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Sustainable development:

**Protection of global climate for present and future
generations of humankind
Implementation of the United Nations Convention to
Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing
Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly
in Africa
Convention on Biological Diversity**

Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 5 September 2023.

** [A/78/150](#).



I. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

A. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [77/165](#) on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind, invited the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report, through the Secretary-General, to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The present report has been prepared in response to that invitation.

B. Outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

1. Summary

2. The United Nations Climate Change Conference, presided over by the Government of Egypt, was held in Sharm el-Sheikh from 6 to 20 November 2022 and comprised the following sessions:

- (a) Twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
- (b) Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
- (c) Fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
- (d) Fifty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
- (e) Fifty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

3. The Conference was attended by 21,508 government delegates from 195 parties to the Convention, 12,982 observers, including those from 38 United Nations Secretariat units and bodies, 23 specialized agencies and related organizations, 99 intergovernmental organizations and 1,610 non-governmental organizations, as well as 2,160 media representatives.

4. The decisions taken, including the major overarching decisions of the Conference, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, confirmed that, with most rules and modalities agreed, parties are now moving towards full implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Conference showed the resolve of all countries to implement ambitious, just, equitable and inclusive transitions to low-emission and climate-resilient development in line with the principles and objectives of the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The importance of keeping the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, especially the 1.5°C goal, within reach was maintained, underpinned by the finding of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that limiting warming to around 1.5°C requires reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of 43 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2019 level. The decisions served to emphasize the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and

sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across all applicable sectors, including through increasing the use of low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships and other cooperative actions. The critical need to increase support for developing countries by means of finance, technology and capacity-building to enable them to enhance their adaptation and mitigation efforts was underlined.

5. In line with the commitment of parties to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan serves to reiterate the call upon parties made in decision 1/CP.26 of the Glasgow Climate Pact of 2021 “to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition”. In addition, the importance of international collaboration on innovative climate action, including technological advancement, across all actors of society, sectors and regions is noted in the Implementation Plan.

6. The United Nations Climate Change Conference delivered a large number of significant substantive outcomes across all bodies: the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted 27 decisions, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted 9 decisions and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement adopted 24 decisions.

7. The outcomes of six key substantive negotiation areas were particularly important and impactful: loss and damage, finance, just transition, adaptation, mitigation and agriculture. The outcomes were as follows:

(a) Funding for loss and damage was considered by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement for the first time, with the governing bodies adopting decisions to establish a fund for responding to loss and damage that is to be made operational as soon as possible. Decisions were also adopted to establish institutional arrangements for enabling the full operationalization of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(b) With regard to finance, there was a call for the reform of multilateral development banks to address the global climate emergency. The need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, beyond \$100 billion per year, was confirmed, and the need to significantly strengthen the ad hoc work programme on a new collective quantified goal on climate finance in the light of the urgency of scaling up climate action with a view to achieving meaningful outcomes in 2024 was recognized;

(c) The establishment of a work programme on just transition for the discussion of pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement was agreed. The first annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition is to be organized, as part of the work programme, at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. During the fifty-eighth session of the subsidiary bodies, parties discussed the content of the just transition work programme, such as the objective, scope, institutional arrangements, modalities, linkages, and inputs and outcomes;

(d) With regard to adaptation, parties noted progress but recognized challenges experienced by developing countries in accessing funding and support from the Green Climate Fund for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, which is also important for informing the global stocktake in 2023 and the assessment of progress towards achieving the global goal on adaptation;

(e) With regard to mitigation, elements for the operationalization of the mitigation work programme, which was established at twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, were finalized with a view to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. For cooperation approaches under article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement further defined the rules and modalities for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes for market mechanisms as outlined in article 6, paragraphs 2 and 4, which is another step forward towards the implementation of multilateral trading of emissions reductions;

(f) The parties established a new four-year workstream on agriculture and food security that is focused on the implementation of climate action while promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, including the implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture.

