



UNCCD CRIC21  
13-17 NOVEMBER 2023  
SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

# CSOs KEY MESSAGES

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*The world faces new challenges related to climate change, economic recession, wars, and other conflicts, increasing the threats to our land, food security, and well-being. Reports tell us that we are way behind the commitments made.*

*This is a matter of urgency. There is no time to waste. CSOs have, therefore, prepared a series of Key Messages for CRIC21 .*



UNCCD  
CSO Panel

# 5 UMBRELLA KEY MESSAGES

- 1) To all Parties to the UNCCD: develop and implement LDN plans that are complementary to and coherent with the plans of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions, and ensure timely and efficient monitoring, reporting and communication processes of LDN, and especially of local LDN actions such as agroecological approaches and regenerative practices.**
- 2) Implement drought policies that:**
  - Support community-led conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, and water bodies.**
  - Facilitate agroecological approaches and regenerative practices.**
    - Limit water-intensive business practices.**
  - Encourage cross-sectoral, multi-level, and international knowledge exchange on drought mitigation, preparedness, and response.**
- 3) Secure meaningful inclusion of women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples into decision-making for LDN policy development, implementation and monitoring.**
- 4) Collect, update and harmonise data and continuously report on legitimate tenure rights, including informal tenure and customary rights, to facilitate knowledge exchange and inform practice development on the implementation of VGGTs at national, subnational and local level.**
- 5) Support local LDN actions of local communities and knowledge exchange with other local communities, CSOs, policy makers, politicians, scientists, and researchers by accessible funding mechanisms (including small grants) that consider the characteristics and requirements of local groups and the organisations that support them.**



# ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 1-4

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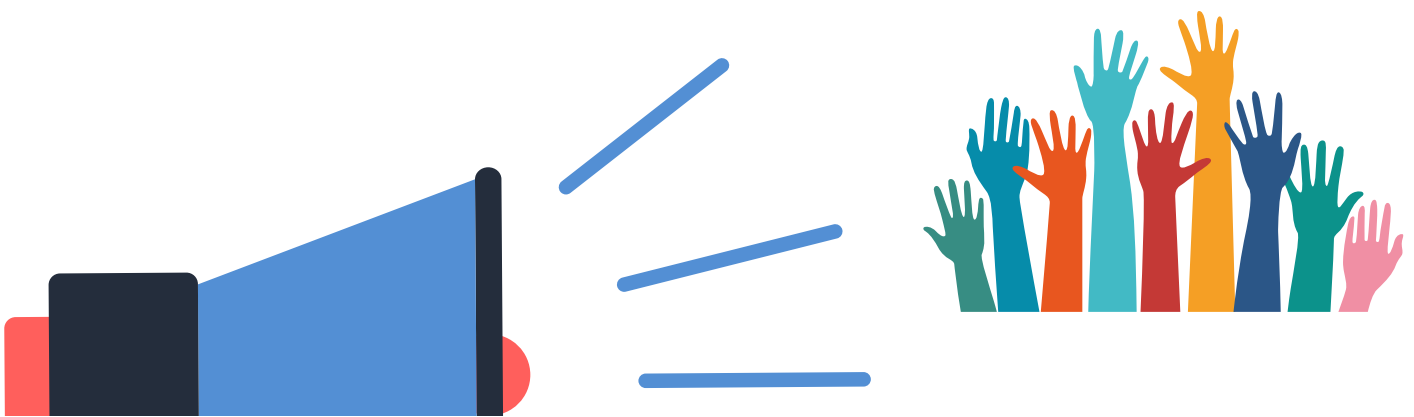
- **Urge Parties to adopt and implement effective measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation to meet SDG target 15.3 of ensuring a land-degradation neutral world by 2030.**
- **Halt ecosystem conversion and build on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to promote and encourage the preservation of agro-ecosystems based on agroecological approaches.**
- **Access to land for the most vulnerable populations is indispensable to encourage and better guarantee medium and long-term investments favourable to agroecological approaches and ecosystems restoration.**
- **The increasing severity, occurrence and impact of drought worldwide demands higher commitment from Parties to implement policies that support community-led conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems that facilitate agroecological approaches and regenerative practices, limit water-intensive business sectors and encourage cross-sectoral, multi-level and international knowledge exchange on drought mitigation, preparedness and response.**
- **Include wisely a reference to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 10 on agroecological approaches to ensure that areas under agriculture are managed sustainably.**



# ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 1-4

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- **Integrated governmental, non-governmental and community efforts are needed for more specific identification of vulnerabilities and actions to increase resilience to drought, supporting community-led conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, agroecological approaches and regenerative practices and drought mitigation, preparedness, and response.**
- **Humanize Drought! Give drought a human face and better understand the impacts of this disaster on the lives of children, women, men, farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.**
- **Integral approaches to connect climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction allow full and effective implementation of LDN targets.**
- **As the independent assessment report mentioned, improve progress toward the Strategic Objectives by encouraging participatory planning and inclusivity.**
- **Encourage closer cooperation between the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism with CSOs on the ground to improve effectiveness of the UNCCD implementation.**

