

UNCCD COP16
2-13 DECEMBER 2024
SAUDI ARABIA

CSOs KEY MESSAGES

***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.***



12 KEY MESSAGES



1 Secure and support meaningful inclusion of women, youth, local communities, pastoralist communities and Indigenous Peoples into decision-making for policy development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting at national, subnational and local levels **through local and national multi-stakeholder platform dialogues and consultation** as their experience, knowledge, perceptions and solutions are vital for the effective implementation of the UNCCD and decision-making regarding LDN, Drought, Sustainable Land Management and Sand and Dust Storms.



2 Develop and implement policies and governance at the national and sub-national levels that actively:

- **Support agroecological and agroforestry approaches** and practices of local communities, pastoralist communities and Indigenous Peoples to ensure food security and the right to food.
- **Support women-led, youth-led, community-led and Indigenous-led conservation and restoration** of natural ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, and water bodies.
- **Limit water-intensive business practices.**
- **End all public support for land-degrading agriculture, infrastructure, extractive industries and land conversion** for renewable energy production.



3 Support locally led actions and initiatives and knowledge exchange between local communities, pastoral communities, Indigenous Peoples, CSOs, policymakers, politicians, scientists, and researchers **by accessible funding mechanisms** (including small grants) that consider the leadership, characteristics and requirements of local groups and the organisations that support them to build sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies.

12 KEY MESSAGES



4 Ensure the mobilisation of public financial resources that keep pace with the escalating negative effects of desertification, land degradation, drought and sand storms, **through measures such as taxation and fiscal incentives.**



5 Support, develop, and implement plans in line with the UNCCD decisions at the national and sub-national levels that are complementary to and coherent with the plans of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions.



6 Ensure inclusive monitoring, reporting and communication processes of actions, especially of locally led actions, such as agroecological approaches and practices, and community-led conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.



7 Report on SDG targets that are relevant for UNCCD in general and more specifically on indicators 15.3.1 (LDN), 1.4.2 (land tenure security), 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 (land tenure security for women), 11.5 (disasters, including water-related disasters), 17.9.1 (financial and technical assistance for SDGs) **and include these indicators into PRAIS.**

12 KEY MESSAGES



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Support the implementation of COP14 Decision 26 on land tenure security by making capacity and funding available for practical knowledge development activities for policymakers, decision-makers, land administrators, civil society, and local organisations (in particular those led by women, youth, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples) based upon the UNCCD-FAO Technical Guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests into Land Degradation Neutrality (such as an international programme of short courses for mid-career professionals).



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Collect, update and harmonise sex and age-disaggregated data on legitimate tenure rights (including informal tenure and customary rights) **and facilitate knowledge exchange between local communities, pastoral communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society actors, local authorities and policymakers** on the implementation of VGGTs at the national, subnational and local levels for responsible land governance.



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Encourage cross-sectoral and multi-level knowledge exchange between scientists, policymakers, decision-makers, local communities, pastoral communities, Indigenous Peoples and civil society actors.

12 KEY MESSAGES

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Actively contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, and support the UNCCD secretariat to establish a gender team within the secretariat and the GM to incorporate the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan, and support timely delivery of activities named in the Gender Action Plan Roadmap presented at CRIC21.

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Encourage more inclusivity within UNCCD:

- **Support the Gender Caucus** to organise network and knowledge-sharing events during and in between the official UNCCD meetings.
- Ensure that **a gender expert is included in the Terms of Reference for the composition of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface.**
- At the national level, name **gender focal points for UNCCD.**
- **Support the Youth Caucus** to organise network and knowledge-sharing events during and in between the official UNCCD meetings.
- **Support and facilitate the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Caucus** within the UNCCD to enhance their effective and practical participation in UNCCD processes.
- **Support and actively engage with civil society organisations** on UNCCD matters, policies and reporting and in preparation of the COPs and CRICs, at the local, subnational, national and international levels.
- **Provide training, workshops, and exchange platforms** to Parties, civil society, scientists, and other key actors to enhance understanding of inclusivity within the UNCCD and the other Rio Conventions
- **Financially support the CSO Panel** in mobilising CSOs within the context of UNCCD.
- **Welcome representatives of the UNCCD CSO Observer group appointed by the CSO Panel to be part of the contact groups.**



Read more at

<https://linktr.ee/CSOCOP16>



UNCCD
CSO Panel