
VERSION FOR REFINEMENT AT COP14**Draft: 05/09/2019****THE DELHI DECLARATION: INVESTING IN LAND AND UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY****PREAMBLE**

1. *We, the Ministers and Representatives gathered for the High-Level Segment at the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held on the 09-10 September 2019 in Delhi, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India. (agreed)*

2. *Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India for its hospitality and to the UNCCD secretariat for the organization of the high-level session; (agreed)*

3. *[Recognizing that desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) undermines the health, development and prosperity in all regions but acknowledging that dryland ecosystems, particularly in Africa are areas of special focus] Annex V;*

Bis 3. PREVIOUSLY AGREED LANGUAGE [Mountainous regions in countries and Small Island Developing States face particular challenges].

Decision 1/COP6:

particularly in Africa and Small Island Developing States, taking into account their vulnerability to the combined effects of land degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity;

4. *Deeply concerned* the impacts of DLDD are felt most keenly by vulnerable people [particularly women, indigenous peoples and local communities, migrants, youth, older persons and people with disabilities];

5. *Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework and *looking forward* to comprehensively reviewing and monitoring progress with the aim of accelerating implementation of both; (agreed)

6. *[Recalling also* that striving to achieve land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing to implement the Convention [previous language];

Dec.14/COP13 (agreed language): “Scale up financing for activities related to combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention, taking into consideration the multiple benefits of these investments and their contribution to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to climate change”;

47 *6bis*[*Emphasizing* the important role in combating DLDD in creating a shared future and
48 building an ecological civilization based upon our common humanity, including through
49 the promotion of green economy for land degradation neutrality and through sharing of
50 experience, capacity building and demonstration projects.] bilateral discussions w/ China
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52 7. *Acknowledging* those practices which conserve and restore land and soil affected by
53 desertification, land degradation, drought and floods, , contribute towards achieving land
54 degradation neutrality and can also have long-term multiple benefits for the health, well-
55 being and socio-economic development of the entire society, especially for the livelihoods
56 of the rural poor; (agreed)
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58 8. [*Taking note* of the increased recognition at the global level of the positive role that
59 measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address DLDD as one of the
60 drivers that causes migration;:]
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62 9. *Noting also* the link between restoration and sustainable management of land and the
63 creation of decent jobs, including green jobs initiatives and other employment generating
64 opportunities for vulnerable communities in degraded areas; (agreed)
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66 10. *Recalling* that the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, recognized by the Parties of the
67 Convention on Biological Diversity at its Fourteenth session of the Conference of the
68 Parties, called for synergies in addressing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and
69 climate change; (agreed)
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71 11. [*Noting* the findings of the IPBES thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration
72 and the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on
73 climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food
74 security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems;] Colombia, EU, Morocco
75 keep text as is
76

77 12. *Welcoming also* the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the
78 Climate Action Summit, to be held in New York on 23 September 2019, with the aim of
79 accelerating global action [and support for] climate change including through the
80 promotion of nature-based solutions, [;]
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82 13. [*recognizing also* the contribution of effective and responsible governance of land tenure
83 and stewardship of natural resources, especially land and water, for combatting DLDD and
84 for the sustainable development of current and future generations;]
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86 14. *Convinced* that diverse multi-stakeholder participation as appropriate at local, sub-national,
87 national and regional levels and from all sectors of society , including civil society
88 organizations, local government and the private sector will be crucial to achieving the
89 objectives of the UNCCD; (agreed)
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91 15. *Renewing* our commitment to concerted international cooperation for the effective
92 implementation of the Convention. (agreed)
93

