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Agenda item 19 (e)

**Sustainable development: implementation of the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in
Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or
Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

Fiji:* draft resolution

**Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat
Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought
and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [67/211](#) of 21 December 2012, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which the Conference, inter alia, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil in dry lands, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women’s empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, stressed also the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.



Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions, characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding and increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms, and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation in semi-arid, arid and dry sub-humid areas while restoring degraded land is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² and the Convention on Biological Diversity,³ while respecting their individual mandates,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Welcoming the organization of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, during the second United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, held in Bonn, Germany, from 9 to 12 April 2013,

Noting the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held from 15 to 19 April 2013 in Bonn, Germany, at which the Committee reviewed information relating to all performance and impact indicators of the 10-year strategic plan and framework, as well as information on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, submitted by the parties and other reporting entities,

Stressing the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent and impact of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention,

Welcoming the organization by the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies and relevant United

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Nations offices, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, of a high-level meeting on national drought policy held in Geneva from 11 to 15 March 2013, and taking note of the declaration adopted at that meeting,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 67/211 and the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;⁴

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate and in accordance with the mandate of the Convention, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms* its resolve, in accordance with the Convention, to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, also reaffirms its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008-2018), including by mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources, notes the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought, including by preserving and developing oases, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality and improving water management in order to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication, encourages and recognizes in this regard the importance of partnerships and initiatives for the safeguarding of land resources, and also encourages capacity-building, extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of giving appropriate consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought, in accordance with the Convention, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude* to the Government of Namibia for successfully hosting the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Windhoek from 16 to 27 September 2013, and welcomes the offer made by Turkey to host the twelfth session in 2015;

6. *Notes* the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary, and pays tribute to the outgoing Executive Secretary for his role in advancing the cause of the Convention;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decision of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to establish an intergovernmental working group:

(a) To establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;

(b) To develop options relating to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas that parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality;

⁴ A/68/260, sect. II.

(c) To advise the Convention on the implications for its current and future strategy, programmes and resource requirements;

8. *Takes note* of the decision of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to establish a science-policy interface to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and to ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification, land degradation and drought;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to relocate the Global Mechanism from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in Rome, to Bonn, to be co-located with the secretariat of the Convention, as well as the decision to establish a liaison office in Rome with appropriate staff;

10. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

11. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including the private sector, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of those stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to ensure equitable allocation of resources to the Convention, and urges donors to continue the effective replenishment of the Facility to ensure that it is adequately funded in order to allow sufficient and adequate allocation of resources to its land degradation focal area;

13. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2014-2015 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.