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## Convention to Combat Desertification

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### Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

## Report of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 15 to 19 April 2013

### Addendum

#### *Summary*

This document contains a summary of the deliberations of Parties and observers at the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 11), as well as a compilation of the draft recommendations contained in the official documentation submitted to the Committee for consideration.<sup>1</sup>

These recommendations derive from the synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports submitted by Parties and other reporting entities by 30 October 2012, and are compiled and included herein following a specific request made by Parties at CRIC 11. As such the present document complements the conclusions and recommendations contained in chapter III of document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and is an integral part of the same.

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<sup>1</sup> ICCD/CRIC(11)/2 to ICCD/CRIC(11)/7, ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6, ICCD/CRIC(11)/9 to ICCD/CRIC(11)/13 and Add.1, ICCD/CRIC(11)/14, ICCD/CRIC(11)/15 and ICCD/CRIC(11)/17.

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## I. Summary of the deliberations

### A. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators

#### **Strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, including input from the CST on the review and assessment of scientific information pertaining to the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

##### *Methodology for delineating affected areas*

1. Some Parties reported on specific variables which have been used in their country for delineating affected areas and/or which could be considered by the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) in revising their preliminary recommendations, including some of the main drivers of desertification: (i) the projected vulnerability to climate change, which could facilitate synergies with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; (ii) land use; and (iii) poverty levels.
2. However, some other Parties noted that due to the context-specificity of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues, methodologies to delineate affected areas need to be adapted to the national reality, and individual Parties might need to consider factors that are only relevant to them when delineating affected areas.
3. Noting that effective delineation of affected areas is critical to the implementation of the Convention, many Parties expressed concern over the methodology proposed by the AGTE for the delineation of affected areas and recommended using a simpler method. In particular, some Parties expressed concerns over the four types of affected areas identified by the AGTE (i.e. potentially affected, at risk (of being affected), (actually) affected, and inherited (desertification)) and recommended clarifying as to which should be used for reporting so as to ensure comparability of the data submitted. As all drylands are either affected or threatened by desertification, some Parties proposed that the delineation of affected areas be based on the definition of drylands as contained in the Convention. Some Parties also suggested concentrating efforts towards evaluating the costs and benefits of action versus the costs of inaction and towards developing, implementing and monitoring actions to combat desertification.
4. Noting that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole global instrument addressing the issue of land degradation, some Parties recommended looking beyond drylands when developing a methodology to delineate affected areas.
5. Some Parties recommended that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) should direct more efforts towards harmonizing data and methodologies as a prerequisite to establishing a baseline for global assessment.

##### *Data availability*

6. Many Parties expressed concerns about the availability of reliable, accurate and updated data. However, it was noted that the issue is sometimes not data availability, but actual access to available data, as well as institutional coordination at national level.
7. Some Parties also highlighted the benefit of forging partnerships with scientific, technical, political and academic bodies to improve access to and the harmonization of data. Some Parties expressed concerns about the lack of ground information which is needed to assess affected areas. Some Parties recommended using open data sources (e.g. the

GeoNetwork from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and building synergies with the other Rio conventions in order to reduce the costs of data collection. Some Parties expressed concerns with the use of international data sources as it might lead to the loss of relevant information collected at national level.

*Reporting on impact indicators*

8. Some Parties noted that the number of affected country Parties reporting on impact indicators in 2012 could be considered encouraging and that this reporting will help to establish a global baseline over time. However, it was noted that data coverage and the comparability of data must be improved for this to happen. To this end, some Parties recommended that indicator information should be continuously entered into the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) portal to improve the robustness of analyses over time.

9. Many Parties recommended that further methodological guidance for reporting on the two mandatory impact indicators be provided by global institutions. Some Parties reported on the lack of common definitions related to impact indicators and recommended that the AGTE further its work on the development of clear terminology, classifications and definitions.

10. Some Parties recommended improving the balance between quantitative and qualitative assessments/indicators.

11. Some Parties supported the AGTE proposal to use an indicator on soil organic carbon to measure progress against the implementation of the Convention, as well as progress towards land degradation neutrality. Some Parties noted that soil organic carbon can be used to record land degradation rates and that the use of soil carbon measures give opportunity for synergies with other conventions.

12. Some Parties expressed some concerns about the usefulness and applicability of the new biodiversity-related indicators proposed by the AGTE.

13. A representative from civil society organizations (CSOs) highlighted the importance of directing financial resources towards the actual implementation of the Convention on the ground and recommended considering the abandonment of such a complicated reporting system in favour of a more cost-effective system based on biannual national communications, for instance.

*Locally and nationally relevant impact indicators*

14. Many Parties supported the AGTE proposal to integrate global reporting with nationally relevant indicators and data. This would help to strengthen and improve already existing national databases and increase efficiency in reporting. However, some Parties noted that affected country Parties might need support in developing locally and nationally relevant impact indicators.

15. Some Parties emphasized the importance and usefulness of local participatory processes for identifying locally relevant indicators. A representative from the CSOs highlighted that local participatory processes are cost-effective and powerful tools.

*Periodicity of monitoring*

16. Some Parties reported that the periodicity of measurement depends on the variable under consideration. While certain parameters are measured annually, seasonally or even monthly, changes and trends in DLDD processes can in general be observed only after four to six years and sometimes only after ten years, so indicators can be refined based on the frequency to which related data can be collected.

*PRAIS portal*

17. Many Parties complained about the complexity of the PRAIS portal and recommended simplifying it. They reported access problems and difficulties in understanding the reporting templates which were found to be excessively complicated and sometimes contradictory. Some Parties further recommended reorganizing the PRAIS portal so as to make available reporting tools (such as the glossary, the reporting manual, etc.) easily accessible.

18. Some Parties reported efforts made in integrating indicators from PRAIS into their national system and establishing subnational systems that are better adapted to the local level. Some Parties reported attempting to implement a PRAIS-like system at national level by incorporating existing databases and providing training to institutions that collect data on DLDD.