94 OPERATIVE

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- 96 16. *Encourage* the development of community-driven transformative projects and programmes
97 that are gender-responsive, at local, national and regional level to drive implementation of
98 UNCCD and also *encourage*, in the context of projects aimed at combatting desertification,
99 land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality and resilience-
100 building, inter alia and as appropriate, the transition and increasing access to energy in rural
101 and urban communities, within the scope of the UNCCD; (agreed)
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- 103 17. *Encourage also* a proactive approach to reducing the risks and impacts of desertification,
104 land degradation and drought through the implementation of drought preparedness plans
105 and increased risk mitigation for drought and sand and dust storms; (agreed)
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- 110 18. [*Invite* international financial mechanisms, including the GCF, GEF and Adaptation Fund,
111 and relevant development partners to put in place a rapid and flexible process for allocating
112 increased financial and technical support to Parties implementing projects that combat
113 DLDD and deliver co-benefits]; Proposed deletion
114
- 115 19. *Invite* development partners, international financial mechanisms, the private sector and
116 other stakeholders to develop financing vehicles to boost investments that support the
117 implementation of the Convention and the achievement of land degradation neutrality,
118 create green jobs and establish sustainable value chains for products sourced from the land;
119
- 120 *ORDOS DECLARATION (agreed language): Aim, as appropriate, to further mobilize*
121 *resources at all levels and to strengthen funding mechanisms and opportunities to support*
122 *UNCCD implementation, diversify funding channels in line with the Addis Ababa Action*
123 *Agenda;*
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- 125 20. [*Promote* opportunities that support, as appropriate and applicable, the long-term goals of
126 the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and the development of an ambitious post-2020
127 Global Biodiversity Framework taking into consideration land-based solutions for climate
128 action and biodiversity and the mutually supportive implementation of the three Rio
129 Conventions];
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- 131 21. *Welcome* the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and *commit*
132 to adopting an integrated, best-practice approach to land restoration based on scientific
133 evidence and traditional knowledge that offers hope to vulnerable communities and *invite*
134 Parties, observers and other relevant UNCCD stakeholders, including the private sector, to
135 accelerate and scale up of relevant initiatives [at local, sub-national, national and regional
136 levels [including at landscape level];
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- 138 22. *Take note* of the benefits brought to participating countries by the accelerated
139 implementation of initiatives that support a transformative narrative in the Sahel, inter alia
140 through the Great Green Wall and the 3S initiative on sustainability, stability and security.;
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- 142 23. *Take note* of the launch of the Peace Forest Initiative and its potential contribution to
143 increasing cooperation on land degradation neutrality, including land restoration and
144 reforestation in transborder areas in participating countries, where appropriate.; (agreed)

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146 24. *Support* better access, control and stewardship over land, including strengthening equitable
147 tenure security and user rights for youth and women as well as indigenous peoples and local
148 communities in accordance with relevant national legislation, as a critical element of the
149 enabling environment for the implementation of the Convention and the promotion of
150 sustainable land management; (combine with 17bis)
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152 [17 bis. *Reaffirm* the relevance of the VGGT for the implementation of the Convention and
153 *encourage* the legal recognition and respect, in accordance with national laws, of legitimate
154 tenure rights, including customary tenure rights, [that are not currently protected by law
155 and the facilitation, promotion and protection of the exercise of tenure rights].
156
157 25. *Encourage* local governments to adopt integrated land use management and enhanced land
158 governance to rehabilitate the natural resource base that makes cities sustainable, taking
159 into consideration the New Urban Agenda, including by reducing rates of land consumption
160 and soil sealing along with biodiversity and ecosystem loss; (agreed)
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162 26. *Congratulate* India for the adoption of a land degradation neutrality target [*and for the*
163 *launch/note with interest schemes targeting land degradation neutrality by India that will*
164 *be deployed, such as National Afforestation Program, National Rural Employment*
165 *Guarantee Scheme, Soil Health Card Scheme, Pradhan Mantra Krishi Sinchayee Yojna ,*
166 *More Crop Per Drop, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Har Khet Ko Pani] in the framework*
167 *of the legacy programme announced at this Conference of the Parties to include large-scale*
168 *restoration activities and south-south cooperation.*