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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Convention to Combat Desertification Twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 23) (Panama City, Panama, 1–5 December 2025) - Statements by the EU and its Member States

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Delegations will find in Annex, for information, a revised version of the compilation of statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, at the Twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 23) (Panama City, Panama, 1-5 December 2025). The compilation has been revised to reflect the fact that no statements were delivered as regards CRIC 23 Agenda Item 4 (Interim report of the intergovernmental working group on the future strategic framework) and Agenda Item 5 (Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance).

**Convention to Combat Desertification**

**Twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the  
Convention (CRIC 23)**

**(Panama City, Panama, 1–5 December 2025)**

**- Statements by the EU and its Member States -**

**Agenda item 1: Organizational Matters (Opening statement)**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The EU and its 27 Member States would like to thank the people and Government of the Republic of Panama for their warm hospitality and their commitment to combatting desertification, land degradation, and drought demonstrated by hosting this 23rd session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCCD. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the UNCCD Secretariat, the CRIC Bureau and the CRIC Chair for their tireless work.

Discussions this week allow us to evaluate progress towards implementation of the Convention and identify steps for further strengthening our efforts to combat DLDD, thereby addressing the root causes for a multitude of related environmental, social and economic challenges. This includes reviewing methodological tools for evaluating results as well as accompanying measures and supportive initiatives. The importance of our efforts is only growing, as climate change and increasing pressure on land are driving a rise in the frequency and severity of phenomena like drought and sand and dust storms before our eyes.

We consider multilateral governance and international cooperation crucial to addressing DLDD challenges, given their global and transboundary nature. At the same time, we acknowledge these phenomena have distinct local characteristics and therefore should be addressed through approaches anchored in National Action Plans and implemented at the local level. The UNCCD should remain at the core of our collective efforts, fostering cooperation and promoting the development of integrated, science-based, human rights-based, gender transformative, conflict and displacement sensitive, and cross-cutting solutions. In this regard, we highlight the importance of strengthening the synergies among the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and desertification, land degradation and drought in a synergic manner.

We also underline the need to foster a whole-of government and whole-of society approach to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention, strengthening partnerships with diverse stakeholders including the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, and Youth.

We particularly look forward to discussions on the Future Strategic Framework, which will provide essential guidance for our future actions towards a long-term vision for implementing the Convention. We welcome the participatory and inclusive approach of having informal consultations on this matter throughout the CRIC. The EU and its Member States believe it is central for the Future Strategic Framework to build on the ongoing evolution and improvements of the UNCCD's current Strategic Framework and to be well-integrated with national implementation tools, in order to guide ambitious implementation at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

The EU and its Member States are very pleased with the inclusion of the Gender Caucus to the CRIC23 agenda. We emphasize the importance of gender equality in achieving the implementation of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 15.3 to reach land degradation neutrality by 2030, as well as SDG 5.a.1 on increasing the share of women among owners or rights-bearers of land.

The EU and its 27 Member States are fully committed to fostering the inclusive participation of all regions and working with all Parties and stakeholders in reinforcing actions and effectiveness on combating desertification, land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and any other related issues. We look forward to the discussions throughout this week with a positive and collaborative spirit, and we are confident that the outcomes of CRIC 23 will provide us with better solutions to achieve land degradation neutrality globally, as well as concrete proposals for COP 17.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

Thank you for your attention.

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## **Agenda item 2: Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels:**

### **(a) Update on the implementation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts;**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The European Union and its 27 Member States commend the remarkable progress made in the second phase of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme. We are looking forward to learning more from the experience of Parties involved in the programme.

We underline the importance of cross-sectoral synergies to achieve LDN and maximise policy integration between the Rio Conventions. Creating enabling environments, addressing inefficiency and duplications, and improving the coherence and effectiveness of indicator systems are urgent needs.

