



Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification

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Conférence des Parties

Seizième session

Riyad (Arabie saoudite), 2-13 décembre 2024

Point 8 de l'ordre du jour

Rapport sur les travaux de la session

Projet de rapport de la Conférence des Parties sur sa seizième session tenue à Riyad du 2 au 13 décembre 2024

Rapporteur : M. Khalid Cherki (Maroc)

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I. Ouverture de la session

A. Ouverture de la seizième session de la Conférence des Parties

1. La seizième session de la Conférence des Parties (COP) a été ouverte le 2 décembre 2024 par le Président de la quinzième session, S. E. M. Alain-Richard Donwahi. Conformément à l'article 22 du Règlement intérieur de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification (la Convention), le Président de la quinzième session de la Conférence a fait une déclaration.

B. Élection du Président ou de la Présidente

(Point 1 a) de l'ordre du jour)

2. À sa 1^{re} séance (2 décembre 2024), la Conférence des Parties a élu par acclamation à la présidence de sa seizième session S. E. M. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, Ministre de l'environnement, de l'eau et de l'agriculture du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite.

3. Le Président nouvellement élu a fait une déclaration.

C. Déclarations générales

4. À la 1^{re} séance également, Son Altesse Royale le Prince Fayçal ben Abdelaziz ben Mohammed ben Ayyaf Al-Mouqrin, maire de Riyad, a prononcé un discours de bienvenue.

5. À la même séance, M^{me} Amina Mohamed, Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (par vidéo) et M. Ibrahim Thiaw, Secrétaire exécutif de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification, ont également prononcé des allocutions de bienvenue.

6. En tant qu'hôte de la dix-septième session de la Conférence des Parties, Son Excellence Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai, Premier Ministre de la Mongolie, a fait une déclaration liminaire.

7. M. Johan Rockström, Directeur de l'Institut de recherche sur le climat de Potsdam et professeur en sciences du système Terre à l'Université de Potsdam, a fait une déclaration liminaire.

8. Le Président de la seizième session de la Conférence des Parties a fait une annonce au sujet du Partenariat de Riyad pour la résilience face à la sécheresse.

9. S. E. M. Muhammed Al Jasser, Président de la Banque islamique de développement, a fait une déclaration au nom du Groupe arabe de coordination.

10. Toujours à la 1^{re} séance, les représentants et représentantes des pays suivants ont fait des déclarations : Maroc (au nom du Groupe des États d'Afrique), Union européenne, Bhoutan (au nom du Groupe des États d'Asie et du Pacifique), Équateur (au nom du Groupe des États d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes), Hongrie (au nom des pays visés par l'annexe concernant la mise en œuvre au niveau régional pour la Méditerranée septentrionale (annexe IV)) et Azerbaïdjan (au nom des pays visés par l'annexe concernant la mise en œuvre au niveau régional pour l'Europe centrale et orientale (annexe V)).

11. Un représentant de la société civile a également fait une déclaration.

II. Questions d'organisation

A. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation des travaux, y compris ceux des sessions des organes subsidiaires

(Points 1 b) et f) de l'ordre du jour)

12. La Conférence a examiné les points 1 b) et f) de l'ordre du jour à sa 2^e séance (2 décembre 2024).

13. Après une déclaration du Président de la seizième session, la Conférence a adopté l'ordre du jour et approuvé l'organisation des travaux présentés dans le document ICCD/COP(16)/1/Rev.1, tel que révisé oralement pour la session, à savoir :

1. Questions d'organisation :
 - a) Élection du Président ou de la Présidente ;
 - b) Adoption de l'ordre du jour ;
 - c) Élection des membres du Bureau autres que le Président ou la Présidente :
 - i) Élection des Vice-Président(e)s ;
 - ii) Élection du Président ou de la Présidente du Comité de la science et de la technologie ;
 - iii) Élection du Président ou de la Présidente du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention ;
 - d) Pouvoirs des délégations ;
 - e) Accréditation d'organisations intergouvernementales, d'organisations de la société civile et de représentants du secteur privé, et admission d'observateurs ;
 - f) Organisation des travaux, y compris ceux des sessions des organes subsidiaires.
2. Cadre stratégique de la Convention (2018-2030) :
 - a) Rapport du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention et recommandations qu'il a formulées à l'intention de la Conférence des Parties ;
 - b) Examen des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du plan de communication de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification ;
 - c) Suivi de l'évaluation à mi-parcours du Cadre stratégique de la Convention (2018-2030) ;
 - d) Rapport du Comité de la science et de la technologie et recommandations qu'il a formulées à l'intention de la Conférence des Parties.
3. Promotion et renforcement des liens avec les autres conventions pertinentes ainsi qu'avec les organisations, institutions et organismes internationaux compétents.
4. Cadres directifs et questions thématiques, y compris nouveaux enjeux : pâturages et parcours.

5. Débat spécial :
 - a) Dialogues ministériels de haut niveau :
 - i) De Genève à Riyad et au-delà, renforcer les moyens d'action aux niveaux mondial et national pour une approche prospective de la gestion de la sécheresse ;
 - ii) Déblocage des financements publics et privés pour la remise en état des terres et la résilience face à la sécheresse ;
 - iii) Conséquences de la dégradation des terres et de la sécheresse sur les migrations forcées, la sécurité et la prospérité ;
 - b) Dialogues interactifs de haut niveau :
 - i) Des systèmes agroalimentaires durables, résilients et inclusifs ;
 - ii) Rôle des administrations infranationales dans l'accélération de la gestion durable des terres ;
 - iii) Interface science-technologie et innovation.
6. Programme et budget :
 - a) Programme et budget de l'exercice biennal 2025-2026 ;
 - b) Résultats financiers des fonds d'affection spéciale de la Convention ;
 - c) Rapport du Bureau de l'évaluation.
7. Questions de procédure :
 - a) Participation et contribution des organisations de la société civile aux réunions et à d'autres activités liées à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification ;
 - b) Participation et contribution du secteur privé aux réunions et à d'autres activités liées à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification, et stratégie de mobilisation des entreprises ;
 - c) Programme de travail de la Conférence des Parties à sa dix-septième session.
8. Rapport sur les travaux de la session.

B. Élection des membres du Bureau autres que le Président ou la Présidente

(Point 1 c) de l'ordre du jour)

14. La Conférence a examiné ce point à sa 2^e séance (2 décembre 2024) et a élu le Bureau suivant pour sa seizième session :

Vice-Président(e)s :

- M. Luis Domingos Constantino (Angola) ;
- M. Khalid Cherki (Maroc) ;
- M^{me} Ariuntuya Dorjsuren (Mongolie) ;
- M. Rodrigo Andrade (Chili) ;
- M. Julius Smith (Trinité-et-Tobago) ;
- M^{me} Juliane Wiesenhütter (Allemagne) ;
- M^{me} Stéphanie Piers (Suisse) ;

(à compléter)

15. À la _ séance (_ décembre 2024), la Conférence a nommé _____ (__) Rapporteur/Rapporteuse de la seizième session.

Président ou Présidente du Comité de la science et de la technologie

16. À la ____ séance (____ décembre 2024), la Conférence a élu _____ (_____) Président/Présidente de la dix-septième session du Comité de la science et de la technologie (CST).

Président ou Présidente du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention

17. À la ____ séance (____ décembre 2024), la Conférence a élu _____ (_____) Président/Présidente des vingt-troisième et vingt-quatrième sessions du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention (CRIC).

(à compléter)

C. Pouvoirs des délégations

(Point 1 d) de l'ordre du jour)

18. À ses ____ et ____ séances, les ____ et ____ décembre 2024, la Conférence a examiné le rapport provisoire sur les pouvoirs des délégations, publié sous la cote ICCD/COP(16)/23, et le rapport final sur les pouvoirs des délégations, publié sous la cote ICCD/COP(16)/XX, ainsi que les recommandations qui y figurent.

19. À sa ____ séance, la Conférence a adopté le projet de décision qui figure dans le document ICCD/COP(16)/L.X, relatif à l'adoption du rapport final sur les pouvoirs des délégations.

(à compléter)

D. Accréditation d'organisations intergouvernementales, d'organisations de la société civile et de représentants du secteur privé, et admission d'observateurs

(Point 1 e) de l'ordre du jour)

20. À la 2^e séance (2 décembre 2024), la Conférence a décidé d'accréditer en tant qu'observateurs les organisations intergouvernementales, les organisations de la société civile et les entités du secteur privé énumérées dans le document ICCD/COP(16)/14.

E. Comité de la science et de la technologie

21. La seizième session du Comité de la science et de la technologie (CST) a été convoquée sous la présidence de M. Héctor Manuel Arias Rojo (Mexique), dont la nomination a été confirmée par le Comité conformément à l'article 25 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence des Parties. Le CST a tenu ____ séances, du 3 au ____ décembre 2024.

22. À la 1^{re} séance (3 décembre 2024), le CST a adopté l'ordre du jour provisoire qui figure dans le document ICCD/COP(16)/CST/1 et a approuvé l'organisation des travaux de la session présentée à l'annexe dudit document, tel que modifié oralement.

23. À cette même séance, le CST a nommé M^{me} Nana Bolashvili (Géorgie) Vice-Présidente, en remplacement de M. Hamid Čustović (Bosnie-Herzégovine), et M. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed Ali (Égypte) Rapporteur.

24. Toujours à cette 1^{re} séance, le CST a décidé de créer un groupe de contact et a nommé M. Joseph Noel (Grenade) Facilitateur de ce groupe.