8. The Conference recognized the important role of non-party stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, young people, children, local and regional governments and other stakeholders, in contributing to progress towards the objective set out in article 2 of the Convention, as well as the goals of the Paris Agreement. The work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition and the leadership and actions of the high-level climate champions were welcomed, and the need for continued acceleration and collaboration between parties and non-party stakeholders was emphasized. In addition, the parties invited the secretariat to ensure greater accountability of voluntary initiatives through the Global Climate Action portal.

2. High-level segment and events of the presidency of the Conference of the Parties

9. The first part of the joint high-level segment of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement was held on 7 and 8 November, as part of the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit. The resumed joint high-level segment was held on 15 and 16 November.

10. At the opening ceremony of the Summit, statements were delivered by the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres; the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; the President of Senegal, Macky Sall; a climate activist from Uganda, Leah Namugerwa; the former Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore; the Professor of Climate Modelling, Veronika Eyring; and the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley.

11. During the high-level segment, 171 national statements were delivered, of which 91 were by Heads of State, 6 by Vice-Presidents, 1 by Deputy Prime Ministers and 76 by ministers or representatives of parties.

12. Statements were also made by representatives of 33 observer constituencies, including business and industry non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

environmental NGOs, farmer NGOs, Indigenous People's organizations, local governments, municipal authorities and intergovernmental and regional organizations, research and independent NGOs, trade union NGOs, women and gender NGOs, youth NGOs and faith-based NGOs.

13. Pursuant to its decision 1/CP.20, the Conference of the Parties convened a high-level event on global climate action that provided opportunities for strengthening high-level engagement in the implementation of policy options and climate action, for taking stock of progress in sectoral breakthroughs derived from the Climate Action Pathways and in the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns, and for achieving effective high-level engagement of dignitaries of parties, international organizations and non-party stakeholders.

14. Under the guidance of the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, three high-level events were convened during the Conference:

(a) During the first high-level ministerial dialogue on a new collective quantified goal, the reports on technical expert dialogues provided ministers with guidance on the direction in which the ad hoc work programme should be taken for the following year;

(b) At the fifth high-level ministerial dialogue on long-term climate finance, ministers discussed progress on and fulfilment of the goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020, in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation;

(c) The first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition provided a unique opportunity to help set the global direction on pre-2030 mitigation ambition and implementation and served as a platform for discussing ways to put the global community firmly on the path towards achieving the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

3. Outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties

15. The following decisions were adopted by the Conference:

(a) 1/CP.27: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan;

(b) 2/CP.27: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage;

(c) 3/CP.27: Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security;

(d) 4/CP.27: Revision of modalities and procedures for international assessment and review;

(e) 5/CP.27: Revision of modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis;

(f) 6/CP.27: Revision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reporting guidelines on annual inventories for parties included in annex I to the Convention;

(g) 7/CP.27: Common metrics used to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks;

(h) 8/CP.27: Report of the Adaptation Committee for 2022 and review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee;

- (i) 9/CP.27: National adaptation plans;
- (j) 10/CP.27: Matters relating to the least developed countries;
- (k) 11/CP.27: Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (l) 12/CP.27: Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (m) 13/CP.27: Long-term climate finance;
- (n) 14/CP.27: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
- (o) 15/CP.27: Terms of reference for the second review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance;
- (p) 16/CP.27: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund;
- (q) 17/CP.27: Report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to GEF;
- (r) 18/CP.27: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism;
- (s) 19/CP.27: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022;
- (t) 20/CP.27: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- (u) 21/CP.27: Second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it;
- (v) 22/CP.27: Implementation of the Global Climate Observing System;
- (w) 23/CP.27: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment;
- (x) 24/CP.27: Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan;
- (y) 25/CP.27: Dates and venues of future sessions;
- (z) 26/CP.27: Administrative, financial and institutional matters;
- (aa) 27/CP.27: Administrative, financial and institutional matters.

4. Outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

16. The following decisions were adopted by the Conference:

- (a) 1/CMP.17: Date of completion of the expert review process under article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period;
- (b) 2/CMP.17: Guidance relating to the clean development mechanism;
- (c) 3/CMP.17: Guidance on the implementation of article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (d) 4/CMP.17: Report of the Adaptation Fund Board for 2022;
- (e) 5/CMP.17: Fourth review of the Adaptation Fund;

- (f) 6/CMP.17: Compliance Committee;
- (g) 7/CMP.17: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- (h) 8/CMP.17: Administrative, financial and institutional matters;
- (i) 9/CMP.17: Administrative, financial and institutional matters.

5. Outcomes of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

17. The following decisions were adopted by the Conference:

- (a) 1/CMA.4: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan;
- (b) 2/CMA.4: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage;
- (c) 3/CMA.4: Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3;
- (d) 4/CMA.4: Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme;
- (e) 5/CMA.4: New collective quantified goal on climate finance;
- (f) 6/CMA.4: Matters relating to cooperative approaches referred to in article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement;
- (g) 7/CMA.4: Guidance on the mechanism established by article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;
- (h) 8/CMA.4: Matters relating to the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement;
- (i) 9/CMA.4: Reviews on a voluntary basis of the information reported pursuant to decision 18/CMA.1, annex, chapter IV, and respective training courses needed;
- (j) 10/CMA.4: Report of the Adaptation Committee for 2022 and review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee;
- (k) 11/CMA.4: Matters relating to the least developed countries;
- (l) 12/CMA.4: Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (m) 13/CMA.4: Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (n) 14/CMA.4: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
- (o) 15/CMA.4: Terms of reference for the second review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance;
- (p) 16/CMA.4: Guidance to the Green Climate Fund;
- (q) 17/CMA.4: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility;
- (r) 18/CMA.4: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund;

- (s) 19/CMA.4: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (t) 20/CMA.4: First periodic assessment referred to in paragraph 69 of decision 1/CP.21;
- (u) 21/CMA.4: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022;
- (v) 22/CMA.4: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment;
- (w) 23/CMA.4: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- (x) 24/CMA.4: Rules of procedure of the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance referred to in article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

18. The General Assembly may wish:

- (a) To take note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, transmitted by the Secretary-General;
- (b) To welcome the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, presided over by the Government of Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh, from 6 to 20 November 2022;
- (c) To urge parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to expedite their relevant domestic procedures and to promptly deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, in order to ensure its universality;
- (d) To urge parties to respond swiftly to the calls for enhanced climate action and support contained in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, including revisiting and strengthening the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions;
- (e) To call upon parties that have not yet submitted their long-term low-emissions development strategies, national adaptation plans or adaptation communications to accelerate work on their preparation and submit them to the Convention secretariat;
- (f) To invite the Executive Secretary to continue to report to it on the work of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

II. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

A. Introduction

19. In its resolution [77/166](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report constitutes an update for the General Assembly on the principal activities that have been undertaken in that respect.

B. Consideration by the General Assembly of the outcome of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

20. The seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly opened four months after the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in May 2022. In its resolution [77/166](#), the Assembly welcomed the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. It took note of the Abidjan Call, which urged giving the highest priority to the issue of drought prevention, resilience, impact mitigation and accelerating the implementation of existing national commitments, towards achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 and raising ambition for investments in large-scale land restoration projects and programmes, which also helped countries and communities to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought. In addition, the Assembly welcomed the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to oversee the midterm evaluation process related to the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, which is to present its findings and recommendations to the parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Agreeing with the Conference of the Parties, the Assembly echoed the invitation to parties to the Convention to take measures to ensure, as appropriate, that their relevant institutions integrated drought risk management, sustainable livestock and agricultural policies, drought forecasting work, sustainable water management and climate information and climate change impact assessments into relevant policymaking processes and initiatives.

21. The General Assembly reaffirmed the continuation, for a further five-year period, of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements with the Secretariat, to be reviewed by both the Assembly and the Conference of the Parties by no later than 31 December 2026. In addition, it decided to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for 2023 and subsequent years, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and each of its subsidiary bodies and requested the Secretary-General to continue to make provisions for those sessions in the proposed programme budgets.

