

Decision 25/COP.14

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 31/COP.13, decision 9/COP.12, decision 3/COP.12, decision 9/COP.10, and decision 8/COP.9,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 and 4/10 and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 70/195, 71/219, 72/225 and 73/237,

Noting that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes that can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought,

Urging a proactive approach to enhance cooperation and coordination at global, regional and subregional levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms while promoting and supporting initiatives to streamline comprehensive sand and dust storms preparedness that reduces the risks and boosts the resilience of affected and vulnerable communities and ecosystems,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms,

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

(a) Further explore options to integrate mitigation measures addressing anthropogenic sources of sand and dust storms into the subnational, national and regional implementation of the Convention;

(b) Enhance the preparedness and resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and populations to the adverse and negative impacts of sand and dust storms;

(c) Strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional initiatives that contribute to addressing sand and dust storms, taking note of the regional and subregional nature of the impacts;

(d) Take note of the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks Posed by Sand and Dust Storms and make use of it on a voluntary basis, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification institutions and bodies, within the scope and the mandate of the Convention and subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Finalize and publish the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks Posed by Sand and Dust Storms in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations and promote its use;

(b) Refine, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map at global, regional and national levels;

(c) Build the capacity of Parties to address sand and dust storms by developing a toolbox including decision-making support tools, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, institutions and partners;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and other relevant United Nations entities as well as member agencies of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms to continue their collaboration to assist affected country

Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms and explore the potential elements of a broader sand and dust storms initiative;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to the availability of resources, to continue participation in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance its cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address sand and dust storms source mitigation;

5. *Also requests* the Global Mechanism, within its scope and mandate, to support the development of transformative desertification/land degradation and drought projects and financing options related to anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a report for future sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision.

13th plenary meeting

12 September 2019