25. À sa 2^e séance (4 décembre 2024), le CST a nommé M. Joseph Noel (Grenade) et M. Alwin Dornelly (Sainte-Lucie) Cofacilitateurs du groupe de contact conjoint du CRIC et du CST sur les questions relatives au point 3 de l'ordre du jour du CRIC (Amélioration des procédures de communication des informations ainsi que de la qualité et de la présentation des rapports à soumettre à la Conférence des Parties) et au point 4 c) de l'ordre du jour du CST (Interface entre science et politiques, et partage de connaissances : Informations sur les modalités de présentation de rapports concernant le Cadre stratégique de la Convention (2018-2030)).

26. À sa ____ séance (__ décembre 2024), le CST a élu, par acclamation, les personnes suivantes aux postes de Vice-Président(e)s pour sa dix-septième session : _____ (_____), _____ (_____), _____ (_____) et _____ (_____).

27. Le CST a soumis _____ recommandations à la Conférence des Parties. Celle-ci a donné suite à ces recommandations à sa ____ séance (____ décembre 2024).

(à compléter)

F. Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention

28. La vingt-deuxième session du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention (CRIC) a été convoquée sous la présidence de M. Mirko Knezevic (Monténégro), dont la nomination a été confirmée par le Comité conformément à l'article 25 du Règlement intérieur de la Conférence des Parties. Le CST a tenu ____ séances, du 3 au __ décembre 2024.

29. À la 1^{re} séance (3 décembre 2024), le CST a adopté l'ordre du jour provisoire qui figure dans le document ICCD/CRIC(22)/1 et a approuvé l'organisation des travaux de la session présentée à l'annexe dudit document, tel que modifié oralement.

30. Le CRIC a nommé M. Rodrigo Andrade Ramírez (Chili) Vice-Président et M^{me} Anait Khurshudyan (Ouzbékistan) Vice-Présidente.

31. Toujours à cette 1^{re} séance, le CRIC a décidé de créer un groupe de contact et a nommé M. Alwin Dornelly (Sainte-Lucie) Facilitateur de ce groupe.

32. À sa 2^e séance, le CRIC a décidé de créer un groupe de contact conjoint du CRIC et du CST (voir par. 25 ci-dessus) et a nommé M. Joseph Noel (Grenade) et M. Alwin Dornelly (Sainte-Lucie) Cofacilitateurs de ce groupe.

33. À sa ____ séance (__ décembre 2024), le CRIC a élu, par acclamation, les personnes suivantes aux postes de Vice-Président(e)s pour ses vingt-troisième et vingt-quatrième sessions : _____ (_____), _____ (_____), _____ (_____) et _____ (_____).

34. Le CRIC a soumis _____ recommandations à la Conférence des Parties. Celle-ci a donné suite à ces recommandations à sa ____ séance (____ décembre 2024).

(à compléter)

G. Comité plénier

35. À sa 2^e séance (2 décembre 2024), la Conférence a décidé de créer un comité plénier et de lui renvoyer les questions énumérées au paragraphe 16 de l'ordre du jour de sa seizième session (ICCD/COP(16)/1/Rev.1), tel que modifié oralement.

36. Toujours à sa 2^e séance, la Conférence a nommé M^{me} Anna Luise (Italie) Présidente du Comité plénier. Le Comité plénier a tenu ____ séances, du 2 au __ décembre 2024.

37. À sa 1^{re} séance, le Comité plénier a créé deux groupes de contact : a) le Groupe de contact 1 sur les questions relatives au programme et au budget ; et b) le Groupe de contact 2 chargé des questions relevant du Comité plénier autres que le programme et le budget. Le Comité plénier a nommé M. Balchinluvsan Lkhagvasuren (Mongolie) Facilitateur du Groupe

de contact 1 chargé des questions relatives au programme et au budget et M. Asher Nkegbe (Ghana) Facilitateur du Groupe de contact 2 chargé des questions relevant du Comité plénier autres que le programme et le budget.

38. Le Comité plénier a soumis _____ recommandations à la Conférence des Parties. Celle-ci a donné suite à ces recommandations à sa _____ séance (_____ décembre 2024).

(à compléter)

H. Participation

39. Les représentants et représentantes des _____ Parties à la Convention ci-après ont participé à la seizième session de la Conférence des Parties : _____.

40. Des observateurs et observatrices des États ci-après, non parties à la Convention, ont participé à la session : _____.

41. Les organes et bureaux de l'ONU et les fonds, programmes et institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies ci-après étaient représentés : _____.

42. Des représentants et représentantes de _____ organisations intergouvernementales et de _____ organisations de la société civile ont également assisté à la session.

(à compléter)

I. Documentation

43. On trouvera à l'annexe XX du présent rapport la liste des documents dont la COP était saisie à sa seizième session.

(à compléter)

III. Prise en compte des activités des organisations non gouvernementales dans le programme de travail officiel de la Conférence des Parties : séance de dialogue ouvert

(Points 1 b) et f) de l'ordre du jour)

44. À ses 6^e et 7^e séances (5 et 9 décembre 2024), la Conférence a organisé deux séances dans le cadre du dialogue ouvert au titre des points 1 b) et f) de l'ordre du jour.

45. M. Mauro Centritto, de DesertNET International (Italie), a animé la première séance de dialogue ouvert (5 décembre 2024) intitulée « Contributions de la société civile à des systèmes agroalimentaires inclusifs et durables ».

46. Les intervenants et intervenantes suivants ont présenté des exposés : M^{me} Erimelinda Temba (Îles de la paix, République-Unie de Tanzanie), M^{me} Priyanka Patil (Brahma Kumaris, Inde), M^{me} Glenda Mangia (Fundación Cauce, Argentine), M. Anand Ethirajalu (Conscious Planet, Inde), M^{me} Sopiko Babalashvil (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, Géorgie) et M^{me} Aii Shatou Ali (Éleveurs mbororos, Cameroun).

47. Les représentants et représentantes des pays suivants ont fait des déclarations : Afrique du Sud, Arménie, Australie, Bélarus, Cabo Verde, Chili, Chine, État de Palestine, États-Unis d'Amérique, Iraq, Maroc et Sénégal.

48. L'Union européenne a également fait une déclaration.

49. En outre, une déclaration a été faite par la représentante de l'Entité des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes (ONU-Femmes).

50. Le représentant du Conseil des pays producteurs d'huile de palme a fait une déclaration.
51. Une déclaration a été faite par la Confédération unie du peuple taïno au nom de la société civile.
52. Au cours du débat qui a suivi, les intervenants ont répondu aux observations et aux questions des participants et participantes.
53. M^{me} Ellen Otaru Okoedion (Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania) a animé la seconde séance de dialogue ouvert (9 décembre 2024), qui était intitulée « Perspectives de la société civile sur la manière d'encourager la cocréation de connaissances locales ainsi que la science, la technologie et l'innovation ».
54. M^{me} Tarja Halonen, ancienne Présidente de la Finlande et Ambassadrice des terres pour la Convention a prononcé un discours liminaire.
55. M^{me} Celeste Drake, Directrice générale adjointe de l'Organisation internationale du travail, a prononcé un discours liminaire.
56. Les intervenantes suivantes ont présenté des exposés : M^{me} Fatou Diouf (Enda Tiers-Monde, Sénégal), M^{me} Tiffany Marcelle (Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Dominique), M^{me} Cécile Mawe Moumbe épse Nzoda (Youth Action for Sustainable Development, Cameroun), M^{me} Jiajia Luo (China Green Foundation) et M^{me} Valentina Kastarakova (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee et représentante des peuples autochtones de la région de l'Altaï, Fédération de Russie).
57. Les représentants et représentantes des pays ont fait des déclarations : Brésil, Burundi, Cambodge, Chine, Équateur, États-Unis d'Amérique, Guatemala, Kenya, Malaisie, Mexique, République dominicaine et Yémen.
58. L'Union européenne a également fait une déclaration.
59. Le représentant du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme a également fait une déclaration.
60. Au cours du débat qui a suivi, les intervenants et intervenantes ont répondu aux observations et aux questions des participants et participantes.
- (à compléter)*

IV. Débat spécial

(Point 5 de l'ordre du jour)

A. Dialogues ministériels de haut niveau

a) De Genève à Riyad et au-delà, renforcer les moyens d'action aux niveaux mondial et national pour une approche prospective de la gestion de la sécheresse

61. Ce dialogue ministériel de haut niveau était coprésidé par S. E. M^{me} Bernice Swarts (Vice-Ministre des forêts, de la pêche et de l'environnement de l'Afrique du Sud) et M. Cary Fowler (Envoyé spécial des États-Unis d'Amérique pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale).
62. Le Secrétaire exécutif de la Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification a prononcé une déclaration liminaire.
63. Les orateurs principaux suivants ont présenté des exposés : M. Achim Steiner (Administrateur du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement), M. Saroj Kumar Jha (Directeur mondial du Pôle d'expertise en eau du Groupe de la Banque mondiale), S. E. M. Muhammed Al Jasser (Président de la Banque islamique de développement) et M^{me} Shaimaa Al-Sheiby (Vice-Présidente du Fonds de l'Organisation des pays exportateurs de pétrole (OPEP) pour le développement international).

b) Déblocage des financements publics et privés pour la remise en état des terres et la résilience face à la sécheresse

64. Ce dialogue ministériel de haut niveau était coprésidé par S. E. M. Aziz Abdukhalimov (Ministre de l'écologie, de la protection de l'environnement et des changements climatiques de l'Ouzbékistan) et S. E. M. Pasi Hellman (Sous-Secrétaire d'État pour la politique de développement au Ministère des affaires étrangères de la Finlande).