Therefore, we should ensure coherence between the financial and land use planning instruments, in view of optimizing the efficiency of financial resources, maximising co-benefits and minimising trade-offs. It is crucial for Parties to develop resource mobilisation strategies, including the identification and elimination or repurposing of subsidies harmful to the environment contributing to DLDD, for instance, in agriculture and forestry. These subsidies can unlock substantial financial resources towards more sustainable land management practices to support a fair transition.

To accomplish these objectives, we fully support collaboration of national focal points of Parties for all three Rio Conventions within LDN working groups to leverage inter-convention synergies. Land tenure is a critical cross-cutting element that needs more attention to ensure sustainable success and safeguard people's legitimate tenure rights.

Since unsustainable agricultural practices are among the major drivers of land degradation, the EU considers the implementation of agroecology and agroforestry and other ecosystem-based approaches as key practices to achieving the LDN targets on degraded agricultural lands. Their major co-benefits in terms of land and ecosystem restoration, socio-economic impacts, and improved food security, have the potential to significantly contribute to the delivery of the mandate of all the Rio Conventions.

We highlight the contribution of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) to the promotion and accessibility of sustainable land management best practices and tools and reiterate that Parties have been invited to contribute to the WOCAT multi-donor basket fund in support of the implementation of the WOCAT 2020+ Strategy. We also commend the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) Initiative for its role in developing and promoting data quality standards, capacity-building programmes and practical tools.

We note the start and initial progress of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership. We hope that the outstanding financial pledges will soon materialize to support actions on the ground. Furthermore, we welcome the establishment of the Drought Resilience Investment Facility. We are confident it will contribute to crowd-in the private sector in the field of sustainable and regenerative farming, water access, and nature-based solutions.

We highlight the importance of mobilizing resources from multiple sources, the private sector in particular, for the implementation of LDN projects. We encourage the Secretariat to keep engaging with financial partners, such as Multilateral Development Banks, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, philanthropic donors, and the private sector.

We commend the reforms proposed for the 9th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility. We appreciate the full flexibility in the use of STAR allocations and support the revision of the STAR formula to include drought vulnerability in the "Land Degradation" component. We encourage the Global Mechanism and GEF to further inform eligible countries of these opportunities. We also acknowledge the added-value of the Integrated program on Drought and Drylands proposed for the GEF-9 and we invite all concerned actors to optimize the synergies, coordination and complementarities with other global flagship programs related to drought. We support an explicit mention of the expansion on the LDN TSP among the objectives of the land degradation strategy of the GEF-9.

We emphasize the added value of increasing the expected outcomes for country-level activities. Fine-tuning investment based on the analysis of data gathered through digital tools and platforms (e.g. Trends.Earth) may catalyse such cascading effects.

Finally, we encourage Parties and the UNCCD Secretariat to strengthen coordination of efforts taken in the frame of UNCCD with relevant related initiatives on DLDD, including the G20 Global Land Initiative.

We are confident the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework will consider our recommendations while elaborating on relevant objectives and indicators.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

Thank you for your attention.

**(b) Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, land tenure**

**Sand and dust storms**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome the report on sand and dust storms by the Secretariat. Sand and dust storms have severe effects on human, ecosystem and animal health, the economy, and the provision of ecosystem services. Climate change, along with unsustainable land and water use have increased the frequency, intensity and duration of sand and dust storms over the last decade, with a greater impact on cities particularly in fragile and conflict affected countries.

The EU and its Member States welcome the Secretariat's continued engagement in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms. We particularly applaud its contribution to draft an action plan for the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms. We also welcome the continued cooperation with stakeholders on developing the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, such as through the new MoU with FAO. We encourage the Secretariat to continue widely disseminating the Toolbox and providing capacity building to all interested Parties.

The EU and its Member States further note the development of the Global Initiative for Sand and Dust Storms. We see this as a potentially important step to contributing to the action plan for the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and encourage the Global Mechanism to focus this initiative's work according to its core mandate outlined in COP16 decision 27. We believe this initiative could contribute to promoting the implementation of existing tools and instruments within the UNCCD.