*Technical and financial support*

19. Some Parties expressed concerns about the lack of technical assistance from specialized agencies at the regional and subregional level as well as the lack of resources to build capacity. They invited the international donor community, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to support countries in increasing capacity for reporting.

*Target setting*

20. Some Parties expressed concerns about the possibility of setting up realistic and achievable targets without a robust baseline assessment. However, some other Parties noted that, based on the experience in developing targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, global target setting can be a powerful tool in raising awareness and generating resources on DLDD issues.

*Synergies among the Rio conventions*

21. Many Parties encouraged all country Parties to fully leverage synergies among the Rio conventions at national level. In particular, some Parties noted that sustainable land management (SLM), biodiversity conservation and the restoration of degraded ecosystems are the main areas where synergies can be built between national action programmes (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Some Parties also noted the political challenge of developing tools for achieving the holistic management of natural resources despite the compartmentalization resulting from the different Conventions. Some Parties highlighted that synergies need to take place within the mandate of each Convention.

## **B. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

### **1. Operational objective 1 of The Strategy**

*Partnership*

22. Some Parties reported they had established stakeholder and parliamentary committees to deal with desertification and drought issues, which has helped to raise awareness. In one country, the parliamentary committee had prepared a report on the status of desertification in the country. The country also has a system of climate rating to help identify areas that need action. Some Parties said having a network of multipliers, including

the use of peers and a variety of ambassadors that are believable and make the communication permanent is essential. Civil society stressed the fact that one should provide to the public an opportunity to act and engage.

#### *Media*

23. Many Parties reported on the approaches they have used to work with the media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.) for delivering their message. Some Parties stressed the importance of local media such as community radio programmes using local languages to reach at grassroots. The support of local government is critical for local media outreach. The civil society said that in order for engaging the public simplified and easy to understand messages are needed.

24. One Party reported the establishment of a network of journalists for the environment with representatives from the major media, including television and radio, and the national focal points. The partnership has enabled journalists to understand the concepts. Some Parties noted that the concepts associated with the Convention are a key hindrance to communication.

25. One Party had involved the President and ministers in a newspaper supplement on desertification, which was picked up by many of the smaller media, and made a big impact. Targeting policy-makers raises the issue on the political agenda, helping to advance the awareness raising process.

#### *Messaging and targeting*

26. Many Parties stressed the importance of messaging with regard to target group, timing and location. From a failure to get publicity at an event that was attended by high-ranking public officials, one country said it learned the importance of packaging the message from the correct angle and paying attention to timing, that is, segmenting the target groups. One Party also suggested segmenting the affected populations, for instance, into pastoralists, farmers and agro-pastoralists with the SLM message.

27. On the angle, for example, speak about security if the target is foreign affairs ministries, about costs when it is finance and economic ministers or consumer pricing when the general public is the target. The focus should be on making the message compelling and relevant to the audience.

28. Some Parties emphasized the importance of targeting policy makers so that awareness raising leads to concrete actions that benefit affected people and ecosystems. Some Parties suggested using “cost of action and inaction” as a message to create a convincing argument on the importance of SLM.

29. On timing, periods of extreme episodes like drought and dust storms or the declaration of particular areas as drought emergency zones are effective in getting public attention.

30. Some Parties said that awareness raising programmes are by nature long-term and should receive sufficient support from decision makers.

31. Other proposals to reach the general public include: competitions; bulletin boards; television programmes; advertising at games, etc.

#### *Education*

32. The importance of “starting early at school” – from primary education to university level - was echoed by many Parties. Children that learn about DLDD will bring their knowledge into practice not only at home and in community but also for future decision-

making. Teaching children on DLDD as part of the environmental education should be incorporated into school curricular. At the same time, capacity building of those who teach DLDD, like teachers and extension workers, must be ensured

#### *Measurement*

33. Many Parties raised the question of how to effectively gauge public awareness - how we know we reached the target audience and how we know the awareness raising led to positive actions. The current indicators in the national reporting process need to be revisited, as the definition of the measurement is unclear and difficult to apply practically. In this regard, the need for effective and scientifically reliable tools to measure awareness raising was emphasized.

34. A Party reported the process it had set up to assess the impact of awareness raising and found it to be extremely low. Another Party said it is important to assess what has happened and where, and explained it has set up a communications expert group that will help in this regard. Another Party proposed focusing on interpreting the best knowledge instead of focusing on the numbers reached. A Party proposed setting up a repository of information on what worked, to facilitate experience sharing among stakeholders.

#### *Term 'desertification'*

35. Many Parties shared the difficulty of making the public understand the word "desertification". It could be complemented with a positive message which speaks to the heart. In this regard, one country shared its experience to publicize desertification as seasonal aridity in order to gain people's understanding. Desertification needs to be understood more as cause of many other problems such as food security. A Party requested the support of communication specialists in this regard and stated that it is necessary to reach beyond the "converted" and go directly to rural areas where people suffer from DLDD. On the other hand, there was a voice saying desertification is well understood by people who are suffering from it. For them, what is needed is not an awareness raising programme but a solution to deal with desertification. A Party suggested to revisit the concept of "desertification" within the context of the Convention and discuss this at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP).

#### *Others*

36. Some Parties stressed the usefulness and importance of information and communication technologies such as Internet. Another Party said raising the profile of the Convention itself is important.

## **2. Operational objectives 2 and 4 of The Strategy; and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

37. A Party said that the NAP alignment process is an exercise of cooperation and coordination. Ownership of the alignment process is crucial in order to ensure engagement of all relevant stakeholders. Some Parties stated that buy-in of high level government officials is needed in order to speed up the NAP alignment process.

38. Some Parties said that it is important to know what is to be gained from the NAP alignment process in order to provide incentives to reach the target set in The Strategy also in the light of the ongoing work of the mid-term evaluation that may change certain parameters of The Strategy. It is important to see that the alignment process is geared towards leveraging domestic but also bilateral and multilateral funding. A Party stated that one should only get engaged in NAP alignment process once it is clear what the benefits from this exercise are.