C. Global celebration of Desertification and Drought Day and outreach activities

22. Declared by the General Assembly in 1995, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17 June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. Since 2019, it has been known as Desertification and Drought Day. The theme for the global celebrations in 2023 was “Her Land. Her Rights” as a call to all stakeholders to advance women’s land rights.

23. The global observance event was held in the General Assembly in New York on 16 June 2023 and was organized jointly by the Convention secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Human Rights Office. Among those who addressed the event were the President of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Prime Ministers of Namibia and Iceland, the Vice-President of the Government of Spain, the Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States, the President of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director General of FAO, the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, the Executive Director of UN-Women, Convention Land Ambassadors and representatives of civil society organizations.

24. Other commemorative events took place across the world, with events in some 40 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chad, China, Egypt, India, Italy, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Thailand, the United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Global media outreach around Desertification and Drought Day in 2023 resulted in over 1,000 print and online articles, while over 300 million people were reached through social media.

D. Status of land restoration on the path to achieving land degradation neutrality: global policy initiatives on contribution of land restoration and sustainable land management

1. Global land initiatives of the Group of 20

25. The leaders of the Group of 20, meeting in November 2020 in Riyadh, issued a Leader's Declaration in which they stated that coordinated global action, solidarity and multilateral cooperation were necessary more than ever before to overcome present challenges and realize opportunities of the twenty-first century for all by empowering people, safeguarding the planet and shaping new frontiers. Over the past two years, the Group of 20 presidencies have promoted the restoration of peatlands and mangroves, as well as land affected by mining and forest fires.

2. Moving towards achieving land degradation neutrality through land restoration

26. Parties continued to participate in the process for setting land degradation neutrality targets, with 130 countries involved as of June 2023. Of those countries, a total of 109 have set voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and 107 have produced final national land degradation neutrality reports. Some 102 of the reports are available on the Convention website.

27. A second phase of the target-setting programme, including a GEF-funded enabling activity project, was launched on 12 May 2023 with the aim of helping parties that have already set targets to consider reviewing and refining them in order to ensure that land degradation neutrality targets are specific, time-bound, policy-coherent, quantitative, spatially explicit, gender-responsive, and adequately integrated into planning frameworks. This includes a project to facilitate the integration of land degradation neutrality into land use planning frameworks to strengthen national Convention-enabling environments, which will be rolled out in a coordinated manner in 15 pilot countries.

28. To follow up on relevant decisions of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, the Global Mechanism of the Convention has been focusing on developing the capacity of country parties to improve intersectoral coordination with relevant sectors, policies and plans, such as those relating to biodiversity, climate change and agriculture, issues for which larger pools of funding are often available. In addition, it has been facilitating gender-responsive, large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes and flagship initiatives that support work on sustainable land management and drought resilience, such as the partnership for project preparation. A total of 74 countries have requested support to develop national and/or regional concept notes, and steady progress is being made in turning national plans and concept notes into bankable projects worthy of investment.

29. A number of flagship initiatives on land restoration are being promoted. Examples include the five-year, \$1.5 billion Abidjan Legacy Programme, focused on tackling deforestation and on promoting forest restoration to restore 20 per cent of the Ivorian forest by 2030. Similarly, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative has seen accelerating progress. Two years on from the One Planet Summit, 80 per cent of the \$19 billion pledged towards the Great Green Wall has been programmed across the 11 African nations that are part of the Initiative. The Great Green Wall accelerator has helped to identify and match funding for 150 projects covering all countries that are part of the Initiative – from Senegal to Djibouti; national Great Green Wall coalitions have been established in 9 out of 11 countries, bringing together governments, international donors, the private sector and civil society to chart the way forward for the implementation of the Initiative in different countries.

30. The Initiative is also being supported through collaboration with GEF and other partners, as are emerging initiatives in the small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific and the dry corridor of Central America, and the Greening Drylands Partnership.

31. In view of the substantial interest of parties to the Convention in debt-for-nature swaps, sustainability-linked bonds and green bonds, efforts to explore the practical implementation of such instruments in some parties to the Convention are also being supported.

