



Environment Council

EC/RES/001
19-20 February 2019

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Regarding Land Degradation and Desertification

The Environment Council,

Affirming land degradation and desertification as the loss of life-supporting land through soil erosion, desertification, salinization, and acidification,

Recognizing deforestation as a major cause of land degradation, resulting in severe soil erosion, flood, and loss of fertile soil;

Alarmed that degraded land becomes unable to produce crops or support wildlife and livestock, reducing the Earth's carrying capacity,

Conscious that land degradation and desertification are caused by many factors including extreme weather conditions, particularly drought, and human activities that pollute or degrade the quality of soils and land,

Acknowledging that these processes have a negative impact on food production, livelihoods, and the production and supply of other ecosystem goods and services,

Expressing concern that land degradation has risen during the 20th century due to increasing levels of agricultural and livestock production, urbanization, deforestation, and extreme weather events such as droughts and coastal surges,

Emphasizing the danger posed by the degradation of the world's arable lands and pastures resulting in degraded food production, reduced water sources, and disruptive migration patterns caused by the need for populations to move in search of hospitable and productive land;

Guided by the efforts and agreements of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the goals of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework, and greatly encouraged by the near universal participation in the Convention;

1. *Encourages* incineration as a means of remediating soil contamination;
2. *Strongly requests* Member States who have not already done so to implement a policy requiring equivalent replacement of felled trees as a preventative measure against soil erosion;
3. *Further encourages* granting increased authority in areas affected by degradation and desertification to regional governments;
4. *Urges* Member States to confront practices of over cropping and overgrazing in awareness of the harmful effects of such practices on the productive potential of land, and to initiate programs encouraging and providing instruction on rotational grazing and crop rotation;
5. *Strongly affirms* policy changes informed by available scientific research placing restrictions on the following practices:
 - (a) Industrial and mining activities leading to the pollution of land through the release of material wastes;
 - (b) Misuse and excess use of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers;
 - (c) Tillage agriculture;
6. *Further requests* exploration of dryland aquaculture and greenhouse agriculture;
7. *Affirms* the implementation of the following actions to restore and rehabilitate ecosystems:
 - (a) The prioritization of protecting vegetative cover and forests;
 - (b) Countering erosion through terracing;
 - (c) Reintroducing select species of wildlife to areas in rehabilitation.

Submitter: China

Secunder: India

Negator: Brazil