

Decision 9/COP.11

Ways of promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of resolution 66/288 by the United Nations General Assembly and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“The future we want”) calling for further mainstreaming of sustainable development at all levels integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their inter-linkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

Reaffirming that the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought on economic and social development and poverty eradication are global challenges that require concerted action to address them,

Resolving to concertedly enhance the implementation of the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate objective in full accordance with its principles and commitments,

Recalling decisions 4/COP.8, 8/COP.9 and 9/COP.10,

Welcoming the proposed standard approach and process for the formulation of future advocacy policy frameworks and the advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought, including water scarcity, as contained in documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/16 and ICCD/CRIC(11)/17,

Cognizant of the proposed action plan for 2012–2018 on the “Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response” developed as a joint contribution of the United Nations system towards the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy), as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.1,

Acknowledging the role of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat during the organization of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, pursuant to the decision of the 16th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization,

Recognizing the outcomes and recommendations of the Final Declaration of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.6, stating that:

- (a) Drought has major implications in terms of social, economic and environmental impacts;
- (b) There are insufficient policies for appropriate drought management and proactive drought preparedness in many countries around the world;
- (c) Most countries continue to respond to drought in a reactive, crisis management mode,

Taking note of the report of the secretariat on the progress made on the implementation of existing UNCCD advocacy policy frameworks on gender, climate change and food security, and on the development of an advocacy strategy to foster the

future implementation of the advocacy policy frameworks, as presented in document ICCD/CRIC(12)/CRP.1,

Resolving that there is need to engage in the context of the process of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), in cooperation with the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), in dialogue sessions at regular meetings of the UNCCD, on substantive thematic issues that are informed by, inter alia, the best available scientific information, experience acquired during the implementation of the Convention as well as recognized good practices and processes thereunder, outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes and insights from the business and research communities and civil society,

Reiterating the need for the secretariat to identify partnerships relevant to the implementation of the Convention,

By strengthening partnerships

1. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue strengthening existing strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders, building on established and new cooperation initiatives with the Rio conventions and relevant international agencies and bodies;
2. *Also encourages* the secretariat to continue to collaborate with Rio convention secretariats and organizations in order to advocate inclusion of UNCCD-related matters in their communication, education and public awareness programmes;
3. *Further encourages* the secretariat to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties that are members of the United Nations Environment Management Group, based on the valuable recommendations in the “Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response” (ICCD/CRIC(10)/INF.1), and to share the information contained in the action plan (ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.1), as appropriate, for potential use as an important tool to strengthen the effectiveness of the implementation process of The Strategy;
4. *Invites* the United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties that are members of the United Nations Environment Management Group, through the secretariat, to report on the progress of the action plan on “Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response” at each subsequent Conference of the Parties until 2018;

By following up on the outcomes of the High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy

5. *Urges* Parties to develop and implement national drought management policies, consistent with their national development priorities, objectives and policies that address the social, economic and environmental impacts of drought;
6. *Requests* the secretariat, making use of the advocacy policy framework on drought, including water scarcity, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/17, to assist country Parties, as appropriate, to promote and strengthen partnerships to develop and implement national drought management policies;
7. *Invites* the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, other United Nations agencies, programmes and treaties, as well as other concerned parties, to collaborate with the UNCCD towards assisting country Parties, especially the developing countries, in elaborating national drought management policies and their implementation;

8. *Also invites* the World Meteorological Organization , the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development to continue collaborating with the UNCCD in undertaking capacity building initiatives towards assisting countries to develop and implement comprehensive national drought management policies in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNCCD, and in line with the advocacy policy framework on drought, including water scarcity;

By taking action on advocacy policy frameworks

9. *Requests* the secretariat, in promoting and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, to assess and report on the effectiveness of existing advocacy policy frameworks, for consideration by Parties at the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session;

10. *Encourages* the secretariat to identify and formulate, as appropriate and subject to availability of resources, additional advocacy policy frameworks, in consultation with Parties, for approval at the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session;

11. *Further requests* the secretariat to facilitate the mainstreaming of gender issues at various levels involving multiple stakeholders;

12. *Urges* the secretariat, pursuant to decision 9/COP.10 paragraph 10, to increase efforts in undertaking policy advocacy based on the UNCCD advocacy strategy, making use of the available advocacy policy frameworks on gender, food security, climate change and drought, including water scarcity, and to ensure harmonization, alignment and mutual reinforcement of thematic advocacy policy frameworks in line with the UNCCD's objective and principles;

13. *Authorizes* the secretariat, consistent with decision 8/COP.9, paragraph 8, and decision 9/COP.10, paragraph 12, to utilize relevant advocacy policy frameworks and their consultative approach, to seek financial resources for their implementation, consistent with the fundraising activities of the secretariat;

14. *Invites* Parties and financial institutions, and *encourages* the Global Mechanism, in line with its mandate, as appropriate, to continue supporting the implementation of existing advocacy policy frameworks, as well as the development and implementation of any additional advocacy policy frameworks, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session, subject to availability of resources;

By undertaking advocacy on thematic issues

15. *Requests* the secretariat, at the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, to foster dialogue among stakeholders in the context of existing advocacy policy frameworks on substantive thematic issues and elaboration of strategies and recommendations for policy development, implementation and reporting at all levels in support of policy advocacy by the secretariat;

16. *Decides* that the secretariat shall present the outcomes of the work of the dialogue sessions on substantive thematic issues at the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session, for consideration and adoption, as appropriate;

Further issues for action

17. *Calls on* the secretariat to collaborate with other monitoring and evaluation processes under other conventions, in particular the Rio conventions, including through the Joint Liaison Group, in implementing a monitoring and evaluation approach at national level in order to address the objectives of the Convention and reporting under the UNCCD;
18. *Requests* the secretariat to explore the possibility of enhancing advocacy through, among others, the creation of a Global UNCCD platform, in partnership with key stakeholders;
19. *Urges* Parties to mainstream the objectives of the Convention and national action programmes into their national planning processes, with the aim of increasing resources, resource efficiency and the number of implementing partners;
20. *Decides* to include a review and assessment of the progress of this decision in the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session.

*9th plenary meeting
26 September 2013*