



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Agenda item 14

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

Draft report of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn 15 to 19 April 2013

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III. Conclusions and recommendations

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

3. Operational objective 3 of The Strategy: science, technology and knowledge

1. Many Parties recommended increasing national ownership and leadership with regard to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) monitoring systems, investing in capacity-building and bridging the gap between monitoring needs at local level and those at national level in order to increase the long-term sustainability of these monitoring systems.
2. Some Parties recommended building upon the lessons learned by donor countries with regard to the obstacles and challenges encountered in supporting national environmental and DLDD monitoring initiatives.
3. Some Parties recommended that donors invest in DLDD monitoring systems to harmonize their interventions at national and local level in order to avoid duplication and improve investment synergies.

4. Some Parties recommended that donor countries continue supporting activities to combat DLDD at ground level, focusing on measurable actions for combating desertification that can be effectively monitored.
5. Some Parties recommended using ecosystem-based monitoring that integrates socioeconomic land degradation drivers as an effective DLDD monitoring approach.
6. Some Parties recommended the need to strengthen coordination and communication among the focal points of the Rio conventions in order to increase national ownership and efficiency in implementation

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

7. Some Parties welcomed the results from the analysis of financial flows, including on strategic objective 4, on the increase of the number of countries having established an integrated investment framework (IIF), and on the increase of commitments directly targeting the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). They also urged to continue refining reporting tools as well as the preliminary analysis and to reflect on how to speed up the progress on the establishment of IIF.
8. In this regard, some Parties urged Convention institutions to define more specific indicators with the objective of obtaining reliable data to assess the dynamics of the process and to help compile multi-source data.
9. Many Parties noted that the lack of financial resources remains the major constraint in the implementation of the Convention.
10. Some Parties called for clear guidelines on the Convention's financial mechanisms, which would assist affected countries in leveraging the resources required. Other Parties called for an information monitoring system to assist in identifying financing opportunities for, inter alia, multi-sectoral projects.
11. Parties noted the central role of domestic finance. In this regard, Parties provided some examples of established environmental funds which are already supporting integrated sustainable environmental management.
12. Parties highlighted the significant human and financial resources required for reporting, including reporting on financial commitments and relevant indicators. 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.
13. Many Parties recalled the link between having aligned national action programmes (NAPs) and effective reporting. In this regard, some Parties noted that the limited number of countries reporting could also be due to the limited number of countries with aligned NAPs.
14. Many Parties urged developed country Parties, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Mechanism (GM) to increase their financial contributions to enable affected country Parties to improve their reporting systems and increase their understanding and use of the impact indicators.
15. Parties recognized that the GEF funding process for enabling activities is too lengthy and complex and should be improved. In this regard, many Parties call upon the GEF to

assess and improve its internal processes in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds to eligible countries, and called upon Convention institutions to facilitate access to such funding by communicating to implementing agencies efficiently and in a timely manner to ensure they are aware of the financial needs of the UNCCD process.

16. Some Parties requested the Convention institutions to explore new financial mechanisms to enable countries to meet their reporting requirements.

17. Many Parties also called upon the GEF to secure additional resources and facilitate access under the sixth replenishment of the GEF.

18. Many Parties emphasized the importance of building the capacity required in resource mobilization and in this connection asked the GEF, the GM and other partners to increase their efforts.

19. Some Parties recommended that NAPs aligned with the The Strategy should be given priority in the allocation of resources, and requested the GM to facilitate resource mobilization for initiatives included in the NAPs.

20. Some Parties were of the opinion that the GM should mobilize adequate resources to discharge its mandate, including from innovative sources of funding. Some other Parties requested that the recommendations originating from the internal assessments of the GM be taken into account in its future work on integrated financing strategies (IFSs) and IIFs.

21. Many Parties recommended that efforts be focused on implementing decisions related to institutional arrangements in order to make the GM operational as soon as possible.

22. Many Parties highlighted the importance of involving private financing in the implementation of the Convention. Political will, incentives, compelling economic arguments, public–private partnerships and triangular cooperation partnerships are some of the issues that shall be considered to create an enabling environment for private sector and emerging funders to engage in investments conducive to sustainable land management (SLM). At the same time, some Parties highlighted the need to set conditions to avoid negative externalities.

23. Some Parties recommended that the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy should pay particular attention to the assessment and evaluation of the subsidiary bodies and the institutions of the Convention, with a view to making the Convention processes more dynamic and effective. Some other Parties requested to assess the financial implications of implementing The Strategy.