The EU and its Member States support increased action to combat SDS, while also ensuring the continued prioritization of UNCCD's core areas of desertification, land degradation and drought. We firmly believe the UNCCD should promote proactive, locally led and nature-based approaches to combating sand and dust storms. It is important to focus on adaptation and source-mitigation, including promoting sustainable land management, addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought, and strengthening the resilience of affected communities and ecosystems, enhancing early warning systems and anticipatory action. We further believe the involvement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and people in vulnerable situations should always be promoted in such actions.

In a similar vein, the EU and its Member States warmly welcome the Secretariat's commissioning of a scoping study on gender dimensions of sand and dust storms. It is important to improve our knowledge base on how these phenomena affect different groups differently.

The EU underlines the importance of gender responsive and transformative policies and actions to combat Sand and Dust Storms, as well as involving all relevant stakeholders at all levels in preparation and implementation processes. We encourage the new Global Initiative to build on the recommendations from the Gender Caucus session on sand and dust storms.

The EU and its Member States stand ready to support efforts of the international community to share knowledge, increase cooperation, and scale up efforts to prevent, prepare for, halt and mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms.

### **Land tenure**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

Thank you for your attention.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The European Union and its 27 Member States would like to reaffirm the central role of land tenure for combating desertification, land degradation and drought. We stress that responsible and inclusive land governance and improved land tenure security are key enabling factors for the implementation of the UNCCD and the other Rio Conventions, and to accelerate progress towards many Sustainable Development Goals.

We recognise that effective land and land resource tenure systems are often complex, may combine formal and informal elements as well as individual and communal rights and sometimes differentiate access to various resources within the same land unit such as trees, crops, rangelands and pastures. We therefore stress the importance of integrating that complexity in responsible and inclusive land governance regimes.

We congratulate the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism for their activities in the field of land tenure carried out since COP16.

We note with satisfaction that the secretariat has begun to develop a Land Tenure Toolbox that will ease access to and offer clear overviews of relevant documents that will help Parties recognise, document, and enforce legitimate land resource rights while implementing sustainable land management and restoration activities.

We note with appreciation the continuation of the secretariat and FAO's joint initiative on land tenure. We commend their joint efforts to develop *a Compendium of Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms related to Land Tenure* and the planned accompanying awareness raising actions.

We regret that the remaining 28 countries which requested support to hold national consultations on land tenure have not yet been supported in a second round. At the same time, we appreciate that the secretariat and FAO continue to explore financial opportunities to enable further consultations. We underline the request made to the secretariat in decision 28/COP.16 to apply the lessons learned from the first phase of national consultations, and we suggest that a document summarizing these lessons be made available to all interested stakeholders.

We recall the land tenure decisions of COP14, COP15 and COP16, which requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to explore existing global indicators and datasets relevant to land governance, with a view to their possible use in future UNCCD reporting processes. We acknowledge the progress made in this regard, including through partner initiatives and developments in the reporting framework of other Conventions, such as CBD.

We emphasise the importance of continuing to explore suitable options for land governance reporting under the Future Strategic Framework of this Convention.

We also recall that strengthening women's land rights and their access to natural resources is a priority for action within the Gender Action Plan of the UNCCD and its roadmap. We therefore request the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to accelerate their actions related to access to finance and rights to land.

Finally, we stress the importance of civil society contributions to this topic. We welcome the creation of an Indigenous Peoples' Caucus and a Local Communities Caucus and underline the legitimate land tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples. We encourage Parties and the secretariat to make use of the expertise of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the design and implementation of measures to combat DLDD.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

Thank you for your attention.

**(c) Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The European Union and its 27 Member States highly appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism on capacity building and the progress made in this area. Capacity building initiatives are vital for supporting parties in implementing the Convention, enhancing their efforts and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 15.3.

Capacity building is an enabler of transformative change and must be a dynamic, inclusive, and adaptive process, based on scientific knowledge and informed by experience, responsive to emerging socio-political, economic and environmental challenges. We recognize this is a long-term process that must be rooted in national and regional realities to ensure effectiveness and relevance.