39. CSOs said that the NAPs need to be aligned to The Strategy while responding to internal strategic policies and documents. A good NAP is done using a participatory approach. Some others said that they established steering committees made up of different stakeholders that in some cases are there to assist in resource mobilization.

40. A Party said that it welcomed the guidelines of the NAP alignment process prepared by the secretariat but has adopted it to suit the country's need. Sub-themes for the aligned NAP were established dealing with topics of concern specific for the country. This was supported by another country that claimed that federated countries should aim at having sub-action programmes specifically geared to the needs of the country.

41. A Party said there is a lack of adequate support and resources, as well as clear criteria and guidelines for NAP alignment. Another stated that the secretariat could provide political support to the NAP alignment process.

42. Some Parties suggested using the integrated financing strategy (IFS) exercise to further identify capacity building needs while another said that the alignment process should be built on past experience. A Party said that developing an integrated investment framework (IIF) was important to ensure full stakeholder engagement and adequate financing

43. A Party said that the adoption of a national SLM strategy involving multiple ministries was used as a new approach to develop more effective national policies and increase awareness among policy makers while another confirmed that an independently run process involving non-government stakeholders was helpful in evaluation NAP development and implementation.

44. A Party said that the subregional support was helpful in the priority setting for NAP alignment purposes, while another said that the secretariat could help in the regional assessment of NAPs.

45. A Party said that national capacity building and adequate resource allocation are critical for keeping the NAP process alive.

46. A Party reminded that in order to be effective, the COP needs to adopt a complete set of indicators to be integrated in the NAPs and that capacity building is helpful for NAP development. Another Party stated that methodological work on impact indicators is still needed in order to assist country Parties in monitoring progress made in the implementation. Yet another Party stated that in this context clear targets and indicators while using a results-based approach is critical for effective NAP implementation.

47. Some Parties noted that cross-sectorial partnership building and reduction of institutional barriers within the government is critical in the NAP process.

48. Some Parties noted that subregional support and training is required for NAP alignment.

### **3. Operational objective 3 of The Strategy**

#### *Opportunities to develop common environmental reporting systems under the Rio conventions*

49. Some Parties appreciated the potential benefit of having an integrated approach to reporting. Nevertheless, many Parties recognized challenges in institutional coordination that exist at national level for such an approach and questioned its operational feasibility due to the different reporting formats and timelines used under the three Rio conventions.



50. Some Parties indicated that this integrated approach is more feasible at the programmatic and institutional level, but that it requires capacity-building as well as an effort to target programmes to well defined areas.

51. The presenter indicated that the use of a common reporting approach under the three Rio conventions must be driven by the Convention bodies, both in terms of guidance and formal adoption. The presenter highlighted experience gained through several pilot projects, which in some cases demonstrated a 25 per cent reduction in reporting costs.

52. Some Parties indicated that their participation as a pilot country in the FNR project (Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions) was critical in enhancing coordination among focal points of the Rio conventions at national level, which also helped increase national ownership of the action plans related to these conventions.

*Perspectives from donor countries supporting desertification/land degradation and drought monitoring systems*

53. Some Parties shared their experience in supporting both environmental and DLDD-specific monitoring and evaluation systems, emphasizing support provided to several countries and subregions in Africa, and indicated that investing in such systems is definitely worthwhile.

54. Some Parties highlighted the importance of fully defining initiatives receiving their support by stakeholders at national level, including the definition of priorities and specific elements to be monitored. Additional critical support was provided in the form of technical capacity-building and training opportunities.

55. Some Parties stressed the importance of bridging the gap between monitoring needs at local level and at national level.

56. Additional lessons learned shared by some Parties include the following:

- Avoid underestimating key requirements in developing and implementing monitoring systems that are sustainable in the long term, such as: the real cost of resources needed to collect data and acquire adequate technical equipment; the need to have sound rules and regulations in place; the need to have effective and well-coordinated organizational/institutional structures; cultural behaviors related to cooperation and data/information exchange; and the need to have ownership and leadership at national level.
- Ensure that the hosting institution for any monitoring system has a certain degree of independence from the government.
- Ensure there is a clear demand for the information being collected and understand where this demand comes from (e.g. local level versus national level).
- Ensure donors harmonize their interventions at national level and even project level in order to avoid duplication and promote a coordinated approach among them.

57. Some Parties indicated that gathering data is very costly and requires sustained technical and financial support. They also expressed concern regarding their inability to proceed with DLDD monitoring systems as they have limited resources to do so.

58. Some Parties questioned the rationale of focusing on DLDD monitoring issues instead of measurable actions on the ground directed at combating desertification (e.g. specific activities like afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration), and encouraged donor countries to continue supporting activities to combat DLDD at ground level.

59. Some Parties indicated that environmental monitoring is a very complex issue which is difficult and time consuming, stressing that international organizations providing technical assistance have an extremely important role in supporting national DLDD monitoring as well as to improve the national capacity.

60. Some Parties shared their experiences conducting theme-based monitoring (i.e. forests, agriculture) versus regionally adapted, ecosystem-based monitoring, indicating that the former allowed them to gain a better understanding of DLDD processes and to identify activities to address specific DLDD issues.

61. Some Parties shared positive experiences in establishing national environmental observatory systems, indicating that the engagement of independent scientific bodies, academia and government is crucial.

62. Some Parties highlighted the need to look into the socioeconomic dynamics that drive land-use patterns and land degradation processes at local level as part of DLDD monitoring systems.

63. Regarding the establishment of long-term DLDD monitoring systems, some Parties called for donors to work with the governments of beneficiary countries on issues such as the improvement of international interagency coordination.

## **C. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objectives 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy, and the outcomes of the open dialogue session**

### **1. Strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy; and financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention**

64. Lack of financial resources is the major constraint highlighted by many Parties. The GEF funding process for enabling activities is complex and should be improved. Some Parties noted the limited support received during the last reporting exercise, and that the failure to report by many Parties reflects a lack of capacity and insufficient funding.

65. While highlighting the significant human and financial resources required for reporting on adequate/predictable financing for aligning NAPs, some Parties noted the need to assess the financial implications of implementing The Strategy.