24. The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean pointed out the need of hiring its GM official for the region in order to restart the processes of mobilization of resources and support to the countries.

25. Many Parties pointed out their concern about the analyses contained in the official documentation due to the relatively low number of reports submitted.

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

26. Many Parties and other stakeholders¹ recognized the major role played by the civil society organizations (CSOs) in the implementation of the UNCCD at all levels, including their involvement in raising awareness on DLDD and education;

27. Many Parties recommended involving CSOs in the national coordinating bodies, noting that these mechanisms are established as multi-stakeholders platforms with the participation of governmental entities, CSOs and other partners and in some cases they could facilitate synergistic approaches with other environmental conventions.

28. Some Parties and CSOs expressed the need to build capacity among the CSOs, particularly with regard to resource mobilization and access to funds, including the GEF (for medium-sized projects).

29. Some Parties called for the GM, the GEF and other donors to provide funds for CSOs to implement projects at national level.

30. Many Parties indicated that CSOs are already engaging the private sector to mobilize resources. In this regard, they could help bridge the gap between governmental entities and the private sector. Some Parties recommended that CSOs could share their knowledge and success stories with regard to the private sector with the national authorities

31. Many Parties stressed the important role of CSOs in linking local communities and other relevant stakeholders with policymakers.

32. Some Parties indicated the importance of building South–South and North–South partnerships among the CSOs.

33. Many Parties expressed concern 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 of civil society actors at UNCCD meetings.

34. Many Parties encouraged country Parties to consolidate alliances with the CSOs and to facilitate close collaboration between their national focal point and civil society playing a supplementary role.

35. Many Parties stressed the need to involve CSOs in the reporting process, where they could support the national focal point by providing and verifying the information on the performance indicators. Some countries noted that, it may be necessary to develop capacities in some organizations.

36. Some parties noted that work needs to be done to facilitate CSO involvement in the reporting process, for instance by adapting templates for the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) portal.

37. Some Parties and the CSOs expressed concern with the low number of CSOs accredited to the Conference of the Parties (COP) (following the implementation of decision 5/COP.10) and stressed the need to encourage additional CSOs to obtain observer status to the COP.

38. Some Parties expressed concern with the mechanisms established by decision 5/COP.10, which limit representation in the CSO selection panel to accredited

¹ Representatives from civil society organizations.

organizations from the five Regional Implementation Annexes. They proposed that representatives from CSOs in the regional and interest groups should comprise the panel instead to ensure a more balanced and equitable representation.

39. Some Parties mentioned that CSO networks are important partners at national and regional level, and others expressed the need to have a strong global CSO network working on DLDD).

40. Some Parties and other participants mentioned the possibilities for CSOs to access to innovative sources of funding, such as the carbon market or climate funds.

41. Some Parties expressed the need to further strengthen the communications between the CSOs and Convention institutions.

D. Consideration of best practices

1. Identification of recommended databases and institutions

42. Many Parties welcomed the interest expressed by the institutions responding to the call for expression on Best Practices. Some Parties requested more information on the work and achievements of these institutions, particularly with regard to the database of best practices on sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation.

43. While some Parties expressed concern for the multitude and fragmentation of similar available services, other Parties recommended that information on SLM best practices be consolidated and made available in a centralized best practice repositories or through a data sharing initiative to prevent duplication and enable comparisons between countries. In this regard, many Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among the institutions participating in the call.

44. Some Parties noted the need to tailor best practices to local contexts and needs, and recommended that best practices should be reviewed by experts as well as local communities and end users in order to validate that these submissions are indeed best practices, particularly in local contexts.

45. Some Parties emphasized the importance of documenting how effectively best practices are being used and recommended that the implementation of SLM best practices in the field should be monitored. This information should be included in the database in order to increase its effectiveness.

46. Many Parties noted the importance of making best practices available to end users and recommended that appropriate multilingual communication tools should be used.

47. Some Parties expressed concern with regard to the failure to link best practices with land potential and local capacities and knowledge, and recommended that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be invited to conduct a review of strategies to address this issue.

2. Accessibility of information

48. Some Parties expressed concern toward the confidentiality of data entered and highlighted the need to utilize intellectual property provisions to protect innovations submitted as best practices.