65. Le Secrétaire exécutif de la Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification a prononcé une allocution de bienvenue.

66. Des observations ont également été formulées par S. E. M. Muhammad Al Jasser (Président de la Banque islamique de développement) (également au nom du Groupe arabe de coordination), M. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa (Président du Fonds de l'OPEP pour le développement international), M. Achim Steiner (Administrateur du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement), M. Mahmoud Mohieldin (Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour le financement du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030), M. Simon Stiell (Secrétaire exécutif de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques), M^{me} Astrid Schomaker (Secrétaire exécutive de la Convention sur la diversité biologique), M^{me} Gelsomina Vigliotti (Vice-Présidente de la Banque européenne d'investissement) et M^{me} Valerie Hickey (Directrice à la Banque mondiale).

67. S. E. M. Khalid A. Al-Falih (Ministre de l'investissement du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite) a présenté un exposé.

c) Conséquences de la dégradation des terres et de la sécheresse sur les migrations forcées, la sécurité et la prospérité

68. Ce dialogue ministériel de haut niveau était coprésidé par S. E. M. Adrian Forde (Ministre de l'environnement et de l'embellissement national, de l'économie verte et bleue de la Barbade) et S. E. M. Hugo Morán Fernández (Secrétaire d'État à l'environnement de l'Espagne).

69. Le Secrétaire exécutif de la Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification a prononcé une déclaration liminaire.

70. S. E. M. Carlos Alvarado Quesada (ancien Président du Costa Rica) et M^{me} Ugochi Daniels (Directrice générale adjointe des opérations de l'Organisation internationale pour les migrations) ont également prononcé des allocutions.

71. Les résumés établis par les Présidents des dialogues ministériels de haut niveau figurent à l'annexe XX du présent rapport.

(à compléter)

B. Dialogues interactifs de haut niveau

a) Des systèmes agroalimentaires durables, résilients et inclusifs

72. Le dialogue interactif de haut niveau intitulé « Un environnement favorable pour stimuler la transformation vers des systèmes agroalimentaires durables, résilients et inclusifs » s'est tenu le 5 décembre 2024, lors de la Journée des systèmes agroalimentaires organisée dans le cadre de la seizième session de la COP. Il était organisé en coordination avec plusieurs partenaires, notamment l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) en tant que coresponsables de la Journée des systèmes agroalimentaires.

73. Le dialogue a été ouvert par Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Basma bint Ali de Jordanie, Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de la FAO, suivie par S. E. M. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha, Vice-Ministre de l'environnement du Ministère de l'environnement, de l'eau et de l'agriculture d'Arabie saoudite, qui a annoncé le lancement du Programme d'action de Riyad.

74. Le dialogue interactif de haut niveau était articulé autour de quatre tables rondes¹ réunissant un certain nombre d'acteurs des systèmes agroalimentaires, notamment la Directrice exécutive du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, le Président du FIDA, le Sous-Directeur général de la FAO, le Vice-Ministre de l'agriculture du Ministère de l'environnement, de l'eau et de l'agriculture du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite, le Secrétaire d'État du Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la pêche du Cambodge, le Secrétaire d'État du Ministère de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de l'industrie légère de la Mongolie, la Directrice générale exécutive de l'Organisation du Système CGIAR, ainsi que des représentants d'organisations d'agriculteurs de différents continents.

b) Rôle des administrations infranationales dans l'accélération de la gestion durable des terres

75. Le dialogue interactif de haut niveau intitulé « Forum des maires : Leadership local et gouvernance innovante pour une gestion durable des terres » s'est tenu le 6 décembre 2024, lors de la Journée de la gouvernance prévue dans le cadre du programme d'action de la seizième session de la COP. Il était organisé par l'Équipe spéciale mondiale des autorités locales et régionales, et coordonné par Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis (CGLU), en partenariat avec ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

76. Ce dialogue interactif de haut niveau a été ouvert par S. E. M. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, Ministre de l'eau, de l'environnement et de l'agriculture du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite et Président de la seizième session de la COP, et par le maire adjoint de Riyad, M. Walid Al-Akrish, qui a prononcé un discours de bienvenue. M. Ibrahim Altay, Président exécutif de CGLU et maire de Konya (Türkiye), s'est également adressé aux participants lors du Forum des maires.

77. M^{me} Anacláudia Rossbach, Directrice exécutive du Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains (ONU-Habitat), a prononcé son allocution par le biais d'un message vidéo.

78. Le Forum des maires a été l'occasion de confronter les expériences des maires, administrateurs et représentants d'autorités locales du monde entier, dans le cadre de deux tables rondes : la première sur la gestion durable des terres et la seconde sur la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau.

c) Interface science-technologie et innovation

79. Les résumés établis par les Présidents des dialogues interactifs de haut niveau figurent à l'annexe XX du présent rapport.

(à compléter)

C. Séance des déclarations officielles

80. Le 3 décembre, lors de la séance des déclarations officielles, les représentants et représentantes des pays suivants ont fait des déclarations : Algérie, Arménie, Australie, Azerbaïdjan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbade, Brésil, Cameroun, Canada, Djibouti, Égypte, Émirats arabes unis, Espagne, Eswatini, États-Unis d'Amérique, France, Gabon, Guinée, Hongrie, Inde, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mongolie, Népal, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, République arabe syrienne, République dominicaine, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Seychelles, Soudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname et Zimbabwe.

81. Les représentants et représentantes des organisations intergouvernementales suivantes ont également prononcé des déclarations : Union internationale pour la conservation de la

¹ Groupe 1 : Programme d'action de Riyad : Accélérer la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires ; Groupe 2 : Comment les gouvernements peuvent-ils accélérer la transformation vers des systèmes agroalimentaires durables, résilients et inclusifs ? Groupe 3 : Les catalyseurs de la transformation : finance, gouvernance, science, technologie et innovation ; et Groupe 4 : Perspectives de première ligne présentées par les représentants et représentantes des communautés d'agriculteurs.

nature et de ses ressources, Organisation du Système CGIAR, Crop Trust et Société andine de développement.

82. Des représentants et représentantes des organisations suivantes du système des Nations Unies ont fait des déclarations : FAO, Organisation internationale du Travail et Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme.

83. La liste définitive des orateurs et oratrices peut être consultée sur le site Web de la Convention².

V. Décisions et résolution adoptées par la Conférence des Parties

84. À ses ____, ____ et ____ séances, les ____, ____ et ____ décembre 2024, la Conférence a adopté __ décisions et une résolution.

(à compléter)

A. Décisions prises sur recommandation du Président de la Conférence des Parties

85. La Conférence a adopté les décisions ci-après sur recommandation du Président de la seizième session :

(à compléter)

B. Décisions prises sur recommandation du Bureau

86. La Conférence a adopté les décisions ci-après sur recommandation du Bureau constitué pour sa seizième session :

(à compléter)

C. Décisions prises sur recommandation du Comité plénier

87. La Conférence a adopté les décisions ci-après sur recommandation du Comité plénier :

(à compléter)

D. Décisions prises sur recommandation du Comité chargé de l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Convention

88. La Conférence a adopté les décisions ci-après sur recommandation du CRIC :

(à compléter)

E. Décisions prises sur recommandation du Comité de la science et de la technologie

89. La Conférence a adopté les décisions ci-après sur recommandation du CST :

(à compléter)

² Voir à l'adresse suivante : <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-16-riyadh-saudi-arabia-2024/cop-5th-meeting>.

F. Résolution adoptée par la Conférence

90. À sa ____ séance, le ____ décembre 2024, la Conférence a adopté la résolution suivante sur recommandation de _____ :

(à compléter)

VI. Clôture de la session**A. Adoption du rapport de la Conférence des Parties sur les travaux de sa seizième session**

(Point 8 de l'ordre du jour)

91. À sa ____ séance (____ décembre 2024), la Conférence des Parties a adopté le projet de rapport sur les travaux de sa seizième session (ICCD/COP(16)/L.____) et a autorisé le Rapporteur à compléter ce rapport avec le concours du secrétariat, selon qu'il conviendrait.

(à compléter)

Annexe I

[Anglais seulement]

Riyadh Political Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its 16th Session

We, the Ministers and the Representatives gathered for the high-level segment at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held from 2nd to 13th December 2024 in Riyadh at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the urgent aim of taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to address the increasing challenges posed by desertification, land degradation and drought and their devastating global impacts on our communities, economies, climate, ecosystems, water, food security and nutrition, human health and well-being, in an effort towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its hospitality and convening of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties and to the UNCCD Secretariat for the organization of the session;

Noting with great concern the significant threats and global negative trends posed by desertification, land degradation, the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, with negative consequences such as droughts, and sand and dust storms on communities, ecosystems, and food production;³ as well as the role played by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in exacerbating such significant threats,⁴ and recalling that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) represents the cornerstone of global efforts to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought;

Noting that over 70% of the Earth's land has already been transformed from its natural state⁵ and that up to 40% of Earth's land is degraded, that droughts cause annual damage costs of US\$307 billion per year,⁶ and that from 2015 to 2019, at least 100 million hectares of healthy and productive lands were degraded annually,⁷ affecting global food security as well as water availability and impacting 3.2 billion people of which an estimated 1.3 billion people are directly exposed to land degradation;⁸

Recognizing that desertification, land degradation and drought affect everyone and undermine the enjoyment of certain human rights, including the right to food, and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as derived from the right to an adequate standard of living, while emphasizing their disproportionate impact on people in vulnerable situations, including people in poverty in both rural and urban settings, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, women, children, youth, and Indigenous Peoples;

*Recognizing that there is a nexus between climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and sustainable development, and that without proper environmental action, arable land availability, scarce resources, and in particular water will affect the most vulnerable regions and people in vulnerable situations; **Emphasizing** the need for a holistic approach that integrates efforts to enhance land restoration and conservation*

³ “The Global Threat of Drying Lands: Regional and global aridity trends and future projections”, Science-Policy Interface, 2024. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany.