We acknowledge the resource and staffing constraints faced by the Secretariat, which, in combination with timing related factors, led to the proposal of the postponement of the development of a capacity-building strategy as mandated by COP16. We regret this postponement and firmly believe that capacity building must remain an ongoing effort and cannot be postponed until 2030. By ensuring long term effectiveness and relevance of any capacity-building function based on scientific knowledge and concrete experiences, some long-term building blocks and key priorities could already be explored and designed as dynamic, adaptive processes, allowing for an easy integration and possible alignment with the Convention's objectives and the future strategic framework, in the context of emerging global agendas.

In this regard, we trust that capacity building will be strongly integrated in the work of the IWG-FSF, also with regards to the support to Parties in the reporting of the future indicators.

Exploring innovative, resource-efficient options for capacity building structures is crucial. We invite the Secretariat to present less resource intense options. Establishing a taskforce with focal points within relevant Secretariat Unit rather than establishing a separate, new Unit could be a viable solution, promoting harmonization and breaking down silos within the Secretariat.

We welcome, in principle, the idea on working with regional hubs for capacity building, but rather than establishing new hubs, we encourage the Secretariat to explore synergies by using existing technical and scientific cooperation mechanisms under the CBD, as well as exploring cooperation with other existing initiatives such as the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). We suggest to explore integrating such considerations in the pilot projects for the upcoming reporting process with these centres, and look forward to learning about the findings of such pilots in the future, in a perspective that maximizes synergies.

A clear mandate given by a future capacity building strategy will be paramount and should be a precondition for launching and defining the work of such integrated regional hubs.



In a similar vein, the consideration of new reporting obligations on capacity building actions, should follow the definition of a comprehensive mandate and clear objective set forth in a future capacity building strategy.

We would like to take the opportunity to emphasize the value of engaging in early informal consultations on matters with budgetary implications. These discussions, grounded in transparent resource assessments, are essential for fostering trust and ensuring effective financial planning. The EU welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to explore partnerships and maximize synergies, in particular by collaborating with other Rio Conventions through the Joint Liaison Group and encourage the Secretariat to expand joint work on capacity building, including building on the Joint Capacity Development Programme on Rio Synergies.

Lastly, we would like to commend the Secretariat on the ongoing capacity building efforts, in particular supporting the implementation of the UNCCD's Gender Action Plan, as there are currently three different projects ongoing that support women negotiators in the UNCCD that will bring us a step closer to enhancing meaningful participation of women delegates and gender equality in the UNCCD.

Thank you for your attention.

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### **Agenda item 3: Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties**

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

The European Union and its 27 Member States thank the Secretariat for its continuous work to improve the reporting process, which is key to effectively implementing the UNCCD framework.

We greatly value the PRAIS platform as a harmonised reporting tool, while regretting that information gaps can still create reporting challenges. Because reliable data should always guide our decisions, we are committed to report consistently in future reporting cycles. We also recognise ongoing data challenges faced by several parties, in particular for Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) and for Small Island Developing States.

We welcome the financial support from the Global Environment Facility that enables the provision of capacity building for the 2026 reporting process. We further welcome the enhanced ecosystem of tools that supports the reporting process, such as Trends.Earth, the LDN target tracking tool, and the UNCCD Data Dashboard. We strongly encourage a clear presentation of these tools through a single, well-designed web portal, accessible from the UNCCD homepage, that allows non-specialists to understand how to use these tools and adapt to their specific purposes and to facilitate public communication, understanding, and use.

For the PRAIS platform, we consider it essential to pursue the highest resolution and scope of geospatial data possible, to allow it to be used to provide solid foundations for decision-making and the assessment of actions on the ground. We welcome the flexibility and extensibility embedded in the PRAIS platform and its tools, which accommodates future shifts in reporting requirements under new UNCCD Strategic Frameworks. We strongly encourage the Secretariat to adopt open-source technologies: they support long-term sustainability, foster innovation, and allow for broader participation and customisation.

