

## Decision 22/COP.14

### **Follow-up on the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the provisions in the Convention and its annexes, where relevant, as they pertain to migration,

*Noting* United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/229 adopted on 21 December 2016,

*Taking note of* the increased recognition at the global level of the positive role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration,

*Recalling* that the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework recognizes that desertification/land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

*Also recalling* decision 28/COP.13, which requests the secretariat to support Parties, upon request, in promoting the positive role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration, commission a study on the same topic, support regional and international cooperation and initiatives that aim to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration, and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between desertification/land degradation and drought and migration,

*Taking note of* the study prepared by the International Organization for Migration on the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration,

*Noting* that a number of African countries have already taken action to address the drivers of migration related to desertification/land degradation and drought through the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security,

1. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate, to consider:

(a) Promoting the restoration of degraded land as one way of changing the narrative in communities impacted by desertification/land degradation and drought, and allowing United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification implementation to focus on new opportunities and solutions which offer hope to young people;

(b) Reviewing development policies, including land-use policies and agricultural practices, with a view to promoting large-scale ecological restoration;

(c) Fostering renewable energy within different national contexts, as appropriate, including through partnerships, as a means to catalyse restoration of land and the development of rural enterprise, taking into account all relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Promoting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, inter alia, by creating sustainable value chains for local products, reducing pre- and post-harvest losses of agriculture and investing in clean rural industries;

(e) Encouraging responsible and sustainable investment by the private sector in land restoration, conservation and improvement, and livelihood development, as well as exploring how to develop a business case, including the consideration of public funding to facilitate increased private investment;

(f) Supporting the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa as well as creating initiatives in other regions that contribute to employment creation for rural communities by restoring degraded lands and facilitating access to land and land tenure security;

(g) Organizing conferences on desertification/land degradation and drought and migration, inter alia, to follow up on the recommendations of the Conferences of Almeria II in order to move from policies to action within the scope of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. *Also invites* Parties from the Africa region that are interested and have not yet done so to join the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Support Parties, upon request, in implementing the actions mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

(b) Also support regional and international cooperation and initiatives, within the scope of the Convention, that aim to promote the positive role sustainable land management can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

(c) Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between desertification/land degradation and drought and migration;

(d) Present for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at future sessions a report on the progress made in implementing this decision.

*13<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
12 September 2019*