⁴ Special Report on Climate Change and Land — IPCC site.

⁵ IPBES, IPCC.

⁶ UNCCD (2024). Financial Needs Assessment; UNCCD, ELD, UNU-INWEH (2024), Economics of drought: Investing in nature-based solutions for drought resilience – proaction pays. A report by UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Economics of Land Degradation Initiative and UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

⁷ UNCCD Global drought snapshot 2023.

⁸ UNCCD Data Dashboard.

through measures such as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and drought resilience to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN); and *recognizing* the potential for synergies among the Rio Conventions while reaffirming the unique and critical role of the UNCCD in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought; and calling for balanced cooperation that enhances each Convention's core objectives and maximizes their collective impact;

Acknowledging the urgent need to reinforce global action, inclusiveness and solidarity, and to scale up support in developing countries, including the least developed countries, to help address these challenges effectively;

Welcoming the outcomes of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the sixth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement; the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and taking note of its adopted decisions, the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on 1 March 2024, including the resolutions entitled “Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience (UNEP/EA.6/Res.14)”, “Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instrument” (UNEP/EA.6/Res.4) and “Combating sand and dust storms” (UNEP/EA.6/Res.7);

Emphasizing resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019, declaring 2021–2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and its relevance to combating desertification and land degradation; General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; as well as the General Assembly’s proclamation of 2025-2034 as the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms;

Emphasizing the importance of advancing integrated, science, and evidence-based approaches, informed by the best available science, and recognizing the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities, including their knowledge, to combating desertification, land degradation and drought; further *recognizing* the importance of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data for the effective implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and calling upon Parties to enhance capacity-building efforts and technical support for data collection, analysis, and reporting, particularly paying attention to the circumstances of developing countries, including least developed countries, ensuring they have the necessary resources and infrastructure for effective data-driven decision-making; *Welcoming* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform (IPBES) assessment of land degradation and restoration;

Reaffirming the strategic objectives of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 by 2030 and *recognizing* the central importance of financing to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

Noting that land resources contribute to our societies’ and economies’ wealth affecting all ecosystems, including ecosystems in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and their interlinkages with food security and water availability and human well-being, including health;

Recognizing that land degradation constitutes one of the main problems facing humanity, due to a series of pressures that are derived from population growth, urbanization and changes in consumption habits, which translates into unsustainable land use practices, resulting in loss of land cover with impacts on soil structure and hydrological cycle and flows;

Recognizing that protection and sustainable land management, including the restoration of degraded lands, are vital for building resilience to climate change and its impacts, including on drought, conserving biodiversity, strengthening food security and water availability, and supporting livelihoods;

Recognizing the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

Acknowledging that restoration is an effective action to reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss, and may generate benefits for other environmental goals, including addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts; *Recognizing* the potential for restoration initiatives to generate sustainable jobs that particularly benefit people in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities and youth;

Emphasizing the critical role of rangelands and pastoral systems in building drought resilience and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN); Underscoring the need for sustainable rangeland management practices that supports drought resilience and livelihoods;

Recognizing the critical importance of forests, including the importance of sustainable forest management, and of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030, and while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation;

Recognizing that unsustainable agricultural production is a major driver of land degradation, while also recognizing the significant dependence on healthy soils to ensure food security and nutrition; *Emphasizing* the need for increased attention on the importance of sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN);

Recognizing the importance of sustainable and integrated water resources management in enhancing drought resilience and *acknowledging* the establishment of the Global Water Organization by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an initiative aiming to enhance knowledge sharing and promote multilateral collaboration, ultimately advancing the sustainability of water resources;

Welcoming the launch of the International Drought Resilience Alliance at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022 and the work carried out so far within this framework, including the preparations for the establishment of an International Drought Resilience Observatory;

Welcoming the Rio Trio Initiative, launched by Azerbaijan, Colombia, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the respective Presidencies of the UNFCCC COP29, CBD COP16, and UNCCD COP16, which highlights that the interconnections between the three Rio Conventions on desertification, biodiversity, and climate change should be considered to ensure more efficient, integrated and synergistic actions and measures, maximize their effectiveness and achieve their respective goals and targets, in line with their respective mandate and as applicable;

Emphasizing the crucial role of political leadership in driving transformative change, pursuing policy coherence and mobilizing resources to enhance land restoration and conservation and drought resilience, while improving land and water resources protection and sustainable use and management, which requires science and technology development and sharing, adopting science, knowledge-based practices that integrate knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and promote inclusive, participatory and gender and youth- responsive, and transformative global action in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Therefore, we, the Ministers and the Representatives gathered for the high-level segment at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD:

1. *Encourage* Parties to prioritize land degradation prevention, restoration and conservation, as well as sustainable land management, protection of water resources, and proactive drought management and resilience building, integrating these efforts into all relevant subnational, national, regional and international plans, strategies, and policies, considering also their effects on the wellbeing and quality of life, and acknowledging the urgent need to enhance support for developing countries;

2. *Invite* Parties to prioritize and accelerate actions to enhance land restoration and achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets on a voluntary basis, which serve as both an accelerator and integrator for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. *Commit* to address the interconnections on desertification and land degradation, biodiversity and climate change between the three Rio Conventions, the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at CBD COP15 by Parties, with a view to achieve their respective objectives, goals and targets in accordance with their respective provisions and principles;
4. *Urge* Parties to enhance multilateral dialogue and action on the nexus between climate change, environmental degradation, and development, in particular in relation to water;
5. *Welcome* the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP), initiated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Host Country of the UNCCD COP16, and invite Parties, partners, and the international community to join the partnership and strengthen advocacy and support on drought resilience;
6. *Call upon* Parties to accelerate commitment towards land restoration, with the aspirational goal of restoring up to 1.5 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, recognizing the diverse capacities and national circumstances of Parties to achieve voluntary LDN targets aligned with SDG 15.3; Recognize UNCCD's role in supporting Parties in this effort, noting that restoring 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030 is an important measure to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world⁹ and recognizing the need for additional resources; and call upon parties to formulate a long term vision and targets beyond 2030 to significantly reduce the areas of degraded lands;
7. *Urge* Parties to create an enabling environment for effective land governance and to ensure inclusive participation and leadership in decision-making processes, recognizing the important contributions of all members of society, including women and girls, and youth, in addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought; Support community-led initiatives on sustainable land management, encouraging the participation of Indigenous Peoples and rural communities from the inception of policy design; Emphasize the critical role of women, youth, civil society organization and Indigenous Peoples and local communities in advancing restoration, land restoration, conservation and drought resilience;
8. *Recalls* that achieving gender equality is essential for implementing effective, sustainable, and impactful measures to prevent, mitigate, and reverse land degradation; Calls on Parties to mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in policies and actions to address desertification, land degradation and drought and recalls the invitation to 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 responsive measures to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context, and in this context notes the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration, which promotes all measures necessary to identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, with particular attention to the rights of older women, widows, women with disabilities and young women;
9. *Urge* developed country parties to actively support, as agreed, individually or jointly, to provide substantial financial resources and other form of support to assist developing country Parties, to effectively develop and implement their own long-term plans and strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
10. *Encourage* Parties to engage and mobilize the international community to enhance financial and technical support, and to facilitate investments from governments, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the private sector to achieve land restoration and land degradation neutrality at larger scale, on a voluntary basis; Recognize the needs to scale up financial flows to achieve the UNCCD's objectives;

⁹ See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/Goal-15/>.

11. *Call upon* Parties to foster collaborative partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector, as well as the International Drought Resilience Alliance, the Great Green Wall and its Accelerator, the G20 Global Land Initiative, and the Middle East Green Initiative ensuring that public interest remains paramount in efforts to address desertification, land degradation, and drought; and to Promote innovative public-private partnerships to leverage mechanisms for land restoration, fight against desertification and drought resilience, and foster innovative solutions to drought and desertification;
12. *Emphasize* the importance of education, awareness and capacity-building initiatives to empower communities in combating desertification, overcoming drought, and achieving land degradation neutrality; Support research, innovation, including, if relevant, the adoption of digital technologies, and other innovative approaches, which must address regulatory, ethical, social, environmental, and economic issues to ensure inclusive and sustainable development and nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to strengthen resilience;
13. *Recommend* that Parties increase their attention on the necessary sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems to address land degradation, to ensure food security and nutrition, and to build resilience to extreme weather events such as droughts, by promoting systemic and holistic approaches such as agroecological practices and sustainable agriculture;
14. *Emphasize* the importance of mainstreaming land, soil and water issues across different sectors by adopting nationally appropriate standards and sustainable agriculture approaches such as agroforestry and agroecology, to improve sustainability, resilience and long-term productivity of sustainable food systems, taking into account different national circumstances, priorities and legislation; Stress the importance of advocating and mobilizing further investment in nature, notably through nature-based solutions that create jobs, drive economic prosperity and support human well-being;
15. *Invite* Parties to recognize the importance of fostering synergies between environmental and sustainable development policies, considering national priorities and circumstances, to ensure coherence and maximize impact, including through all modalities of development cooperation: North-South, South-South and triangular; Encourage enhanced collaboration through South-South and triangular cooperation to facilitate the exchange, particularly among developing countries; Highlight scalability and inclusivity by ensuring programs effectively benefit people in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous communities, women and girls, youth, exemplified by the Africa's iconic Great Green Wall initiative;
16. *Further call upon* Parties to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation through the strengthening of the UNCCD; Support the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms;
17. *Reiterate* our recognition of the role of the UNCCD in strengthening the science-policy interface; Promote inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector, and academia to support knowledge sharing, voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and capacity building for scalable land restoration and drought resilience initiatives;
18. *Encourage* Parties to strengthen preparedness through enhanced early warning systems and preventive measures in robust capacity building, voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, preparedness measures, risk assessment mechanisms and scaling up disaster preparedness, supported by international cooperation and with particular support for developing countries, to enable timely, proactive responses to land degradation, desertification and drought, and sand and dust storms; Integrate the knowledge, sciences and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to ensure that strategies are culturally relevant and locally effective and scale up drought, which may include disaster preparedness through mechanisms that enable and anticipatory early action, including support for the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All, to enhance timely alerts and advance proactive drought management at all levels;

19. *Invite* Parties to promote the present declaration, and to work towards its effective and inclusive implementation, considering national circumstances and capacities, and supported by enhanced international cooperation.