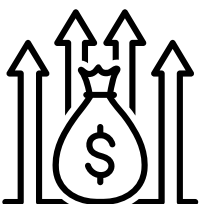




# ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

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- **Equitable access to flexible and adequate financial and non-financial resources, from all sources, are needed for civil society organizations supporting grassroots groups and communities, particularly women and youth, to achieve LDN, monitor LDN projects, and compliance with the objectives of the Convention.**
- **Promote a precautionary approach to financing mechanisms to combat DLDD such as public and private partnerships, blended finance, green bonds and debt swaps. They often lack transparency, participation and socio-environmental safeguards and distract from the main priority: halting natural habitat conversion and reducing CO2 emissions. For more efficiency, eliminate harmful incentives and subsidies or redirect them in a just, fair, effective and equitable way to practices that lead to biodiversity protection and sustainable land management.**



# ON PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION AS WELL AS THE QUALITY AND FORMATS OF REPORTS

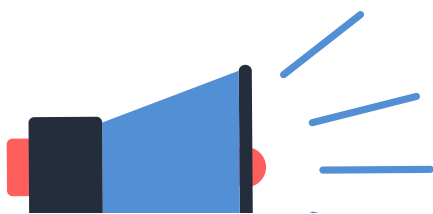
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- Improve the efficiency of the UNCCD reporting process through enhanced planning process such as the launch, technical review, and political adoption in a timely manner to enable proper engagement, coordination and inclusion of all key stakeholders while ensuring the integration of information generated from other national processes and synergies between reporting to Rio Conventions and SDGs.
- Ensure full participation of CSOs, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and relevant stakeholders' participation in developing national reports. They should also benefit from training on reporting tools and their access to funding be simplified.
- Enhance the reporting process and communication of the PRAIS report by including a narrative report developed by a national group of experts including CSOs and relevant stakeholders.

# ON IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTARY LDN TARGETS AND RELATED IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

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- Call on more countries to start and/or finalise their voluntary LDN target-setting processes, and to adopt their LDN targets at the highest political level.
- Call for joint strategic and complementary work between LDN targets, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, as well as related funding, planning, programming, reporting and monitoring.





# ON SAND AND DUST STORMS

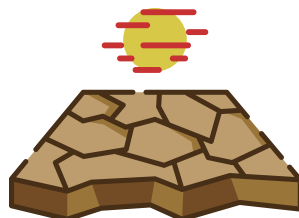
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**Regional, cross sectoral and multi-level collaborations which include local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, CSOs, academics and scientists are needed to understand and address sand and dust storms effectively.**

# ON DROUGHT

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- **National drought policies that include the voices on the ground are a key instrument for integrated approaches and for linking climate change adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. More Parties have to adopt and implement their National Drought Plans, and ensure meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, promoting their traditional knowledge.**
- **Drought must be considered as a natural disaster risk in the context of loss and damage and benefit from the related financing.**



# ON LAND TENURE

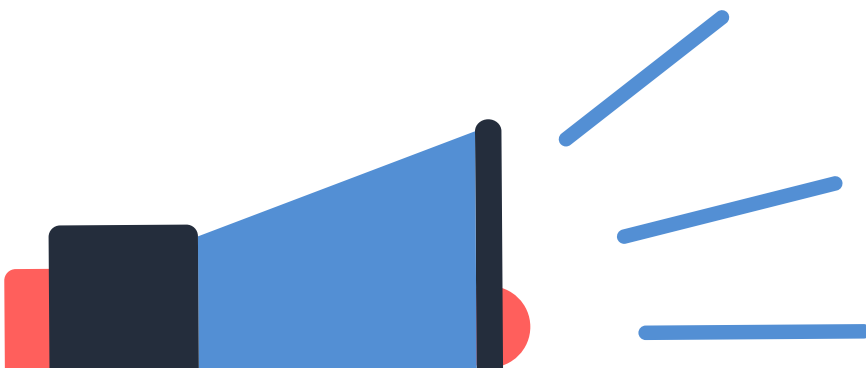
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Continue integrating land tenure in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and to proactively collect data on legitimate land tenure rights in priority areas of voluntary land degradation neutrality plans for improved decision-making, knowledge exchange and practice development in the fight against desertification, degradation and drought.

# ON GENDER

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Promote the recognition of a Women and Gender Constituency from civil society in the UNCCD process to further strengthen gender justice within the Convention.





# ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON DROUGHT

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Urge Parties, with the support of the SPI and the IWG,  
to define a solidarity mechanism on Drought to  
enable both reactive and proactive management.



READ MORE AT:

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/CSOCRIC21](https://linktr.ee/csocric21)