66. At the technical level, some Parties urged the UNCCD secretariat to define more specific methodology indicators with the objective of obtaining reliable data to assess the dynamics of the process and to help compile multi-source data.

67. Institutional support is important to help scale up the process. In this reporting cycle, the low percentage of reporting Parties made the analysis weak and incomplete. NAP alignment is a prerequisite for a reliable reporting process.

68. Many Parties commended the experience reported by a country and requested more information on how to involve the private sector in UNCCD implementation. Political will, incentives, compelling economic arguments, partnerships and public-private partnerships are some of the issues to be considered in creating an enabling environment for the private sector to engage in investments conducive to SLM.

69. The need to improve capacities was highlighted by many Parties. A Party offered assistance to affected country Parties to build capacity.

70. The GEF-5 System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) process allowed countries to improve synergies between the three Rio conventions through integrated projects.

71. Some Parties recalled that DLDD must be integrated into local development plans in order to increase the effectiveness of NAP implementation.

72. Some Parties stressed the need to assess and evaluate the whole UNCCD process to redefine the mandate of all subsidiary bodies and the Convention institutions.

73. Some Parties noted that South–South and triangular cooperation should be strengthened and stressed the need to define a procedure for reflecting it in the reporting process.

74. Some Parties noted that the uncertainty of the situation of the Global Mechanism (GM) and the pending decision on where it will be headquartered has undermined the operational effectiveness of the GM terms of availability and the predictability of sources of funding. Some Parties noted that this process must be concluded at the eleventh session of the COP. Some Parties highlighted the importance of creating a conducive environment for attracting private sector investments, and referred to the catalytic role that the GM can play in this connection.

75. Highlighting the example presented by one Party, many Parties noted the central role of domestic finance in implementing the Convention.

76. A Party reported that an environmental fund has been set up and is already supporting integrated sustainable environmental management.

77. The United Nations Environment Programme raised the issue of the lack of funding at the appropriate time. When the reporting process is planned, the funding pipelines of different development partners must be taken into consideration.

**2. Outcomes of the open dialogue session on the role of the civil society organizations in the mobilization of financial resources to support the implementation of the UNCCD through building effective partnerships between national and international actors**

78. Many Parties highlighted the importance of involving CSOs in the implementation of the UNCCD at all levels. This applies not only to projects in the field but also in raising awareness on DLDD and in serving as multipliers in education campaigns.

79. In some countries, CSOs have an important role in supporting the national focal points in their work, especially in bridging gaps between UNCCD-related policies and local populations.

80. Many Parties also provided information on initiatives undertaken at national level for ensuring a more institutionalized presence of CSO representatives in decision-making. This is the case for many Parties which have established national coordinating bodies or platforms that include not only representatives from governmental ministries in charge of the UNCCD but also other stakeholders such as academia, scientists, the private sector and CSOs. Many Parties encouraged the involvement of CSOs in this kind of mechanism. In addition to guiding DLDD policies, these bodies are sometimes responsible for implementing projects and also disbursing funds for CSOs to carry out activities to combat desertification.

81. When assessing the requirements of CSOs in implementing the Convention, many Parties and other stakeholders<sup>2</sup> highlighted two needs. The first need is access to funding for CSOs to implement DLDD projects. In this regard, some Parties called for the GM, the

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<sup>2</sup> Representatives from United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

GEF and other donors to provide these funds and simplify the application requirements so as to facilitate access by the CSOs.

82. Furthermore, building upon the experience demonstrated by the CSOs in creating partnerships with the private sector for mobilizing resources, many Parties and other stakeholders<sup>3</sup> suggested that CSOs could help bridge the gap between governments and the private sector. To this end, it was recommended that the CSOs could share their knowledge and success stories with the national authorities. On the topic of resource mobilization, many Parties also mentioned the options for CSOs to access innovative sources of funding, such as the carbon market or climate funds.

83. The second important need identified during the deliberations is capacity-building. Many Parties and other stakeholders stressed the need for capacity-building among CSOs, particularly to be able to mobilize resources and access funds that often require specific expertise and knowledge. This capacity is also required for the reporting process since some Parties requested further involvement of CSOs in preparing national reports and verifying the information provided against the performance indicators.

84. Many Parties highlighted the importance of building partnership among CSOs and strengthening existing networks so as to encourage South–South and North–South cooperation among these stakeholders. In the same way, some Parties recommended having a strong global network working on DLDD that could also receive financial support for its operations.

85. During the open dialogue session, the importance of the participation of CSO representatives in UNCCD meetings was highlighted. Many Parties expressed their concerns with the low number of CSOs attending the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 11) and recommended looking into ways of ensuring increased participation in the future.

86. Some Parties and CSOs discussed the relationship and low attendance by CSOs with the accreditation process and the effects of implementing decision 5/COP.10. After March 2012, the number of accredited organizations was reduced from more than 900 to less than 200 because many organizations did not reconfirm their observer status. Many Parties and other stakeholders were concerned about this low number of CSOs and stressed the need to encourage additional CSOs from the different countries to obtain observer status to the Conference of the Parties.

87. With regard to participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings, some Parties also expressed concern with the unbalanced representation in the CSO selection panel established by decision 5/COP.9, which was amended by decision 5/COP.10. In decision 5/COP.10, the COP decided that the selection panel should be composed of CSO representatives solely from the five Regional Implementation Annexes. Some Parties therefore requested amending the composition of the panel at the eleventh session of the COP by instead referring to regional groups to ensure a more balanced and equitable representation.

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<sup>3</sup> See footnote 2 above.

## D. Consideration of best practices

### Identification of recommended databases and institutions and accessibility of information

#### *Repository of best practices*

88. Some Parties stated a preference for consolidating best practice repositories into one system in order to centralize these efforts and to avoid competition between knowledge-disseminating organizations. In this vein, some Parties stated a preference for consolidating data across the Rio conventions.

89. Other Parties acknowledged the importance of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) for its available resources and capacity to share best practices at a global level.