Annexe II

[Anglais seulement]

Chairpersons' summaries of the high-level ministerial dialogues of the special segment of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

Ministerial Dialogue: From Geneva to Riyadh and beyond. Enhancing global and national policy instruments for proactive drought management

1. The dialogue was opened by the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and chaired by South Africa and the United States of America. Keynote remarks were made by principals and high-level representatives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development. A short video launching the European Union's World Drought Atlas was screened.
2. Over 50 country Parties and several representatives of international organizations delivered their statements. The opening remarks stressed the efficacy of a risk-informed, systems approach to reduce vulnerability to drought and enhance multi-scale adaptation to its impacts. All keynote speakers emphasized the need to build partnerships, enhance coordination among government institutions and economic sectors, and ensure sustained finance for proactive drought management.
3. Virtually all country interventions recognized the important progress made in changing the way we think about drought – moving away from a reactive, crisis-driven model to one that emphasizes drought preparedness, risk reduction and enhanced resilience. All speakers agreed that drought has become an urgent issue linked to livelihoods, food and water security, economic development, forced migration and conflict, with no country or region unaffected.
4. There was consensus that much remains to be done and that the sixteenth session of the COP (COP 16) offers a unique opportunity for renewed commitments to align policies, finance and action plans to scale up proven interventions like sustainable land and water management, water harvesting and recycling, nature-based solutions, and innovative technologies such as drought-resistant crops and drip irrigation. In addition to the need for finance and improved infrastructure, many speakers highlighted the importance of land governance, such as ensuring tenure security and women's land rights, as well as the meaningful engagement of local communities and the private sector, as critical enabling factors for building drought resilience.

Ministerial Dialogue: Unlocking public and private finance for land restoration and Drought resilience

5. The dialogue was opened by the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and chaired by Finland and Uzbekistan. Keynote remarks were made by principals and high-level representatives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Arab Coordination Group.
6. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia highlighted the progress made so far and the financial commitment of Saudi Arabia to global initiatives for ecosystem restoration. Other opening remarks emphasized the urgent need for a bold and robust approach to mobilizing resources to combat the growing challenge of land degradation. They stressed the importance of channelling finance into sustainable practices and redirecting harmful subsidies, and urged governments to introduce mechanisms to encourage the private sector

to step up and build effective public–private partnerships and introduce innovative financing solutions.

7. The keynote speakers also urged countries to prioritize combating land degradation in national and regional policies and plans. They indicated that governments should promote favourable fiscal policy tools such as tax incentives and subsidies to promote green investments through green bonds, payments for ecosystem services, and access to carbon markets. All speakers agreed that the prioritization of land restoration in domestic public budgets – coupled with private investment – should be the way forward for countries. At the same time, they acknowledged that the private sector needs support from financial and technical institutions to develop these green investments. In addition, it is important to continue to simplify the procedures to access global multilateral environmental funds, such as the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund.

8. All countries highlighted and appreciated the efforts made so far to conserve land and ecosystems but emphasized the need for a paradigm shift in view of the growing challenge of land degradation. Business-as-usual approaches will not help to address this existential challenge, therefore everyone must work together in solidarity as land and ecosystems transcend borders and restoration efforts will only be effective with strong partnerships among all relevant stakeholders.

9. Several countries stated that it is important to establish a dedicated financing mechanism to build drought resilience amongst communities and address their impacts. They also indicated that the findings of the Intergovernmental Working Group Report on drought financing should be carefully considered during proceedings of the sixteenth session of the COP. All countries agreed that the volume of grant funding from global funding agencies should be increased and complemented with other funding sources to maximize impact. One country stated that “only together can we bring the change we need,” as evidenced by the success of Great Green Wall Initiative.

Ministerial Dialogue: Impacts of land degradation and drought on forced migration, security and prosperity

10. The dialogue was opened by the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and chaired by Barbados and Spain. Keynote remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Goodwill Ambassador Baaba Maal, Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, former President of Costa Rica, and Ms. Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration.

11. The keynote speakers stressed that the challenges posed by desertification/land degradation and drought exacerbate competition over resources, which tends to compromise national security, erode social cohesion and increase political fragility and conflict, all of which can accelerate forced migration and displacement. Over 30 countries and several representatives of international organizations made statements. All agreed that land degradation and drought are among the root causes of forced migration, while recognizing that regular migration and remittances can be a significant opportunity to alleviate poverty and enhance community resilience.

12. Virtually all interventions recognized that sustainable land management and restoration, and drought resilience are essential building blocks to ensure global stability, security, sustainability and prosperity, offering transformative avenues for sustainable development, conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding as well as addressing forced migration and displacement. Systemic challenges require collaboration at regional and global levels to mitigate forced migration, which leads to insecurity, conflict and greater terrorist activity. Countries must leverage their land degradation neutrality and other ecosystem restoration commitments to overcome these challenges. As we advance land and water management solutions, we must foster a just transition for a more resilient and equitable economic model.

13. There was consensus that complex phenomena require coordinated solutions, such as the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S Initiative) in West Africa. This includes a focus on the development–peace nexus, which requires committed action at the local level. Some stressed that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP

16) to the UNCCD is an opportune moment to engage in respectful dialogue and reaffirm commitments to reduce climate-induced drivers of migration, particularly those that contribute the most to global emissions. In addition, on reducing urban/rural inequalities, many speakers highlighted the importance of land governance, such as ensuring tenure security and women's land rights, as well as the meaningful engagement of local communities and the private sector, as critical enabling factors for reducing rural outmigration and managing unplanned urban expansion.

Annexe III

[Anglais seulement]

Chairpersons' summaries of the high-level interactive dialogues of the special segment of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

High-level interactive dialogue: Enabling environment to catalyse the transformation towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems

1. The high-level interactive dialogue titled “Enabling environment to catalyse the transformation towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems” was held on 5 December 2024 during the Agri-food System Day of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This high-level interactive dialogue was organized in coordination with several partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as co-leads of the Agri-food System Day, as well as with several other partners. The session was attended by 370 people.

Opening and keynote speaker

2. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan, FAO Goodwill Ambassador, emphasized the urgent need to transform agrifood systems to address multiple overlapping challenges, particularly in the Near East and North Africa region where water scarcity and land degradation are severe. While acknowledging that one third of global agricultural land faces degradation, she framed this crisis as an opportunity to implement sustainable practices that could simultaneously enhance food security, protect biodiversity, sequester carbon and improve climate resilience. She called for coordinated action across sectors, highlighting the role of government policies, private investment and farmer empowerment – especially for women and youth – in achieving these transformative goals. “By adopting sustainable and inclusive practices, we can turn agrifood systems into solutions for some of the most pressing challenges of our time,” said Princess Basma, calling on “Parties and global communities to take bold action, driving forward policies and investment that will accelerate the transition towards sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems”. She also highlighted that “the Agri-food Systems component of the Riyadh Action Agenda serves as a platform for showcasing innovative collaborative solutions that address food security, land degradation and climate challenges in tandem. It represents a commitment to creating actionable pathways towards a more sustainable and inclusive future”. Princess Basma closed with a powerful message: “Land is life. Without land, we have no life, there is no future. It is our responsibility to leave a better world for our children.”

3. H.E. Dr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, launched the Riyadh Action Agenda on behalf of the COP 16 Presidency, and presented it as an effort to harness the collective energies of diverse non-state actors, together with state actors, to promote ambitious, voluntary action and partnerships in support of the UNCCD goal of restoring 1.5 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 to achieve land degradation neutrality. Dr. Faqeeha highlighted that people need to be at the centre of these efforts, particularly those on the frontline of land degradation and desertification. Through initiatives like the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security, the UNCCD Rangelands Flagship Initiative, and the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils, he explained that they could scale up responses to address degraded agricultural land while promoting sustainable and inclusive food systems. “It is time for action,” said Dr. Faqeeha. “We have talked enough, but really the action is lacking. Initiatives, finance, private sector participation are lacking. We need to face this today, because if we delay until tomorrow, the impacts will be exponentially multiplied. This is the focus of this COP 16 and the Saudi Arabia Presidency: to have a Riyadh Action Agenda, and that is why we are launching it today. We would like to lead by example, reflecting our wishes into action

on the ground. We call upon all of you to join us.” Dr. Faqeeha called on participants to “make this COP about action, let us translate our ambition and wishes into initiatives, and be proud that we have a Riyadh Action Agenda that could be a legacy, that we really cherish and continue to build for the future”.

