while enhancing climate change adaptation	<p>Section 2 of the report will present state-of-the-art knowledge on experience in land management practices that can qualify as land-based climate change adaptation practices. The report will also summarize land users' responses to drought in affected areas over several millennia and provide information on responses to emerging occurrences of droughts. Based on this information the report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Provide guidance for SLM practices that could increase adaptability to climate change projections in affected areas ;</li> <li>(ii) Provide relevant information for supporting informed policymaking and inform policy-makers, research funding bodies and the scientific community on existing knowledge gaps in terms of achieving land-based climate change adaptation;</li> <li>(iii) Identify existing knowledge gaps in terms of achieving land-based climate change adaptation;</li> <li>(iv) Review incentives and obstacles for the adoption of sustainable land use practices at different scales.</li> </ul>

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
<p>2c: Critically evaluate the conclusions of 2a and 2b to ensure the clear understanding of synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and SLM practices which reduce land degradation</p>	<p>Section 3 of the report will provide a critical analysis of the potential synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and SLM practices which reduce land degradation in different biomes and regions.</p>
<p>3: Encourage the development and implementation of specific rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands</p>	<p>A report providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) An assessment of existing land management practices suitable for the rehabilitation, restoration or reclamation of degraded lands with regard to the lands' potential, including associated costs;</li> <li>(ii) Scientific guidance and policy options for addressing degraded lands taking into account the lands' potential and the different degrees of degradation severity in different biomes and regions, based on the assessments referred to in point (a) above and available best practice case studies.</li> </ul>

Table 2

**Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2016–2017**

<i>Coordination area</i>	<i>Activity</i>
1: Follow up and contribute to the land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA) conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will contribute to the LDRA in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES.
2: Contribute to the development of the Global Land Outlook (GLO)	SPI members should participate in the steering committee and the review process of the GLO.
3: Follow up on current collaboration with and explore further means of collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)	<p>Collaboration will be based on the topics jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development Goal related to the objective of the Convention (SDG target 15.3)</li> <li>• Indicators serving the 3 Rio conventions</li> <li>• Soil organic carbon</li> </ul>
4: Initiate and coordinate interactions between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	With the support of the secretariat, the SPI will explore the possibility for the IPCC to address the link between climate change and land degradation in its future work.

## Decision 22/COP.12

### Roster of independent experts

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 24, paragraph two of the Convention,

*Also recalling* decision 26/COP.11,

*Having considered* document ICCD/COP(12)/13,

*Also having considered* document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4, document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6 and document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the notification of experts from the roster of independent experts of the following activities and opportunities to:

(a) Participate in scientific events, including technical expert meetings and international and regional conferences organized as part of the mechanism for the provision of scientific and expert advice to the UNCCD, as outlined in decision 19/COP.12;

(b) Act as reviewers of science-based products elaborated under the supervision of the Science-Policy Interface;

(c) Participate in international expert panels and assessments on DLDD topics as experts nominated by the secretariat or by Parties; experts shall express their views in their own name and not in the name of the UNCCD;

(d) Act as reviewers of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration;

(e) Provide relevant information to the UNCCD knowledge platforms such as the SKBP and the Capacity Building Marketplace;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to integrate the roster of independent experts database into the SKBP to enable easier and more efficient use of the database, with the option to search for experts by discipline and country, and to provide links to other databases of relevant experts, as appropriate;

3. *Encourages* Parties to propose new experts in order to achieve a better gender balance within the roster of independent experts, and to include more experts from the social and economic sciences, especially experts on traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices.

*4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*16 October 2015*

## Decision 23/COP.12

### Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 23 of the Convention,

*Recalling* decisions 16/COP.3, 16/COP.4, 16/COP.5, 20/COP.6, 20/COP.7, 18/COP.8, 26/COP.9, 27/COP.10 and 29/COP.11 on the programme of work of the CST,

*Bearing in mind* The Strategy adopted by decision 3/COP.8, particularly operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge and its related outcomes,

*Recalling* decisions 13/COP.8, 16/COP.9, 18/COP.10 and 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operation of the CST in line with The Strategy,

*Recalling* decision 23/COP.11 on the establishment of the SPI, particularly paragraph two, which specifies that the SPI will function up to the end of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, at which point it will be reviewed,

*Having reviewed* the proposed work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2016–2017, as contained in decision 21/COP.12,

1. *Decides* that the thirteenth session of the CST should focus, inter alia, on the review of the work conducted by the SPI during the biennium 2016–2017 and on its overall achievements since its establishment in order to decide on the future functioning of the SPI;
2. *Also decides* that the thirteenth session of the CST should be organized in such a way as to facilitate a thematic dialogue between the Parties and the SPI regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs, and to enable the formulation of policy-relevant recommendations.
3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate, in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the thirteenth session of the CST, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session.