32. To address the issue of disruptive financial innovations and technologies that could play a key role in advancing global efforts to address desertification, land degradation and drought, the Global Mechanism of the Convention released a new report entitled “Financial and digital inclusion for last mile payments: trends, sustainable land use and disruptive financial service options” to explore elements such as mobile banking and carbon credits that could help parties to address the challenges of land degradation and drought while empowering the most vulnerable and underserved populations, in particular women and young people.

33. The Convention is also supporting work, in collaboration with the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and its Technical Assistance Fund, on viable land-friendly and climate-smart global, regional, and local value chains.

34. In addition, the Convention has supported land restoration programmes including the Peace Forest Initiative, which seeks to contribute to enhanced peace and security through the management and development of natural resources such as land, water and forest in environmentally fragile and (post-)conflict-affected situations, linking Sustainable Development Goals 15 and 16, and in this context organized the first regional workshop from 6 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, with the participation of the East African countries.

E. Latest developments on drought policies

35. Droughts continue to pose significant challenges worldwide. To follow up on the decision at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to create an intergovernmental working group during the triennium 2022–2024 in order to identify and evaluate all options for effectively managing drought under the Convention, a series of meetings was convened. On 29 and 30 November 2022, initial consultations among members of the working group were held in Bonn, Germany, culminating in the decision to develop an evaluation scheme to assess various policy options and tools. On 14 and 15 March 2023, the working group convened its second meeting in Yerevan. The meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions and further refinement of the evaluation scheme for identifying policy options to enhance the international system in order to better respond to and manage droughts. Meanwhile, from 21 to 23 June 2023, the third meeting of the working group was held in Madrid, at which a progress report was prepared for consideration by the parties to the Convention. The report outlines the eight options that the members of the intergovernmental working group are currently analysing, among which are: (a) legally binding options, for example an amendment to the text of the Convention or the elaboration of a new protocol under the Convention; (b) technical options, for example the definition of a global target on drought resilience or the creation of a global work programme; (c) finance options, for example the creation of new funding instruments or the strengthening of current financial mechanisms such as the GEF or the Global Mechanism; and (d) non-legally binding options, for example instruments within the Convention such as a decision or declaration by the Conference of the Parties or instruments outside the Convention such as decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, or General Assembly resolutions. The intergovernmental working group will continue discussions and make recommendations to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in December 2024 in Saudi Arabia.

36. In recognition of the urgent need to enhance drought resilience at the highest political level, the International Drought Resilience Alliance was launched by the President of Senegal and the Prime Minister of Spain on 7 November 2022 at the World Leaders Summit of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Alliance brings together over 30 countries and more than 20 entities working together to change how the world tackles the growing drought risks. The inaugural meeting of its Steering Committee was held in New York on 23 March 2023, on the margins of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028. At the high-level meeting, attendees emphasized the importance of elevating drought resilience to the top of the global political agenda and focusing the work of the Alliance on four pillars,¹ with a view to driving transformative action to enhance drought resilience on a global scale.

37. The second forum for the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture was held in Praia from 7 to 10 February 2023 under the theme “Making agriculture more resilient for climate change: an opportunity for action and collaboration”. As a founding member of the Framework, the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification leads the drought preparedness working group with members including FAO, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The secretariat organized a round table entitled

¹ See www.unccd.int/international-drought-resilience-alliance.

“International Drought Resilience Alliance: the way forward”. The session provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the role of the Alliance in catalysing political momentum to achieve a transformational change of actions and mindsets towards drought resilience.

F. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

38. While the land degradation focal area received just 11.6 per cent of the overall funding (\$618 million) under GEF, land degradation neutrality objectives are receiving enhanced support through investments in biodiversity and climate change under either the integrated programmes or multifocal area projects and programmes. The Global Environment Facility Council met in Brasilia from 26 to 29 June 2023 and approved the disbursement of \$1.4 billion to fund the work programme of GEF, including \$160.9 million on land degradation focal area resources programmed in various national projects and integrated global programmes, most notably \$200 million for ecosystem restoration and \$248 million for the critical forest biomes integrated programmes, drawing from multiple focal areas in both cases.