90. In addition, some Parties noted that compiling and sorting data and best practices in a centralized knowledge base would help facilitate comparisons between data at global level. In this regard, some Parties stressed the importance of agreeing on and standardizing the information being reported. This can be achieved by clarifying the PRAIS reporting process and standardizing the data being collected.

#### *Tailoring best practices to the local level*

91. Many Parties commented on the requirement to tailor best practices to the needs of the local environment. They pointed out that while it is important to document and capture best practices, it is just as important to contextualize these to local needs and the local knowledge on a particular environment in order to improve the implementation of successful SLM best practices.

92. Some Parties suggested that best practices should respect local values and communities, and should consequently be reviewed by local communities or contributors to validate that these submissions are indeed best practices, particularly in local contexts. Other Parties vocalized their concern for integrating traditional knowledge experts' advice into best practice systems, as there is sometimes a disconnect between these experts and their ability to contribute to these systems.

93. Many Parties emphasized the need for best practices to be representative of traditional knowledge as well as new technical knowledge in order to make SLM best practices useful in the target contexts (e.g. traditional knowledge, as opposed to larger technological solutions, is more relevant to small-crop farmers).

#### *Monitoring the use and implementation of documented best practices*

94. Additionally, some Parties emphasized the importance of monitoring the use and implementation of best practices to ensure that documented best practices are being used and used effectively. There is a need to document both how often the system containing these best practices is consulted as well as how these best practices have been implemented in the field to improve SLM practices.

95. Other Parties signaled the need to build consensus on definitions and criteria for best practices in order to standardize the quality of best practice submissions. It was proposed that these be reviewed by experts as well as local communities to ensure that best practices submitted are applicable and feasible at global and local level.

*Data confidentiality and intellectual property issues*

96. In terms of opening data to the public, some Parties expressed concern with the confidentiality of data entered and highlighted the need to utilize intellectual property provisions to protect innovations submitted as best practices. It was pointed out that agreeing to the terms of the UNCCD meant agreeing to share certain data publicly.

97. Many Parties expressed support toward ‘opening’ data to facilitate global comparisons between data providers and to enable reporting through means such as sorting and filtering.

*Ensuring the quality of data*

98. Many Parties expressed concern toward the review processes needed to ensure the quality of reported data. Some Parties were primarily concerned with how data or best practices were reviewed for quality, relevance and currency. Some other Parties expressed concern with the accuracy of reported data.

**E. 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, including input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

**Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures; and input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

99. Many Parties stressed the fact that national reporting should benefit national processes and in particular national planning. Some Parties also recommended improving the current format of the national reports so they can be used as effective tools for communication and awareness-raising at national level. Difficulties with the current system were reported. The reporting should enable countries to identify what has worked and what has not, and also to provide information on the real results brought about by implementing The Strategy, as well as to inform at national level the implementation of actions to address land degradation and drought.

100. Many Parties pointed out that the CST and CRIC should look further into the refinement process, while other Parties emphasized that the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy represents an opportunity to rectify difficulties encountered in operationalizing The Strategy and reporting on it.

101. Many Parties called for a simplification and reduction of the overall number of indicators that sometimes do not seem to accurately measure the impact at national level. Some Parties stated that this should be done as part of the midterm evaluation and should pay particular attention to the e-SMART criteria used to develop those indicators.

102. Some Parties stated that the CST should continue to strengthen its role in providing methodological advice to Parties for monitoring implementation at global, regional and subregional level, and maintain a science-based analysis and improvement.

103. Some Parties reported difficulties in capturing information relating to strategic objective 4 and financial flows and mentioned that quality (and not quantity) is of the essence. Therefore they recommended to, for example, merge the information requested in the Standard Financial Annex and the Programme and Project Sheet.

104. Some Parties requested an extension of the reporting period in order to better respond to requirements posed by the reporting templates. In this context, some countries highlighted the need to translate reporting templates into local languages in order to ensure an appropriate participatory approach.

105. Some Parties mentioned that reporting under the UNCCD and in particular indicator-based reporting, is a long-term effort and needs capacity-building and technical support. In this context it was mentioned that the support provided by the secretariat's regional offices was greatly appreciated. Some other Parties mentioned that helpdesk services needed to be improved in order to address potential problems experienced by Parties.

106. Some Parties stated that there were technical problems with the PRAIS portal that need to be addressed in order to increase the user-friendliness of the system. Some Parties stated that similar problems were addressed and raised by Parties at the ninth session of the CRIC and that there was limited progress in alleviating the problems.

107. Some Parties stated that reporting does help countries to engage in an assessment at national level on progress made in the implementation of the Convention, while others stated that reporting is still far from helping the UNCCD become a global authority on DLDD issues. It was mentioned that national information systems are of primary importance to enhance national monitoring and appropriate reporting under the Convention.

108. Some Parties stated that UNCCD reporting should allow for more narrative reporting and should include pre-filled templates allowing countries to choose already existing data or to be able to input their own data to ease the reporting burden. Some Parties questioned the comparability of information across countries and regions and possible synergies could be identified using those data.

## **F. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies**

### **Proposed standard approach and process in elaborating advocacy policy frameworks and proposed advocacy policy framework on the issue of drought and water scarcity**

109. In general, Parties raised the need for undertaking activities on the ground that address drought imperatives and putting appropriate national drought management policies in place.

110. Some Parties expressed the view that drought has not been adequately addressed in the UNCCD process so far even though it is part of the Convention's mandate. They therefore welcome the proposed actions in the advocacy policy framework (APF) on drought (including water scarcity) and in the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP).

111. Some Parties stressed the need to build synergies at national level in order to take advantage of the resources available for addressing relevant issues such as biodiversity and climate change.

112. Some Parties further stressed the need for any new initiatives to address and strictly focus on the mandate of the Convention; that is addressing DLDD imperatives. In this regard, some Parties expressed concern over broadening the mandate of the Convention to include mitigating the effects of drought in addition to combating desertification. One Party expressed concern regarding the difficulties, particularly funding, in implementing and reporting on the different topics related to the Convention. The UNCCD should concentrate on fulfilling its core mandate rather than expanding the mandate to cover new areas

(drought). Other agencies can take care of these additional topics. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was mentioned as an example to cover capacity-building aspects.