*4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*16 October 2015*

## Decision 24/COP.12

### **Rule 47 of the rules of procedure; procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation; annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 21/COP.2 on the consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

*Taking note* of the draft text of rule 47, as amended by decision 21/COP.2,

*Also taking note* of the report by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/14,

*Recalling* article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

*Noting* that the question of linkages between article 27 and article 22, paragraph 2, article 26 and article 28 of the Convention may merit further consideration,

*Recalling* article 28, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted as soon as practicable by the Conference of the Parties in an annex to the Convention,

*Also recalling* article 28, paragraph 6 of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted as soon as practicable by the Conference of the Parties in an annex to the Convention,

*Further recalling* the Chairperson summaries of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts at the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

*Recalling* decisions 20/COP.3, 20/COP.4, 21/COP.5, 22/COP.6, 22/COP.7, 20/COP.8, 21/COP.8, 29/COP.9, 29/COP.10, 30/COP.10, 31/COP.11 and 32/COP.11,

#### **Rule 47 of the rules of procedure**

1. *Decides* to postpone consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure to a future session of the Conference of the Parties, until it is felt that there is sufficient agreement among Parties to reach consensus on this matter;

#### **Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation**

2. *Also decides* to postpone consideration of the provisions of article 27 of the Convention to a future session of the Conference of the Parties, until it is felt that there is sufficient agreement among Parties to reach consensus on this matter;

**Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures**

3. *Further decides* to postpone consideration of article 28, paragraph 2 (a) and article 28, paragraph 6 of the Convention to a future session of the Conference of the Parties, when it is felt that there is sufficient agreement among Parties to reach consensus on this matter.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## **Decision 25/COP.12**

### **Credentials of delegations**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* document ICCD/COP(12)/19 and Add.1 on the credentials of delegations and the recommendation contained therein,

*Decides* to approve the report.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 26/COP.12

### **Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

His Excellency Mr. Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana – Chair of Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action,

His Excellency Mr. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia – Chair of Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought,

Mr. Gabriel Quijandría Acosta, Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources in the Ministry of Environment of Peru – one of the Co-Chairs of Round table 3: Land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management,

1. *Takes note* of the Chairpersons' summaries with appreciation and gratitude;
2. *Decides* to include the Chairpersons' summaries as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## **Decision 27/COP.12**

### **Ankara Ministerial Declaration**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Takes note* of the Ankara Ministerial Declaration with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Ankara Ministerial Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 28/COP.12

### Report on the Eleventh Round Table of Members of Parliament

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having heard* the presentation of the Declaration on “The role of Members of Parliament in the efforts to combat desertification/land degradation and drought: Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land in the context of strengthened resilience to climate change”, reflecting the outcomes of the Eleventh Round Table of Members of Parliament, which took place in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 20 and 21 October 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## **Decision 29/COP.12**

### **The Ankara Initiative**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Takes note* of the Ankara Initiative with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Ankara Initiative as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 30/COP.12

### **Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth 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 twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties,

*Recalling* the discussions held during the Open Dialogue Session with the civil society organizations on land degradation neutrality and the Interactive Dialogue Session on Land Rights,

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 twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## **Decision 31/COP.12**

### **Ankara Declaration: Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having heard* the Declaration of the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum (Ankara Declaration) made at the high-level segment by Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey on behalf of the participants in the third Sustainable Land Management Business Forum organized on the sidelines of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the Ankara Declaration referred to in this decision;
2. *Decides* to include the Ankara Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## **Decision 32/COP.12**

### **Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Trade Unions Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## **Decision 33/COP.12**

### **Declaration of the Youth Forum**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Youth Forum with appreciation;
2. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Youth Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 34/COP.12

### Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 22 of the UNCCD,

*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 and 39/COP.11 on its programme of work, decision 3/COP.8 containing The Strategy and decision 7/COP.8,

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

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its thirteenth session and, if necessary, its fourteenth session:
  - (a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
    - (i) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Land Degradation Neutrality;
    - (ii) The future strategic framework of the Convention;
    - (iii) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
  - (b) Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level:
    - (i) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
    - (ii) Addressing particular regional and national conditions;
    - (iii) Promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;
    - (iv) Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms:
      - Global Mechanism;
      - Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility;
  - (c) Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making: review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
  - (d) Programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
  - (e) Procedural matters:
    - (i) Maintenance of the roster of experts and the creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts;

- (ii) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
  - (iii) 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, CSOs, 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 twelfth 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 thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*

## Decision 35/COP.12

### Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 22, paragraph 4, of the UNCCD,

*Also recalling* rule 3 of the rules of procedure,

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

1. *Decides* that the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, in autumn 2017, 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 thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## **Resolution 1/COP.12**

### **Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having met* in Ankara, from 12 to 23 October 2015 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for having made it possible for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in the city of Ankara and for the excellent facilities placed at its disposal;
2. *Requests* the Government to convey to the people of the Republic of Turkey the profound gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*