G. Partnerships

39. The Convention secretariat engaged in partnerships with organizations and institutions that have convergent or complementary missions to address desertification, land degradation and drought.

40. With droughts becoming more frequent, severe and extended, the secretariat is strengthening partnerships to support affected countries. To enhance the support for parties on drought monitoring, risk assessment and mitigation, the secretariat signed a new partnership with the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States, and renewed its cooperation with the Global Water Partnership.

41. With the aim of accelerating land restoration, in 2022, the 114 member Governments and 144 participating organizations of the Group on Earth Observations launched the flagship GEO Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to accelerate land restoration for global environmental sustainability. Through this intergovernmental partnership, the Group aims to improve the availability, access and use of open Earth observations, including satellite imagery, remote sensing and in situ data, in order to influence policy and decision-making in a wide range of sectors.

42. To continue to strengthen the sharing of knowledge around sustainable land management, the secretariat has continued its collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Technologies and Approaches consortium and various other partners in the scientific sector.

43. Partnerships have also been established with the private sector, including through collaboration with the World Economic Forum on relevant uplink challenges. A new partnership project to promote technology transfer was initiated between the DeserTech initiative of the Israel Innovation Institute and the Great Green Wall accelerator with the aim of connecting innovative entrepreneurs from Sahel countries and the Negev desert.

44. To strengthen gender equality in relation to land restoration goals, and in line with requests made by parties at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the secretariat has engaged with a wide range of United Nations entities, notably UN-Women, FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund and UNDP, and

other relevant partners including Landesa and the Robert Bosch Foundation, on gender and tenure issues. This was achieved, inter alia, through the “Her Land” campaign, which was launched on International Women’s Day in March 2023. The year-long campaign is aimed at promoting successful examples of contributions of women and girls to sustainable land management and drought resilience and mobilizing support to advance land rights for women and girls around the world.

45. To support the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, the secretariat renewed its partnership with the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea by extending the Changwon initiative. The initiative will support the setting of land degradation neutrality targets, as well as the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the showcasing of good practices in sustainable land management. In addition, the secretariat renewed its cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, which is aimed at supporting sustainable land management and ensuring that all stakeholders, especially those representing the most vulnerable populations, can be fully involved in global decision-making on land and drought issues.

H. Observations and recommendations

46. During the reporting period, the international community pursued its efforts to address desertification, land degradation and drought. There is increased global awareness of the importance of addressing drought and land degradation. Parties to the Convention have been supported in moving towards achieving land degradation neutrality through land restoration. Most degraded lands are now under restoration programmes at the national, regional and global levels.

47. Droughts have continued to hit many countries on all continents. They have become more frequent, intense, severe and extended, with dire impacts on livelihoods, ecosystems and economies. Dry spells are now amplifying wildfires, adding to the hardships, wreaking devastation and creating health risks. Long droughts are often followed by severe floods, washing away land and crops.

48. There is now a remarkable shift to drought management, currently with an emphasis on enhancing resilience through impactful policies on early warning, preparedness and mitigation. In this respect, the General Assembly may wish to prioritize drought resilience in its deliberations. It may call upon the United Nations entities to mainstream drought resilience into their programmes when supporting countries prone to or already affected by droughts.

49. With regard to land restoration, the General Assembly may note various global, regional and national initiatives in place and pursue its policy to encourage Member States to pursue Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 as an integrator and accelerator to achieve other Goals.

III. Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

A. Introduction

50. In its resolution [77/167](#) on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution and on progress in the implementation of the Convention and the post 2020-global biodiversity framework (referred to as the

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). The present report is submitted in response to that request.

51. At the time of reporting, 195 States and one regional economic integration organization were party to the Convention; 172 States and one regional economic integration organization were party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention, including 51 States and one regional economic integration organization that were also party to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and 139 States and one regional economic integration organization were party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

B. Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

52. The second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol were held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022. A high-level segment was held from 15 to 17 December 2022.