113. Some Parties further stressed the need to undertake capacity-building on drought management to enable effective implementation on the ground.

114. Some Parties mentioned that gender aspects are important when dealing with drought. One Party was concerned that the UNCCD does not take due account of gender aspects, which is a key aspect in its country, when dealing with drought. Especially in rural areas, women are suffering from the effects of drought (e.g. travelling farther to get water). The GEF and other international funding institutions do already include safeguards for gender, the need for training and capacity-building frameworks. One Party indicated that gender provisions are included in its NAP, such as a capacity-building tool on gender issues.

115. One Party mentioned the need for a protocol on drought.

116. Some Parties agreed that there is a need for countries to put policies and mechanisms in place that would effectively address disaster risks associated with drought. Some Parties noted that such policies should promote a standard approach to addressing drought, foster effective drought monitoring and early-warning systems, enhance preparedness and mitigation measures, and foster effective emergency response and relief measures.

117. There were diverging views on how the issue of drought could be approached at national level, but the obvious links between climate change and drought were repeatedly mentioned by several delegations.

118. Many Parties stressed that it is important to strengthen efforts in mitigating the effects of drought, especially with regard to food security concerns, and welcomed the documents prepared by the UNCCD secretariat.

119. Many Parties welcomed the efforts undertaken by the UNCCD secretariat, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other United Nations agencies in organizing the HMNDP and stressed that it is important to explicitly address drought in the context of the UNCCD as it is part of its mandate.

120. Many Parties feel that the following must occur to effectively combat the effects of drought: (a) Formulation and implementation of National Drought Management Policies (NDMPs); (b) Establishment of NAPs; (c) Establishment of early warning systems (to combat droughts, help citizens fight drought and enable the raising of livestock in areas suffering from drought); (d) Formulation of a strategy to effectively fight drought; (e) Development of drought preparedness plans/drought prevention activities in order to improve the conditions of drylands and/or national mechanisms for dealing with catastrophes; (f) Establishing rapid response systems at national level with a focus on monitoring drought; (g) Mapping/networking/cooperation among national institutions; (h) Technology transfer; (i) Proactive responses (policies, capacity-building, infrastructure, accurate forecasts); (j) Establishment of institutional entities which can rapidly respond in times of crisis; (k) Monitoring of drought; (l) Involvement of community authorities; (m) Awareness-raising among farmers with regard to diminishing grassing options; and (n) Predictable financing (including insurance systems).



## **II. Draft recommendations submitted to the Committee for consideration**

### **A. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators**

#### **Strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, including input from the CST on the review and assessment of scientific information pertaining to the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

121. Based on the findings of the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts on impact indicator refinement, the CST should provide recommendations for the development of common operational criteria for the identification of affected areas.

122. The CST should consider providing recommendations for the adoption of broad land cover types and encouraging affected country Parties to report data on land cover and land productivity using this simplified classification.

123. The CST should consider the possibility of deriving land productivity from other variables/methodologies that are based on readily available and internationally recognized datasets.

124. The CST should consider identifying mandatory indicators relating to strategic objective 3, in order to provide a basis for assessing the implementation of the Convention with regard to this objective.

125. The secretariat should simplify the reporting template and further develop the reporting manual by providing more detailed and indicator-specific guidance on methodologies for data collection, available sources of data and ancillary information in particular those published by the United Nations (also in the form of data files).

126. Development partners and financial institutions, particularly the GEF, should consider extending further technical and financial assistance in developing the capacity of affected country Parties in reporting against impact indicators, including in order to achieve a progressive harmonization of definitions and methodologies to be used at the national level.

127. Affected country Parties should consider making further efforts towards developing consistent time series for the impact indicators and increasing the coverage of spatially explicit data on affected areas, in order to enable the future interpretation of trends in the impact indicators and their link with progress in the implementation of the Convention.

128. While more efforts should be directed towards improving the coverage of data on affected areas, in the absence of these data, affected country Parties should consider reporting the poverty rate for rural areas.

129. Affected country Parties are invited to make more use of international standards, classifications and methods related to land cover.

130. Affected country Parties are invited to use information from the United Nations and other recognized international sources if information from national sources is not available. Available information covers in particular: (1) human population estimates (total and rural population); (2) poverty rate; (3) land statistics (country area, land area, extent of rural areas); and (4) land cover and land productivity.

131. Affected country Parties are encouraged to continue providing additional information in the form of geographical datasets, technical reports and other publications;

however the required information should also be provided by filling in the dedicated online reporting template.

132. Affected country Parties are invited to edit their report and amend their responses on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 at any time after the official deadline for reporting with a view to extending the baseline datasets and enabling future trend analysis.

## **B. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

### **1. Operational objective 1**

133. Those country Parties which reported a low percentage of national awareness on DLDD and its synergies are invited to step up their efforts on communication and educational issues in order to meet the global target set by decision 13/COP.9.

134. Parties are invited to assess and possibly increase the effectiveness of their means of communication on DLDD-related issues, with a view to reaching larger audiences and rising awareness on these matters.

135. Developed country Parties are invited to increase the support provided for the participation of civil society representatives in UNCCD meetings, including through contributions to the Special Fund.

136. The GEF is invited to establish a specific communication strategy on DLDD, with a view to increasing awareness worldwide.

137. Although most subregions have made efforts to increase the number of information events in order to improve awareness on DLDD, they should be invited to increase such efforts.

### **2. Operational objective 2**

138. Affected country Parties are urged to intensify their efforts to formulate or align their NAPs with The Strategy in order to achieve the target of all affected countries having an aligned NAP by 2014.

139. Affected country Parties are also urged to use financial resources made available by the GEF for enabling activities, in order to formulate or align their NAPs and to inform Convention institutions on possible support needed in this regard.

140. Convention institutions are requested to make additional efforts to support the NAP formulation and alignment process, including by further raising awareness of this process among affected country Parties, thus enhancing the effectiveness of the financial assistance provided by the GEF for enabling activities.