Panel 1 – The Riyadh Action Agenda: Accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems¹⁰

4. Panel 1 convened high-level representatives from international organizations, civil society and the private sector to explore practical pathways for transforming agrifood systems through the Riyadh Action Agenda. Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir moderated discussions on critical issues ranging from financing mechanisms for smallholder farmers to landscape-level business approaches for addressing land degradation. “The Riyadh Action Agenda is focusing on people in the centre,” he highlighted, “with action plans that need to be prioritized in the needs of vulnerable communities, and it needs to be co-designed and incorporate traditional Indigenous and local knowledge into the solutions and promote a just transition. It will build alignment and drive progress toward shared goals and objectives in the critical action areas of land restoration, drought and water resilience and agrifood systems, with key enablers around finance, governance and science, technology and innovation.” He went on to thank “Dr. Osama and Saudi Arabia for elevating the importance of agrifood systems transformation onto the global stage and embedding it into the agenda of the UNCCD”.

5. IFAD President Mr. Alvaro Lario highlighted the organization’s strategies for building smallholder farmer resilience while restoring soil health. President Lario referred to the announcement¹¹ that the World Bank is doubling its agrifinance and agribusiness commitments, which will rise to USD 9 billion annually by 2030, focusing on small-scale farmers and small agribusinesses, and calling for mechanisms to implement these investments and take them to scale.

6. The United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Ms. Inger Andersen outlined key challenges and opportunities for accelerating food system transformation, calling on participants to “focus on what we eat, how we produce it, what inputs we use, and how much we waste”. “Food is history, identity, culture,” said Ms. Anderson, and “food systems are an absolutely fundamental element of all of the Rio conventions”.

7. Ms. Esther Penunia from the Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development brought critical insights from family farmers who produce 80 per cent of food in Africa and Asia, emphasizing their frontline role in addressing land degradation. “I feel much hope and happiness because we see that the Riyadh Action Agenda recognizes the role of family farmers and frontline actors in the work for restoring our lands and ecosystems,” she said, “as well as in making a great contribution to make our food systems resilient and sustainable.” Ms. Penunia called on policies and incentives that target frontline workers, stating that “there are 514 million family farms in the world, out of which 80 per cent are small scale. If we help them, we can achieve this agenda in the next five years”.

8. Mr. Oliver Oliveros from the Agroecology Coalition explored how agri-food system transformation could advance goals across the Rio conventions. “First, there is an opportunity to embed and put in front and centre the systems thinking and doing into NDCs, NBSAPs and LDN,” he said. “Second, we need to scale finance. Third, supporting countries that are championing agroecology (e.g. Colombia, Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya and many more). And finally, supporting frontline food systems actors, not only making them involved in policy

¹⁰ Mr. Alvaro Lario, President, IFAD; Ms. Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA); Mr. Oliver Oliveros, Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, Agroecology Coalition; Ms. Jennifer Morris, Chief Executive Officer, The Nature Conservancy; Ms. Diane Holdorf, Executive Vice President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

¹¹ See https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/10/23/world-bank-group-announces-strategic-pivot-in-agribusiness-doubles-financial-commitment?cid=ECR_TT_worldbank_EN_EXT

discussions but, more importantly, governing and managing resources, and making funding mechanisms as simple and accessible as possible.”

9. Ms. Jennifer Morris from The Nature Conservancy focused on the soil-water-agrifood nexus. With explicit examples of action happening across the world, Ms. Morris stated that, for the transformation towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems, “soil is watershed health, and water is also critical”.

10. Ms. Holdorf from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development concluded by examining business sector approaches to achieving holistic outcomes for people, climate and nature through landscape-level interventions, announcing that the Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes reported substantial progress in 2024, with collective investments in regenerative landscapes reaching over USD 6 billion, nearly a threefold increase from the previous year. “Businesses have made the commitment to action. We need that even more, and the Riyadh Action Agenda provides the enabling framework to go further and faster to that goal,” said Ms. Holdorf. “Having an Action Agenda that brings together the themes of the three COPs but really focuses on the solutions that we need to improve our lands and adjust to drought challenges is going to make a very substantial difference, and business is really committed to supporting this.”

Panel 2. How Governments can accelerate progress toward sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems¹²

11. Panel 2 brought together senior government officials, international institutions and Indigenous representatives to examine how governments can drive progress toward sustainable agrifood systems with a specific focus on effective governance mechanisms, policy coordination and innovative institutional arrangements. It explored the critical role of cross-ministerial coordination, particularly between ministries of environment and agriculture, the power of inclusive consultative approaches, and strategies for re-orienting policies and public finance to support this transformation.

12. Ms. Aissatou Oumarou from the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa addressed critical issues of land tenure security and women's rights, while Dr. Valerie Hickey, World Bank Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, examined how to repurpose the USD 650 billion in annual agricultural subsidies toward nature-positive practices. The Panel featured insights from three countries implementing distinctive approaches: H.E. Ahmed Saleh Aiadh AlKhamshi, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, discussed the benefits of integrating environment, agriculture and water under one ministry; H.E. Dr. Pyseth Meas, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, shared experiences with their Conservation Agriculture platform; and H.E. Jambaltseren Tumur-Uya, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, outlined inter-ministerial coordination strategies for managing vast rangelands while meeting international commitments.

Panel 3. Enablers for Transformation: Finance, Governance, Science, Technology and Innovation¹³

13. Panel 3 convened leaders from research institutions, international organizations, farmers' associations and financial institutions to explore key enablers for transforming

¹² Ms. Aissatou Oumarou, Deputy Coordinator, Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC); Dr. Valerie Hickey, Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, World Bank; H.E. Ahmed Saleh Aiadh AlKhamshi, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Saudi Arabia; H.E. Dr. Pyseth Meas, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia; H.E. Jambaltseren Tumur-Uya, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry.

¹³ Mr. Alberto Broch, President, Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of South America (COPROFAM), and Vice-President, World Rural Forum (WRF); Dr. Joao Campari, Global Leader, Food & Agriculture Practice, WWF International; Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR; Dr. AbdulHakim Elwaer, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative

agrifood systems. The panel examined critical aspects of finance, governance and innovation needed to accelerate change. The panel explored context-specific solutions, addressed the crucial issues of land rights and gender equity, examined how we can better track and measure progress, and discussed the revolutionary potential of data and technology. They also tackled the question of finance: how we can mobilize the resources needed to support this transformation?

14. Mr. Alberto Broch, President of the Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of South America (COPROFAM), representing four million family farmers, highlighted essential enablers for agricultural land restoration, while the World Wide Fund for Nature's Dr. Joao Campari broadened the discussion to include food environments and consumption patterns. CGIAR's Dr. Ismahane Elouafi identified research priorities and multi-disciplinary approaches linking the Rio conventions, complemented by FAO's Dr. AbdulHakim Elwaer sharing game-changing interventions from global experience. The private sector perspective came from Nestlé's Mr. Rob Cameron on innovation and progress tracking, while European Investment Bank Vice-President Ms. Gelsomina Vigliotti concluded by addressing how financial institutions can support farmers' access to affordable financial services.

Frontline perspectives¹⁴

15. The final segment of the dialogue turned to crucial voices from the frontlines of agricultural transformation, featuring Indigenous leadership and emerging farmer representatives. Ms. Sara Edith Omi Casama brought perspectives from the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests, while Mr. Richard Kachungu shared insights from his work with young farmers. These leaders shared lived experiences from their communities and presented a powerful call to action, emphasizing that meaningful transformation must be grounded in frontline leadership and collaborative action. Mr. Kachungu highlighted that "the Riyadh Action Agenda identified priorities are all deeply interconnected with frontline actors, youth, women and Indigenous communities who bear the burden of land degradation and the climate crisis. Young people are critical in achieving the Riyadh Action Agenda's vision."

Closing remarks

16. The closing remarks¹⁵ celebrated all the stakeholders that joined the high-level dialogue. "The Riyadh Action Agenda needs to be people-centred," said the UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Meza Murillo. "We need the private sector, engagement of non-state actors, the communities, we need technology and finance. Only catalysing, working together, and collaborating can achieve this transformation. It is possible. The Riyadh Action Agenda is part of this celebration today. We are on this journey together." Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir, CMG, closed the session, highlighting that "this group here is representing all actors that should be involved, from all sectors and communities, and that is the biggest seed we are planting here today. We celebrate the efforts of Saudi Arabia and the UNCCD secretariat in placing this agenda at the centre of the UNCCD. This has just started. The Riyadh Action Agenda is yours".

for the Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Mr. Rob Cameron, Vice President and Global Head of ESG Engagement, Nestlé; Ms. Gelsomina Vigliotti, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB).

¹⁴ Ms. Sara Edith Omi Casama, Embera Leader and President of the Coordination of Territorial Women Leaders of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities; Mr. Richard Kachungu, Co-Founder and CEO, Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI).

¹⁵ Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir, CMG, United Nations High Level Climate Action Champion for the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Co-founder Ambition Loop; Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD.

High-Level Interactive Dialogue – Mayors’ Forum: Local leadership and innovative governance for sustainable land management

17. This high-level interactive dialogue was held during Governance Day as part of the Action Agenda of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and featured significant contributions from the Local and Regional Governments Constituency. Organized through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, under the coordination of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and in partnership with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a delegation of 30 mayors and leaders engaged in a global conversation to combat desertification/land degradation and drought as part of the Mayors’ Forum.