53. The meeting was presided over by China and hosted by Canada.

54. More than 10,000 delegates attended, including representatives of 190 parties and other Governments and 898 observer organizations (54 United Nations entities, 70 intergovernmental organizations, 92 organizations of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and 682 civil society organizations). A total of 168 parties to the Cartagena Protocol attended the second part of the tenth meeting, and 134 parties to the Nagoya Protocol attended the second part of the fourth meeting.

55. The Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of Canada, among others, gave addresses at the opening ceremony.

56. The Conference of the Parties adopted 34 decisions,² including decision 15/4, by which it adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and related decisions on a monitoring framework; on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review; on resource mobilization; on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation; on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources; and on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

57. The Conference also adopted a communications strategy; a gender plan of action; an updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity; and decisions on the financial mechanism, on knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism, and on a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors.

58. In addition, the Conference of the Parties adopted decisions on informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the Framework, on the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and on the following scientific and technical issues: sustainable wildlife management; marine and coastal biodiversity; ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, including in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas; invasive

² Available at www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-15.

alien species; biodiversity and agriculture; biodiversity and health; biodiversity and climate change; and synthetic biology.

59. Lastly, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of decisions related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including on nature and culture; the development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention.

C. Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

60. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted 13 decisions,³ including on an implementation plan and a capacity-building action plan that will support the implementation of the Protocol and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol; monitoring and reporting; and the financial mechanism and resources.

61. Decision CP-10/10, on risk assessment and risk management, sets out a process for developing additional guidance on engineered gene drives, while decision CP-10/11, on the detection and identification of living modified organisms, provides a process for considering how to address elements related to new detection techniques.

62. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and further serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol adopted a decision to address further steps for the full and effective implementation of the Supplementary Protocol.

D. Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

63. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted 12 decisions,⁴ including on compliance with the Protocol; the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House; capacity-building, development and awareness-raising; and the financial mechanism and resources.

64. The Parties to the Nagoya Protocol also adopted decisions addressing further policy development, including a decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

E. High-level segment

65. A high-level segment, organized by the Government of China from 15 to 17 December, was attended by ministers, vice-ministers and senior officials of the United Nations and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Many leaders announced significant actions and commitments in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, ministers provided political direction and momentum to the final stages of the negotiations, in particular with regard to the

³ Available at www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cp-mop-10/documents.

⁴ Available at www.cbd.int/decisions/np-mop/?m=np-mop-04.

framework, resource mobilization and digital sequence information on genetic resources.

F. Other events

66. Major events held on the margins of the meeting included the seventh Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, a nature and culture summit, a youth summit, the fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity, the Business and Biodiversity Forum, and Finance and Biodiversity Day, all of which also contribute to the Sharm-el Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

67. In addition, more than 200 side events were organized by participating Governments and organizations, and further events were held by China, Canada, the Rio conventions and other organizations in pavilions and at the multi-stakeholder facility, Place Québec.

G. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

1. Overview

68. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention along with a package of other important decisions, of equal standing, that will support its implementation.

69. The Framework sets out 23 action-oriented targets for urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet by 2030, with a view to advancing towards four outcome-oriented goals for 2050 and the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

70. In the Framework, the Conference of the Parties has identified in particular a set of urgent actions required to protect and restore natural ecosystems and ecosystem services and functions for people's needs. It has called for a substantial increase in financial resources, as well as for the strengthening of capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, to facilitate the national implementation of the Framework.

71. Achieving the goals and targets will require a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach.

72. The Framework promotes a human rights-based approach by respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights. It also serves to acknowledge the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

73. The Framework further serves to acknowledge the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and ensure that their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge are respected across all targets. It is also highlighted therein that the targets will be implemented through a gender-responsive approach, and the Framework is supported in that regard by a gender plan of action, also adopted at the same meeting.⁵ The implementation of the Framework is to be guided additionally by the principle of intergenerational equity.

74. The Framework is a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions is necessary to create the conditions for meeting the goals and targets of the Framework. The Framework will place biodiversity, its conservation, the sustainable use of its

⁵ Conference of the Parties decision 15/11.

components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources at the heart of the sustainable development agenda.