141. Developed country Parties and technical and financial organizations, particularly the GEF, are invited to identify and support joint actions aimed at fostering the NAP formulation and alignment process, including incentives for the implementation of aligned action programmes.

142. Developed country Parties are invited to increase their support to the establishment of partnership agreements with affected country Parties, in particular under the framework of the UNCCD.

143. Development partners and Convention institutions are invited to intensify their support for facilitating synergistic mechanisms in affected country Parties;

144. As the lack of coordination among donor-led programme/project interventions at subregional level has been mentioned as one of the major difficulties in the establishment of monitoring system, the secretariat and the GM should be requested to step up their efforts to improve communication with the donor agencies in order to support the subregions.

### **3. Operational objective 3**

145. Affected country Parties are invited to increase their efforts in establishing DLDD-specific national monitoring systems or further improving, expanding or redesigning their existing monitoring systems to become specifically dedicated to DLDD.

146. Developed country Parties and relevant technical and financial organizations are invited to provide additional support to affected country Parties for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems, in particular of those monitoring systems that are specifically dedicated to DLDD.

147. The Committee on Science and Technology is invited to provide further advice on how to improve comparability of information for reporting on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

148. The secretariat is requested to continue involving technology networks, institutions and scientists who can contribute with their research work to the implementation of the Convention.

### **4. Operational objective 4**

149. Developed country Parties and technical and financial international organizations, particularly the GEF, are invited to provide further support to those affected country Parties that reported a lack of capacity hindering the effective implementation of the Convention so that the global target set by decision 13/COP.9 can be reached by 2014;

150. The GEF is invited to report on performance indicator CONS-O-4, providing the information which is available at its level.

151. The secretariat is requested to continue consultations with the GEF in order to streamline support rendered through national capacity self-assessments in order to enhance the effectiveness and utility of these assessments.

152. The GM is requested to provide additional support to affected countries in assessing their financial needs for capacity-building and integrating them into an investment framework. Countries that require such support are invited to indicate their needs to the GM.

### **5. Assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

153. The COP to review the action programme alignment process in the context of the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, and making sure that the alignment process is adjusted accordingly.

154. The CRIC to agree on a clear unequivocal definition of NAPs and IFS/ IIF processes and their relationship, ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the same.

155. Affected country Parties to adopt a participatory approach to operational planning, identification of resource mobilization opportunities, outlining of challenges such as gaps in technical and human capacity, and a systematic approach to the realization of synergy between the Rio conventions at global and country Party levels.

156. Partner organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to continue their work on a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD and land challenges to ensure maximum impact from limited resources and to mainstream land degradation neutrality through requesting the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations system partners.

157. Development partners, financial institutions particularly the GEF, to provide specific support for project development within the framework of the subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs) thereby fostering their implementation.

158. Development partners, financial institutions particularly the GEF, to provide capacity-building for national focal points on advocacy for the NAPs to be fully integrated into the national development planning process, and on the creation of partnership to facilitate implementation.

159. Development partners to place greater focus on the importance and the absolute necessity to support NAP alignment and effective implementation.

160. Parties to engage in harnessing the power of civil society, including the business sector in support of the effective implementation of the Convention.

161. Parties to provide greater incentives for investment. The private sector may require financial and market-based incentives, and the business sector to join inter-agency coordinating committees where they exist and support implementation of the NAPs.

162. The CRIC to agree on a long-term vision for the NAP alignment process vis-a-vis the overall sustainable land management goals is crucial. For the said goal to be achieved there should be a global plan to mobilize the resources and capacities required for its realization at the national level.

163. The GM to provide more support to help countries to access GEF funds.

164. The UNCCD secretariat to increase advocacy and collaborate with the GEF secretariat in the run-up to the GEF-6 replenishment to ensure that GEF parties are more conversant with the financial needs for the implementation of the NAPs and therefore support the provision of more funding via the GEF for the same.

165. Those subregions that already plan to align their SRAPs should be urged to undertake the steps required to revise them in accordance with the requirements of the guideline on NAP alignment and The Strategy; and those subregions which still have no such plans should take steps to prepare them.

166. The Convention's institutions should be invited to step up their efforts to ensure collaboration with other Rio conventions at subregional level.

167. Development partners and financial institutions, particularly the GEF, should be invited to provide further assistance to the subregional and regional entities for the establishment and alignment of SRAPs and RAPs, as well as for the preparation of reports according to the provisions of the Convention.

## **C. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objectives 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy**

### **1. Strategic objective 4**

168. The GEF is encouraged to maintain the positive trend in the amount of resources allocated to affected country Parties for Convention-related objectives.

169. Developed country Parties are invited to increase their efforts in providing support to affected country Parties for Convention-related objectives and increase the share of bilateral Official Development Assistance allocated to SLM and UNCCD-related activities with particular attention to regions which are showing negative trends.

170. Affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts to commit resources for Convention-related objectives from their public budgets.

171. Affected and developed country Parties are encouraged to maintain the positive trend demonstrated in the establishment of various types of mechanisms and incentives to support the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention.

172. Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, including the GEF, are invited to improve the institutional set-up, responsibilities and arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, with particular regard to the regional, subregional, national, and local levels.

### **2. Operational objective 5**

173. Affected country Parties are urged to increase their efforts in establishing IIFs with the aim of achieving the 50 per cent target set out by The Strategy by 2014.

174. Developed country Parties, the GEF and other multilateral financial institutions are invited to increase their efforts in supporting the establishment of IIFs in all regions, especially Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe.

175. The GM is requested to continue assisting affected country Parties and subregions in developing their IIFs and in identifying innovative sources of funding, including new financial opportunities, instruments and mechanisms, for this purpose.

176. Developed country Parties and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, are invited to increase the adequacy, timeliness and predictability of the resources provided to affected country Parties and subregions in response to the concerns expressed by these Parties.

177. Affected country Parties are invited 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.

178. The GEF is requested to consider national needs assessments in allocating resources for the next replenishment of the GEF.