49. Many Parties recognized that making data reported through the PRAIS portal publically available and easily accessible would bring many benefits. These include opportunities to connect with other environmental processes and forums, raise awareness and advocate SLM approaches. In this regard, many Parties welcomed the identification of

elements in a data access policy and requested the secretariat to continue looking at the practices and policies of other conventions, and multi-lateral bodies.

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

1. Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures

50. Many Parties requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to look further into refining the indicators, paying particular attention to the e-SMART (economic – Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Relevant –Time-bound) criteria, and to simplify the reporting templates in order to reduce the overall reporting burden on Parties and other reporting entities.

51. Many Parties recommended further engagement in the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy as an opportunity to rectify difficulties encountered in operationalizing The Strategy and reporting on its implementation, including the relevance of indicators, the frequency of reporting and the effectiveness of the review process.

52. Some Parties recommended improving the current format of the report so they can be used as effective tools for communication, awareness-raising and advocacy at national and international level.

53. Some Parties requested the reporting period to be longer and for the amendment of the frequency of reporting in order to better respond to the reporting requirements, reporting cycles and indicator sensitivity.

54. Some Parties recommended further improving the PRAIS portal in order to address some technical issues that occurred during the current reporting exercise, increase the user-friendliness of the platform and language accessibility.

55. Some Parties recommended exploring mechanisms and procedures to review information contained in the reports prior to the review by the CRIC, similar to practices established under other environmental conventions.

56. Some Parties recommended the establishment of national information systems to enhance national monitoring and appropriate reporting.

57. Some Parties recommended developing special sections within the PRAIS portal to report on supplementary indicators and/or specific actions taken by countries to combat DLDD.

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

[Available in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/L.1]

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

58. Many Parties stressed the importance of consolidating efforts to mitigate the effects of drought, especially with regard to food security, and recommended that the secretariat and bodies of the UNCCD strengthen the science–policy interface with a focus on drought (including water scarcity).

59. Some Parties emphasized the importance of integrating the advocacy policy framework (APF) on drought (including water scarcity) into ongoing international efforts by United Nations agencies, as recognized in a wide range of global agreements and forums.

60. Some Parties recognized the relevance of the outcome of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), 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.

61. Many Parties called upon development partners, the GEF, international and regional development banks, and other financial institutions to assist the secretariat and Convention process by providing additional adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the advocacy policy framework on drought (including water scarcity).

62. Many Parties recommended that the COP approve the APF on drought (including water scarcity). Several countries mentioned the need to address the effects of drought, especially at national level.

63. Many Parties acknowledged the importance of developing national drought management policies (NDMPs) and mainstreaming these in existing plans and mechanisms, especially NAPs.

64. Some Parties recommended the need of improving and/or developing early warning systems to monitor drought and share information to stakeholders and farmers.

65. Some Parties promoted the idea of developing NDMPs, mainstreaming drought policy in NAPs and subregional action programmes as a primary tool for implementing such policies, and documenting experiences for future reporting cycles.

66. Some Parties raised the need to integrate drought preparedness schemes into broader SLM, for example resource management and water/watershed management approaches.

67. Several Parties expressed the need to increase investment in a range of SLM actions in degraded lands in order to help local food producers to better adapt to drought.

68. Many Parties advocated the idea of developing and strengthening existing networks on land management to support information sharing, coordination and partnership-building on drought and water scarcity issues at community level.

69. Many Parties called for strengthening capacity-building programmes on drought management and building partnerships, targeting local community and grassroots organizations. Some other Parties recommended establishing a capacity-building scheme on gender and providing sufficient funding to implement these schemes at national level.

70. Some Parties recommended the inclusion of gender into the design of drought and land degradation policies.

71. Many Parties underlined the need of putting policies and mechanisms in place to address disaster risk management related to drought.

72. Many Parties stated that synergies between conventions should be encouraged at the national level, but that, at the global level, multilateral environmental agreements should keep their independence.

73. Some Parties expressed concern that adding areas for exploration could distract Parties from the main focus of fostering implementation of the convention on the ground and increase costs.

G. Progress made in the implementation of decision 6/COP.10

74. The Parties took note of the documentation prepared by the secretariat with regard to this agenda item.

H. Review of information regarding the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

75. The Parties took note of the documentation prepared by the secretariat with regard to this agenda item.

IV. Conclusion of the session

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

[to be completed]

B. Closure of the session

[to be completed]