75. In its decision 15/13, on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the Framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate.

2. Implementation and monitoring

76. As noted above, the implementation of the Framework will be supported by other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties as a package.

77. Urgent action is required now if the Framework targets are to be met by 2030. Parties to the Convention are requested to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans so that they are aligned with the Framework goals and targets and to submit them, or at least their national targets, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

78. The Framework includes a target to mobilize, from all sources, at least \$200 billion by 2030, including at least \$20 billion per year by 2025 and \$30 billion per year by 2030 through international financial resources from developed countries and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country parties to developing countries. The Conference of the Parties has adopted a strategy for resource mobilization to support the implementation of the Framework and established an advisory committee to further develop the strategy. In compliance with its request, GEF is also establishing a special trust fund to support the implementation of the Framework.

79. The secretariat of the Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNDP and other partner organizations are all supporting the implementation of the Framework, building on existing cooperation and following guidance from the Conference of the Parties. This support includes financial assistance from GEF for enabling activities, including the Early Action Support projects; the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Accelerator Partnership; engagement by the United Nations development system, resident coordinators and country teams; and the implementation of the United Nations common approach to biodiversity, with support from the United Nations Environment Management Group.

3. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

80. Decision 15/9, on digital sequence information on genetic resources, contains a landmark agreement to share fairly and equitably the benefits arising from the use of such information. This commitment brings access and benefit-sharing to the digital age and represents a significant step forward towards generating resources for biodiversity and strengthening capacity-building and development, technology transfer and technical and scientific cooperation. The Conference of the Parties recognized that benefits should be used in particular to support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and, inter alia, to benefit Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It decided to establish a fair, transparent, inclusive, participatory and time-bound process to develop and operationalize a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, to be finalized at its sixteenth meeting.

H. International Day for Biological Diversity

81. The theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity, which was commemorated on 22 May 2023, was “From agreement to action: build back biodiversity”. It was chosen to mark the adoption of the Framework and the efforts made to ensure its timely implementation.

82. The Central Government of China and the provincial government of Yunnan hosted a celebration of the International Day in Kunming, China. The secretariat of the Convention organized an event in Montreal, with the participation of the Government of Canada, the government of Quebec and the city of Montreal. Celebrations were also held in many other countries.

83. The secretariat received messages from current and previous presidencies of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other Governments, as well as from United Nations agencies and international organizations.⁶

I. Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

84. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the concurrent meetings of the Conferences of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols will be held in Türkiye from 21 October to 1 November 2024.

J. Recommendations

85. The General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Welcome the outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and express its appreciation to China, as President of the meeting, and Canada, as host of the second part of the meeting;

(b) Reiterate its appreciation to Türkiye as host of the sixteenth meeting;

(c) Endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Call upon the parties to the Convention and all Member States to ensure and promote the full and swift implementation of the Framework, including by, as appropriate, developing national targets aligned with those of the Framework, updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and developing the policy measures necessary to ensure progress towards the national and global targets, using a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach;

(e) Welcome the strategy for resource mobilization for the Framework as guidance to facilitate the immediate mobilization of resources;

(f) Call upon developed country parties, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention, and invite other developed country Member States, and others that are in position to do so, as well as philanthropic organizations and the private sector, to mobilize international financial flows to developing countries for the implementation of the Framework, in line with its targets, and to ensure the early capitalization of the related fund established by GEF;

⁶ Available at www.cbd.int/article/idb2023-messages-governments.

(g) Welcome the agreement to establish a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, and call upon parties and all Member States to engage in ongoing negotiations for the further development of the Mechanism before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(h) Underline the importance of monitoring progress in the implementation of the Framework and of keeping implementation under review, and encourage cooperation and synergies in support of the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(i) Welcome the adoption of the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and note that its early ratification will contribute to the successful implementation of the Framework in such areas;

(j) Note that the Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health approach and that it will contribute to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;

(k) Call upon all Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention, the Nagoya Protocol, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol.