179. The CST should be requested to provide advice on how to increase subregional incentives intended to facilitate access to technology established in the subregions.

**3. Financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention**

180. All Parties are invited to further sustain the positive trend in the allocation of financial resources towards Convention-related activities, and are strongly encouraged to target more resources to those regions that are lagging behind, so as to avoid a further worsening of an already imbalanced distribution of resources.

181. Developed country Parties are invited to further prioritize investments on activities that target desertification as a principal objective and/or that directly support the implementation of UNCCD objectives, for example through additional support for the implementation of action programmes, alignment and/or operationalization through the development of integrated investment frameworks for sustainable land management.

182. All Parties are invited to sustain the positive trend in the allocation of resources towards the achievement of OO 5 of The Strategy, and to make more efforts towards meeting SO 4 of The Strategy by building or engaging in partnerships with other national and international actors for the purpose of leveraging more resources to support implementation of the Convention.

183. All Parties, within the framework of Integrated Financing Strategies for UNCCD implementation developed with or without assistance from the GM, are invited to explore and develop opportunities to forge public-private partnerships for UNCCD-related activities and mobilize resources from non-traditional sources of funding, such as foundations, businesses, the financial industry and civil society organizations.

184. Given the difficulties for reporting entities to capture the financial flows and investments made by non-traditional funding sources such as private sector entities, the Convention institutions are requested to include the study foreseen under indicators SO-4-4 and SO-4-5 in the work programmes and plans and to propose allocation of core budget funding to this activity.

185. Affected country Parties are invited to explore opportunities to increase financial flows for UNCCD-related activities through South-South cooperation and include these flows in future reporting exercises.

**D. Consideration of best practices**

**Identification of recommended databases and institutions and accessibility of information**

186. Request the secretariat and the GM to identify detailed services that primary recommended institutions and databases may be invited to deliver in order to assist the CRIC in compiling and disseminating best practices on thematic topics (a) and (f) (decision 13/COP.9, annex V), and the tentative period for which such services should be rendered.

187. Invite the institutions which have expressed interest in supporting the work of the CRIC on best practices to join efforts, and to propose to CRIC 12 and COP 11 a framework of cooperation amongst them aiming at the best circulation and usage possible of best practices on the two themes of best practices; and request the secretariat to consult with them in this regard.

188. Request the secretariat to propose an approach to accessing data and information provided by Parties and other reporting entities, including through the PRAIS system, for consideration at CRIC 12 and a possible decision at COP 11.

189. Urge the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to continue consultations on interaction between subsidiary bodies on ways to promote analysis and dissemination of relevant best

practices, including through convening joint meetings of the Bureaux, with a view to presenting a common position on this matter for consideration at COP 11.

**E. 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, including input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

190. Parties at CRIC 11 may wish to consider the detailed recommendations given by indicator and/or related reporting issue as listed in tabular form in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/15, with a view to deriving from them elements for draft decisions for consideration at CRIC 12.

191. Parties at CRIC 11 may wish to consider establishing mechanisms whereby the final recommendations of the CRIC, where pertinent, are transmitted for consideration to the IWG on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy and the Bureau of the COP.

192. Regional Implementation Annexes should be urged to make efforts to identify subregional and regional entities where required, and to increase the number of reports and amount of information provided for further review of the implementation of the Convention.

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

**Proposed advocacy policy framework on the issue of drought and water scarcity**

193. Requests the secretariat to report on the implementation of the advocacy policy framework during Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention meetings.

194. Acknowledges that mainstreaming policy-relevant actions at national and international level within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification mandate, as indicated in the advocacy policy framework, provides the necessary elements for implementing decision 8/COP.9 and decision 9/COP.10 on the generation of such policy frameworks on thematic issues in order to address the adverse impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought, keeping in mind gender sensitive approaches.

195. Recommends that the secretariat and Convention bodies strengthen the science-policy interface with a focus on drought (including water scarcity).

196. Emphasize the importance of integrating the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification advocacy policy framework focusing on drought and water management into ongoing international efforts of United Nations agencies, as recognized in a wide range of global agreements and forums.

197. Recognize the relevance of the outcome of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, jointly organized by the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

198. Call upon development partners, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mechanism and international and regional development banks as well as other financial institutions to assist the secretariat and the Convention process by providing additional

adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the APF on drought (including water scarcity).

199. The COP may therefore decide to:

- Approve the APF on drought and water scarcity.
- Call on countries to develop national drought management policies (NDMPs) and mainstream these into existing plans and mechanisms, especially the NAPs.
- Request the GM to explore partnerships for implementing drought management policy through NAPs.
- Request the CST to review the available science on drought and water scarcity, and to make proposals to document and address the knowledge gaps identified, particularly in a climate change scenario.
- Request the organizers of the 3rd Scientific Conference to document the contribution that traditional scientific knowledge can make to drought management and policies.
- Request the secretariat and partners to build on the outcomes of the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification, focusing on water and drought, and to continue to engage in communication and awareness-raising activities on global drought and water-scarce environments.
- Request the secretariat to review the Comprehensive Communication Strategy and strengthen the drought and water scarcity components.
- Request the GM to develop guidelines and provide support to Parties on developing predictable financing for drought and water scarcity issues, such as insurance plans, etc.
- Request the secretariat to support the documentation of lessons learned to facilitate education, capacity-building and training (including manuals and other publications where appropriate), particularly at regional level.
- Request the CRIC to organize, through the secretariat, policy dialogues on drought and water scarcity to monitor progress on the implementation of this APF.
- Develop NDMPs, mainstream drought policy into NAPs and subregional action programmes as a primary tool for implementing such policies, and document experiences for future reporting cycles.
- Integrate drought preparedness schemes into broader SLM approaches, e.g. resource management and water/watershed management approaches.
- Increase investment in a range of SLM actions in degraded land in order to help local (food) producers to better adapt to drought.
- Develop and strengthen existing networks on land management to support information sharing, coordination and partnership-building on drought and water scarcity issues at community level.
- Strengthen capacity-building programmes for community organizations related to drought and build partnerships.