



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 October 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Second Committee

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

State of Palestine:* 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 [73/233](#) of 20 December 2018, 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,¹

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.



Reaffirming its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Noting the importance of creating an enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including the responsible governance of land and tenure security, the engagement of stakeholders and the improved access of smallholders to advisory and financial services,

Noting also that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through the effective governance and the sustainable management of natural resources, can contribute to sustainable development for all and to easing forced displacement flows,

Bearing in mind its resolution [62/195](#) of 19 December 2007, in which it declared the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, and its resolution [64/201](#) of 21 December 2009, in which it designated the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as the focal point of the Decade, and invited States parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities to observe the Decade,

Recalling the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention,² including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encouraging the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement³ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services land degradation and restoration assessment and its *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems entitled *Climate Change and Land*, which recognize the role of the land-use sector,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,⁵ and acknowledging that all types of forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, that the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that all forests prevent land degradation and

² ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 7/COP.13, annex.

³ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁵ See resolution [71/285](#).

desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, sand and dust storms and other disasters,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in New Delhi from 2 to 13 September 2019,

Reaffirming the importance of government leadership, multi-stakeholder partnerships and increasing private engagement for the sustainable management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, biodiversity and land,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 73/233 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;⁶

2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and calls for their implementation;

3. *Also welcomes* the New Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities;

4. *Reaffirms* that achieving land degradation neutrality would serve as an accelerator and integrator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention, and respond to the overall objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁷

5. *Welcomes* target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world, and takes note with appreciation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme under the Convention and the work of the secretariat of the Convention and partners to assist States in carrying out voluntary target setting activities, and in this respect invites States that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

6. *Affirms* that land-based solutions constitute promising options to evaluate and consider in connection with sequestering carbon and enhancing the resilience of populations and ecosystems affected by climate change;

7. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations system, when designing and implementing their programmes, to take into account the role of land degradation neutrality as an accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other development goals;

8. *Invites* parties to take measures to ensure, as appropriate, that their relevant institutions integrate drought-smart land management practices, climate variability and climate change impacts into their relevant policies and initiatives to mitigate the effects of drought;

9. *Invites* the parties to the Convention to provide the new Executive Secretary of the Convention with full support in the fulfilment of his mandate and in promoting the implementation of the Convention;

⁶ A/74/207, sect. II.

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

10. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and other relevant United Nations entities to continue their collaboration to assist affected country parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms and to explore the potential elements of a broader sand and dust storms initiative;

11. *Welcomes* the establishment of an intergovernmental working group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the Convention, with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to the parties for their consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

12. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism to continue collaborating and building partnerships with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), other United Nations entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations to explore further ways of strengthening awareness-raising, improving the Gender Action Plan and developing further tools and guidelines for the use of parties in the thematic areas of the Gender Action Plan and the gender-responsive implementation of the Convention;

13. *Invites* parties to the Convention to legally recognize rights to equal use and ownership of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security, as well as the promotion of gender-sensitive measures to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context;

14. *Encourages* developed countries party to the Convention to continue to provide substantial financial and non-financial resources, including technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to countries affected by desertification, land degradation and drought in order to achieve land degradation neutrality and advance the implementation of the Convention;

15. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing, adapting and scaling up the application of technologies, enabling policies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms;

16. *Encourages* developed countries party to the Convention to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

17. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of sand and dust storms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise recognizes the need for further cooperation between parties to the Convention and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations system to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this respect welcomes the ongoing efforts to strengthen synergies among the secretariats of the aforementioned conventions;

19. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, to organize during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly a high-level event to commemorate the end of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

20. *Decides* to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the year 2020, the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention envisaged for the year 2020, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for those sessions in the proposed programme budget for 2020;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth 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”.