We welcome the great work done by the Secretariat to provide countries with default estimations of the progress indicators, which resulted from its exemplary collaboration with data providers, technical partners and the Earth observation community. Moreover, we support the recommendations of the participants of the GEO-LDN dialogue to further strengthen the national UNCCD reporting capacities through ongoing training and increased stakeholder engagement with civil society, and academia and research institutions, and also encouraging the availability and utilisation of field data. This will improve the effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability of national reporting and implementation efforts. We also support further consideration of integration of the WOCAT SLM database in PRAIS, recognising that technical and procedural implications may exist.

We welcome and encourage all efforts of the Secretariat to enhance synergies in monitoring and reporting among Rio Conventions and other frameworks such as the SDGs. We welcome the use of Creative Commons licensing and open standards in this regard.

In principle, we support the proposed decentralised regional support centres and welcome the proposed pilot with the CBD's technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. We encourage the Secretariat, in conjunction with the centres, the CBD Secretariat, and the GEO-LDN Initiative, to explore how best to expand the scope of the pilots to include broader UNCCD capacity building efforts. We strongly encourage the Secretariat to consider the possibility of having joint regional centres with the CBD as well as collaboration with the UNCCD's Regional Coordination Offices and support centres.

We support the continued improvement of the PRAIS reporting platform; the reporting guidance; particularly regarding its linkages to Trends.Earth datasets and the data analytics tools related to the management, exploitation and distribution of the data collected.

Finally, the EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism for their ongoing work to support Parties throughout this process.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives,

Thank you for your attention.

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## **Agenda item 6: Special segment: Gender Caucus**

### Session 1: Leadership and worldviews of Indigenous women for sustainable land management

Distinguished delegates and representatives,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We highly appreciate the contributions made by speakers in the session, which show the perspectives, priorities and unique contributions of Indigenous women as agents of change for sustainable land management; and build on Indigenous Peoples' knowledges as well as scientific innovations. Therefore, we celebrate that the Science Policy Interface (SPI) comprises academics with expertise on gender and human rights, Indigenous Peoples, and transformative change.

We welcome the adoption of the "Sacred Lands Indigenous Peoples Declaration" at COP16 and the protection of land rights as well as secure land tenure, and we encourage the secretariat and Parties to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples – including women and youth – in land-related decision-making. We also welcome the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus and highlight the need for all Caucuses under the Convention to be open, inclusive and participative, ensuring meaningful civil society engagement.

We would like to reaffirm our commitment to advancing gender-responsive and transformative approaches in the implementation of the Convention, its Gender Action Plan, and its associated roadmap, paying special attention to intersectionality, as set out in Decision 24 of COP15, with the aim of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially 2.3, 5.4 and 5.6a.

We highlight the crucial role the Gender Caucus plays, as a vehicle for identifying bottlenecks in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and for sharing best practices in advancing gender equality, and encouraging the participation and engagement of women and girls from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth and civil society organizations. We highly welcome that it's made part of the official agenda at COPs and CRICs, and we congratulate the UNCCD Secretariat for the activities carried out. We also urge the secretariat and parties to continue building capacity for women, support the effective participation of women delegates, including from Indigenous Peoples, and working with women's advocacy organizations. We celebrate the creation of the Women Delegates Fund and new training programmes in negotiations for female delegates, and call upon Parties to support such initiatives.

We request the secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the other Rio Conventions and relevant conventions and organizations, especially UN Women, in advancing gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions.

Thank you for your attention.

## Session 2: Gender dimensions of sand and dust storms

Distinguished delegates and representatives,

I am speaking on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. We thank the speakers for their presentations, and we highly value their experiences and insight on how to address the gender data gap and the gender dimension of a topic as complex as sand and dust storms.

Recalling Decision 25/COP16, we continue encouraging Parties to tackle the gender data gap by collecting gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated data, which meaningfully show the different vulnerabilities of all men and women to DLDD, including sand and dust storms, and consider intersectionality.