18. The commitment of the local and regional leaders was demonstrated through this strong mobilization as local leaders are the closest to citizens and at the forefront of efforts to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. Mayors, governors and representatives of local authorities from all corners of the world gathered to share their common challenges and explore practical approaches to mitigate and overcome the risks posed by unsustainable land management. ‘United against Drought and Land Degradation’ was the political commitment agreed upon and reflected in the Mayors’ Forum Call for Engagement and the creation of the Riyadh Process for the Local and Regional Governments, as a legacy of COP 16.

19. The Mayors’ Forum allowed for an exchange of experiences stemming from local realities in the form of two panel sessions: one on sustainable land management and the other on integrated water resource management. Their Excellencies, the Saudi Minister of Water, Environment and Agriculture, and the Deputy Mayor of Riyadh Municipality, opened the Forum with welcome remarks. In addition, Mr. Uğur Ibrahim Altay, Executive President of UCLG and Mayor of Konya in Türkiye, set the tone with a call to develop and strengthen multilateral mechanisms to enhance the empowerment of local action.

20. Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) delivered a video message which underscored the need for inclusive solutions to address migration pressures, food security, and water scarcity while ensuring no one is left behind. Throughout the Forum, local leaders called for unity in combating land degradation and drought through multilevel and multi-stakeholder approaches that place communities and their territories at the heart of sustainable development. They also endorsed the Call for Engagement and shared specific needs that will underpin the structure of the Riyadh Process, including capacity-building, the devolution of governance, and direct financing for long-term planning and implementation of measures that are both proactive and cost-effective.

21. The Mayors’ Forum Call for Engagement appeals to local and regional governments to initiate a more formal, structural engagement with the UNCCD through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments to enhance the design and financing of solutions to combat drought and land degradation. The Call for Engagement is an open invitation to other cities and their mayors and governors to join the coalition, thereby amplifying the reach and impact of the Riyadh Process for the Local and Regional Governments.

High-level interactive dialogue on science-technology and innovation

(to be completed)

Annexe IV

[Anglais seulement]

Global Youth Statement for COP16: United for Land – Our Legacy, Our Future

As we face increasing environmental challenges, the global youth community stands united under the banner Youth for Land: Protecting Our Legacy, Securing Our Future. Inspired by our shared vision for a sustainable planet, we urge decisive action during the 30th anniversary of the UNCCD, Desertification and Drought Day 2024, and COP16. The theme, "United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future," represents not just a call to action but a commitment to safeguarding the land for generations to come.

Introduction

Youth across the globe face barriers that hinder their full participation in governance, policymaking, and sustainable entrepreneurship. Limited access to markets, funding, and knowledge on desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) further restricts their contributions.

We, the youth of the world, call on global leaders convening at COP16 to take bold and transformative steps to combat DLDD and implement the UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy. Our future depends on the health of our land. We demand action to ensure a sustainable legacy.

Methodology

This statement was developed through collaborative and inclusive consultations with UNCCD Youth Caucus working groups, a workshop held on June 16, 2024, with 60 youth representatives in Bonn supported by UNCCD Land Ambassador Tarja Halonen and other high-level advocates, and input from youth networks and delegates. Contributions reflect diverse perspectives and concrete recommendations for sustainable land use. Ensuring the integration of them in the final position.

Our vision for COP16

- COP16 must serve as a turning point in the global fight against climate change and degradation of the land that sustains us. We reaffirm our commitment to sustainability, inclusion, advocacy, education, and action to ensure that the legacy we leave behind is one of positive environmental transformation, equity, and justice.
- COP16 should establish a legacy of intergenerational collaboration between the older generation of policymakers, who provide guidance for the implementation of proposed policies, and the younger generation of aspiring policymakers, empowering them to shape the future in which they will live.

Our Demands to Advance Youth Engagement at COP16 and Beyond

Advance youth-focused policies:

- Protect and promote equitable land rights for all, with a focus on marginalized youth groups, including young women, children, refugees, and Indigenous communities.
- Promote and increase youth engagement and collaboration across the Rio Conventions, fostering synergies and amplifying their advocacy messages.
- Strengthen legal frameworks and policies to safeguard youth land rights and prevent land grabs and forced evictions.
- Ensure gender inclusion and justice by guaranteeing land tenure and rights for young women and girls.

- Advocate for equitable access to land, particularly for marginalized and underrepresented communities.
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track inclusivity and assess the impact of land-based interventions.
- Implement human-rights-based land policies that integrate Indigenous knowledge with science-based approaches.

Support meaningful participation and partnerships:

- Institutionalize youth participation in governance structures, negotiations, and decision-making processes through platforms like committees, councils, and advisory boards.
- Ensure grassroots-level participation by prioritizing equitable youth representation, particularly Indigenous and marginalized communities, supported by financial resources and inclusion in national delegations.
- Guarantee meaningful youth involvement in shaping and implementing policies, strategies, and solutions for DLDD and sustainable land management, while integrating youth voices into accountability frameworks.
- Empower youth organizations, including those in global south and conflict-affected regions, to lead and monitor land restoration projects, supported by transparent mechanisms to track engagement strategies.

Provide dedicated financial and technical support:

- Provide accessible, long-term, and flexible funding to support youth-led initiatives, sustainable land management projects, and young entrepreneurship in land restoration and nature-based solutions.
- Invest in green jobs within sustainable sectors like agriculture, forestry, and land restoration, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and career development opportunities for youth.
- Reform subsidies and create incentives for innovative, scalable, and sustainable business models, while promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration to assist communities most affected by land degradation and droughts.
- Enhance sustainable land management through transparent data collection, investment in research and technology, and amplification of Indigenous practices.
- Establish inclusive platforms for practical knowledge-sharing, connecting youth in agriculture and land management with international experts and professionals to foster skills transfer.
- Prioritize financial support from dedicated funding to youth, children, and women in local communities, particularly in the Global South and conflict-affected areas, to enable effective ecosystem restoration, while ensuring that funding strategies are aligned with goals of peace, security, and resilience.

Build capacity and support networking:

- Build capacity for marginalized youth through grassroots initiatives, educational programs, and formal advocacy channels, including participation in UNCCD COP sessions.
- Promote international and intergenerational collaboration to share and replicate successful DLDD solutions, integrating Indigenous knowledge with scientific research.
- Incentivize educational and knowledge-sharing initiatives focused on DLDD solutions and sustainable practices, ensuring accessibility to youth.

- Support youth training on the science-policy interface to enhance their understanding and application of sustainable land management and resilience-building strategies.
- Create inclusive spaces for sharing best practices in sustainable agriculture, forestry, and land-use practices, fostering networking and learning opportunities for youth.

Conclusion

The intentionality of the convention to center youth engagement was fully felt for us when the parties requested the secretariat for a Youth Engagement Strategy and since then, we the young people have worked very closely with various stakeholders to respond.

The UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy is not just a document; it is a roadmap, a call to action, and a testament to the belief that young people are not only stakeholders but catalysts for transformation in combating desertification, land degradation, and drought as it seeks to bridge this gap by embedding youth voices and actions into the very fabric of the Convention's policies and programs.

But let us be clear: a strategy, no matter how comprehensive, means little without implementation. This is why the focus of our work during the Fourth Youth Forum and throughout COP16 is so critical. Implementation transforms vision into reality, words into action, and strategies into sustainable change.

As we move forward, I urge all of us to consider three core areas where implementation must take root:

Amplifying Youth Voices in Decision-Making: Youth must have not only a seat at the table but also a voice that resonates in decisions shaping land restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience. The Youth Engagement Strategy envisions a world where youth leadership is not optional but essential.

Scaling Youth-Led Initiatives: Across regions, young people are already implementing groundbreaking projects in agroecology, renewable energy, and community-based land restoration. Let us work together to provide the resources, mentorship, and platforms needed to amplify these efforts.

Building Capacity and Networks: Empowerment begins with knowledge. Through partnerships, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms, we must equip youth with the tools to influence policies, manage projects, and sustain their impact for generations to come.

Our message is clear: our shared legacy is at risk without action. Together, we must create a future where land degradation is a thing of the past and the land is a thriving foundation for all life. We, the youth, are not a distant hope for the future; we are the force driving change today. Together, let us ensure that the implementation of the UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy is not just a goal but a reality—one that transforms our communities, regenerates our lands, and secures a sustainable future for all.

We, the youth of the world, stand united for land, calling upon the global community to listen, engage, and act.

This is our legacy, our future. Let us protect it together.

Thank you.

Annexe V

[Anglais seulement]

Report from the Business for Land Forum

Summary of the Business for Land Forum

1. The Business for Land Forum brought together leaders from business, government and civil society to discuss concrete actions for restoring land, preserving ecosystems and improving resilience to drought and environmental stresses. It aimed to highlight business leadership and mobilize financial commitments from private and philanthropic sectors to scale up land restoration efforts globally and foster cross-sector collaboration to create enabling environments for sustainable land management. The forum was structured around three pillars:

- Business Operations & Value Chain Engagement
- Finance for Land Restoration
- Advocacy and Collaboration

2. The forum opened with a video which showcased the importance of sustainable land stewardship for businesses. The video was produced by the World Economic Forum and the Presidency of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to showcase their endorsement of the UNCCD's Business for Land initiative. This was followed by remarks from H.E. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, President of COP 16, who announced the Presidency's ambition of utilizing COP 16 as a launch pad to strengthen private sector involvement in efforts to combat desertification/land degradation and drought. In the following panel, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Mr. André Hoffmann and Ms. Gim Huay Neo stressed that sustainable land conservation, management and restoration present a tremendous opportunity for the private sector to drive positive impact and safeguard business profitability.