For this exercise, we request the secretariat to build on lessons learned at the previous sessions of the GC at COP16, which comprised “best practices in data collection and indicators” to fulfil its mandate given by COP16 Decisions 7 and 25 to develop effective and meaningful gender-specific indicators, working with UN Women and other relevant organizations, such as WOCAT, as the reference data base of the UNCCD.

We also urge the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to identify bottlenecks and difficulties for Parties to collect these data, and support them to find tools for capacity building and technology transfer.

Finally, we invite the IWG-FSF to take all this into account when designing the elements for the future Strategic Framework of the Convention and its future indicators, according to item 4.1 of the GAP roadmap, which is developing evidence and policy relevant research to collect data to establish a baseline on key gender metrics and to inform policy-making.

Thank you for your attention.

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## **Closing Statement of the EU and its 27 Member States**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Ms. Executive Secretary,

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The EU and its 27 Member States would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Panamá for hosting CRIC23 and we thank everyone who contributed to the outcomes. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the UNCCD Secretariat, the CRIC Bureau and the CRIC Chair for their strong efforts and to all delegates, observers, and organizers who contributed to making this session conclude successfully.

We welcome the good discussions this week on reinforcing the implementation of the Convention and on the best ways for strengthening our efforts to combat desertification, land degradation and drought as well as enhancing resilience to these phenomena and safeguarding people's wellbeing. These efforts include methods and tools for evaluating results, developing accompanying measures and supportive initiatives, and supporting gender-responsive and transformative action.

However, we deeply regret that we have not been able to address and discuss the interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework and Consideration of priorities for science-policy guidance, which are existential topics for the future of the Convention.

The EU and its 27 Member States would like to reiterate their commitment to multilateralism and dialogue.

Regarding science policy guidance we welcome progress in the preparation of the third Global Land Outlook and we should ensure its proper visibility to maximise its use by all relevant stakeholders. We also welcome the progress made on the fast-track assessments as well as on collaboration and interaction with existing and new relevant organizations and networks.

With regard to the Future Strategic Framework, we believe it should be ambitious, science-based and inclusive, and build on the Convention's mission and established commitments. We hope that the Intergovernmental Working Group will provide reflections and considerations on its feasibility and implications of any potential elements.

The current environmental crises are increasingly impacting people's wellbeing. Desertification, land degradation and drought impacts are inextricably related to climate change and biodiversity loss. Synergies, coordination and collaboration for effectively addressing their impacts are essential. We cannot afford duplications of our tools, instruments and platforms and must fully exploit their complementarities.

This applies in many areas, for example capacity building, where we need a clear strategic framework, including for engagement with the CBD regional Scientific and Technical Cooperation Centers and other organisations.

This applies to mobilizing resources from all sources, where the financial institutional landscape is already very complex and fragmented. In this context, we are looking forward to the resource mobilisation Toolbox being prepared by the Global Mechanism.

This applies to monitoring and reporting, including interoperability of reporting platforms and innovative tools based on satellite earth observation and systems that serve for reporting under multiple conventions.

At this CRIC, we saw many inspiring examples also at national level, such as the Nature Pledge developed by Panama, our host.

We recall the statement delivered at UNFCCC COP30 in Belém by the five current and incumbent COP Presidencies of the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD fostering non-state actor engagement.

The EU and its Member States strongly support the involvement of civil society organisations in the UNCCD processes and implementation as they bring direct feedback from the ground. We recommend taking inspiration from established practices for inclusivity, transparency and openness common under many other conventions, including for contact groups. We understand that we need to continue discussions in order to find a way forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We remain committed and open to work with all parties to deliver on the objectives and the ambitions of the Convention. We are looking forward to meeting you at COP17 in Ulaanbaatar. The European Union and its 27 Member States remains fully committed to contribute to enhance the Convention implementation at all levels.

Thank you for your attention, looking forward to next steps.

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