3. After the opening of the event, two keynote speeches on pioneering sustainability were given. Ms. Erin Billman, the Executive Director of the Science Based Targets Network, spoke on the importance of measurable targets in driving action. Ms. Laurene Aubert, the International Nature Markets Lead from the Green Finance Institute, presented the Business for Land report titled "Corporate disclosures and target-setting on land guide".

4. The panel titled "Unlocking opportunities in sustainable land, soil and water management" further explored the opportunities that come with sustainable land management, conservation, and restoration. The panellists emphasized how land stewardship is not just an environmental, social and governance (ESG) activity for businesses but also a strategic objective; to safeguard value chains, sustainable land, soil and water stewardship must become a core part of business operations. Speakers stressed that this must be pursued with broad stakeholder alignment, ensuring equitable approaches across value chains.

5. The following segment, titled "Driving innovation and connectivity – technology and sustainability", highlighted the transformative role of technology, innovation and sustainable practices in addressing environmental challenges such as land degradation and drought resilience. Speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration between public and private sectors to develop solutions, including leveraging digital tools for land restoration, using reliable soil health data to enhance transparency and drive meaningful action, and adopting technologies like solar desalination to address water quality and salinity issues affecting coastal communities. They underscored the critical economic dependency on natural capital, advocating sustainable practices throughout supply chains and framing investments in land as opportunities to simultaneously improve biodiversity, food security and drought resilience. This integrated approach was presented as a powerful way to align environmental stewardship with business profitability and global sustainability goals.

6. In a subsequent speech, Dr. Osama Faqeeha emphasized the critical role of natural capital, particularly land, in economic systems. He outlined how land degradation, often caused by human activities across various sectors, must be addressed by integrating sustainable practices throughout supply chains. Dr. Faqeeha highlighted the essential link between business sustainability and long-term profitability, encouraging businesses to engage more deeply in discussions about land investment, portraying it as a multifaceted opportunity that supports biodiversity, food security and climate resilience.

7. In the following panel, titled “Championing land, soil and water stewardship”, five industry leaders brought together a diverse set of voices to discuss how to achieve the ambitious goal of restoring 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030 while increasing drought resilience. The panellists discussed how they are advancing land, soil and water stewardship through their business operations, investments and advocacy, sharing the solutions they are already implementing. The experts emphasized the critical need for sustainable practices to address environmental challenges, highlighting the importance of restoring degraded ecosystems, enhancing soil health and adopting regenerative agricultural methods. They stressed that collaboration among businesses, governments, non-governmental organizations and communities is crucial for scaling up solutions, while innovation and technology play key roles in aligning ecological restoration with economic growth.

8. The forum concluded with a compelling call to action from Ms. Éliane Ubalijoro, Mr. Philippe Zaouati, Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo and Mr. Kevin Tayebali, urging the private sector to step up its commitment to ecosystem health and sustainable land, soil and water management. Dr. Ubalijoro highlighted the urgent need for investments that go beyond carbon to include water replenishment, ecosystems and the communities they sustain. She advocated scaling up equitable, science-informed forestry investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Zaouati emphasized the vital role of private financing in addressing environmental challenges, and announced the launch of the Sustainable Land Fund II, urging greater financial sector engagement in land degradation neutrality initiatives. The forum culminated with a unified call for private sector entities to actively participate in sustainable land, soil and water restoration efforts through the Business for Land Initiative.

Speakers in the main event:

1. H.E. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, COP 16 President
2. H.E. Dr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, Advisor to the COP 16 President
3. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
4. André Hoffmann, member of the High-Level Advisory Committee of COP 16 and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Roche Holding
5. Gim Huay Neo, Managing Director, Centre for Nature and Climate, World Economic Forum
6. Erin Billman, Executive Director, Science Based Targets Network
7. Juliano Salgado, President and filmmaker, Instituto Terra
8. Laurène Aubert, Expert and author of the Business for Land report titled “Corporate disclosures and target-setting on land guide”
9. Diane Holdorf, Executive Vice President, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development
10. Henri Bruxelles, Chief Sustainability and Strategic Business Development Officer, Danone
11. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, International “4 per 1000” Initiative
12. John Giusti, Chief Regulatory Officer, Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) and President of the GSMA Foundation
13. Adrienne de Malleray, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Genesis Soil Health

14. Abdulrahman Ghassan Alshibl, General Manager, Saudi Desert Control
15. Shuyuan Zhang, Director of Sustainable Development, China Shengmu
16. Sandrine Sommer, Chief Sustainability Officer, Moët Hennessy
17. Philippe Zaouati, CEO, Mirova
18. Dr. Hamed Beheshti, CEO and Co-founder, Boreal Light GmbH
19. Marina Negrisoni, Director of Sustainability, Suzano
20. Éliane Ubalijoro, CEO, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
21. Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD

Moderators:

1. Kevin Tayebaly, Co-founder of ChangeNOW
2. Becky Anderson, Journalist and CNN International Anchor

Annexe VI

[Anglais seulement]

Sacred Lands Indigenous Peoples Declaration at the UNCCD COP 16, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

**Presented on People's Day
High-Level Event, Indigenous Peoples for Land
December 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., MET-33**

1. It has been thirty-one years since the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development that led to the creation of the sister conventions: the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). These conventions were meant to address the issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification, drought, and land degradation, but we are not any nearer to the resolution of these problems. We continue to experience the crises brought about by over-consumption and disregard for nature.

2. Here at UNCCD COP16, we acknowledge the support of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UNCCD Secretariat in bringing together—for the first time—Indigenous Peoples' representatives from Africa; the Arctic; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

RESPECT, RECOGNIZE, PROMOTE AND PROTECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN THE UNCCD POLICIES AND ACTIONS

3. We call on Parties to ensure an approach that embraces human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights in all policies and actions related to land restoration and resilience building. We call on Parties to respect, recognize, promote, and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights, based on the fundamental right to self-determination, provided for in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and its General Recommendation 23. Indigenous Peoples' lands and territorial rights, tenure systems, and governance need to be recognized and upheld. Indigenous Peoples' abilities to manage their lands and territories should be maintained and enhanced in all UNCCD policies and actions, including recognition and support for Indigenous Peoples' collective actions and efforts related to the restoration of degraded lands and conservation of our lands and territories.

ENSURE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUTH, IN LAND-RELATED PROCESSES AND PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

4. Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories are on the frontline of environmental crises, including land desertification, drought and degradation. The full engagement of Indigenous Peoples is critical to the success of the UNCCD. We urge Parties to establish an Indigenous Peoples Caucus within the UNCCD at COP16, as rightsholders, distinct from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). In keeping with established norms within the United Nations, the creation of a distinct caucus will create a meaningful space to exchange knowledge amongst ourselves and enable us to more effectively advise the UNCCD. This will bring the UNCCD in line with other UN fora, including the sister conventions, the General Assembly resolution 71/321, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAND RESTORATION, STEWARDSHIP, AND TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOODS

5. There is no doubt that Indigenous Peoples have unique knowledge systems and livelihoods arising from our ancestral connections and close ties with our lands and territories. This knowledge is a valuable source of feasible solutions that can contribute to the effective implementation of the UNCCD. We call for the equitable and ethical inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, science and technologies, values, practices, and innovations in the decisions of the UNCCD COP16. We urge Parties to provide a permanent seat for Indigenous Peoples on the Committee on Science and Technology.

ENSURE DIRECT ACCESS TO FINANCES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM ALL SEVEN SOCIO-CULTURAL REGIONS

6. We stress the need to directly fund the self-determined actions of Indigenous Peoples with regards to protecting and restoring lands and territories. We advocate for the inclusion of the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision making about the UNCCD funds and financial mechanisms and provide for direct access to resources without relying on intermediaries. The funding mechanisms should be equitable, non-discriminatory, accessible, flexible, and responsive to priorities across all socio-cultural regions without political impediments. We urge Parties to support our request for the representation of Indigenous Peoples as active observers on the Riyadh Action Agenda and Riyadh Drought Resilience Partnership Fund. We encourage the UNCCD to create a dedicated fund for Indigenous Peoples' initiatives on land restoration, conservation, and desertification and drought resilience.

7. We offer our strong appreciation to the COP Presidency and Secretariat for their commitment to Indigenous Caucus members. We call on other Parties and upcoming COP President to also extend their support in forthcoming meetings. We remain committed to working with the Parties as full partners and trust our contributions bring benefit for all. We remind everyone that, without the full recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights and to the matters set out in this Declaration, the goals of the Convention will ultimately not be achieved. Therefore, we count on you to uphold our rights.

8. Shukran! Thank you! Merci! Gracias! Спасибо! 谢谢 (Xièxie)!

9. In a few of our Indigenous languages: Ousseko! Mingetti! Ondjarama! Miigwetch! Wophila Tanka! Kurang! Ikatu Nekopoe! Hahom! Soro Nyo Wogh! Matiox! Doggus Nued! Nga Mihi Nui! Ashe Naleng! Kotoluadan! Salamat! Tyoox Tii! Khop Khun kha! Sepas! Saqol! Morī pe! Molyii! Tat fa kup! Maketai! Spasibo! Jaan byiyan! Eyde polzyyn! Nugen! Min yetti! Alatsüking!