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Sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/80/L.39

Combating sand and dust storms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/195 of 22 December 2015, 71/219 of 21 December 2016, 72/225 of 20 December 2017, 73/237 of 20 December 2018, 74/226 of 19 December 2019, 75/222 of 21 December 2020, 76/211 of 17 December 2021, 77/171 of 14 December 2022, 78/158 of 19 December 2023 and 79/212 of 19 December 2024 on combating sand and dust storms,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement¹ and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its Parties to fully implement the Agreement, and Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, noting with concern also the findings of the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific entitled *Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific* and the report of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *Impacts of Sand and Dust Storms on Oceans: A Scientific Environmental Assessment for Policy Makers*, in addition to the World Health Organization global air quality guidelines and the World Meteorological Organization report entitled *2020 State of Climate Services: Risk Information and Early Warning Systems*, welcoming the convening of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 13 December 2023, and the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, welcoming also the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025, and looking forward to the thirty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in 2026,*

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/7 of 27 June 2014 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,³ 2/21 of 27 May 2016⁴ and 6/7 of 1 March 2024⁵ on combating sand and dust storms, 4/10 of 15 March 2019 on innovation on biodiversity and land degradation⁶ and 6/10 of 1 March 2024 on promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally,⁷

Acknowledging the work done by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁸ towards mitigating sand and dust storm issues at source, and acknowledging also the continuing support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for countries affected by sand and dust storms through the promotion of sustainable land management, agroforestry, shelter belts, afforestation/reforestation and land restoration programmes, which all contribute to sand and dust storm source mitigation,

Recalling its resolutions 71/229 of 21 December 2016, 72/220 of 20 December 2017, 73/233 of 20 December 2018, 74/220 of 19 December 2019, 75/218 of

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex.

⁴ Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

⁵ [UNEP/EA.6/Res.7](#).

⁶ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.10](#).

⁷ [UNEP/EA.6/Res.10](#).

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

21 December 2020, [76/206](#) of 17 December 2021, [77/166](#) of 14 December 2022, [78/154](#) of 19 December 2023 and [79/207](#) of 19 December 2024 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Welcoming the convening of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022, noting the adoption of the Abidjan Call as well as the Abidjan Legacy Programme, to address drought and preserve and restore the terrestrial ecosystem, reverse land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity, noting also decision 26/COP.15 of 20 May 2022,⁹ in which the Conference urged a proactive approach to enhance cooperation at all levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms and called for the organization, as appropriate, of a science-policy dialogue to contribute to the development of further guidance and policies to address sand and dust storms, and welcoming the convening of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Riyadh, from 2 to 13 December 2024, and its decision 27/COP.16 of 14 December 2024,¹⁰ and looking forward to the seventeenth session, to be held in Mongolia from 17 to 28 August 2026,

Welcoming also the convening of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention, held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, under the theme “Peace with nature”, as well as the two resumed sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, held online from 3 to 6 December 2024 and in Rome from 25 to 27 February 2025, and taking note of their adopted decisions, looking forward to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention, to be held in Yerevan from 19 to 30 October 2026, and recalling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹¹ and urging its early, inclusive and effective implementation,

Recalling its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Noting the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, of resolution [72/7](#) of 19 May 2016 on regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific, and taking note of the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management of the Commission,¹²

Noting with appreciation the recognition by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fifth session of the recommendation by the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management to establish a subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards with a focus on sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia, and noting the recognition by the Commission at its seventy-eighth session of the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific, which provides a strategic framework and reference for

⁹ See [ICCD/COP\(15\)/23/Add.1](#).

¹⁰ See [ICCD/COP\(16\)/24/Add.1](#).

¹¹ United Nations Environment Programme, document CBD/COP/15/17, decision 15/4, annex.

¹² [ESCAP/78/12/Add.1](#).

countries in the region to take action at the national and regional levels, in the context of multi-hazard disaster risk reduction, to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms and identify anthropogenic measures that could contribute to or mitigate their formation and intensity,

Taking note of the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms of the United Nations Environment Programme, and of other initiatives, including the ministerial meeting on sand and dust storms held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [69/283](#) of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention, mitigation and adaptation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development, recalling also the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and its political declaration,¹³

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to managing and mitigating the negative effects of sand and dust storms, particularly in the most affected countries, through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms, and affirming that resilient action to combat and prevent sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

Recognizing that sand and dust storms are an issue of international concern, the costs of which are measured in economic, social and environmental terms, and that sand and dust storms continue to grow and negatively affect the achievement of 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation,

Noting that sand and dust storms are a challenge with impacts on, *inter alia*, infrastructure, transport, communication, agriculture, ecosystems and human health and transboundary impacts that require institutional, technical and scientific responses, and that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in some regions in the last decade and pose a great threat to the sustainable development of affected countries,

Emphasizing the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, recalling its resolutions [72/225](#) and [77/171](#), in which it noted the first International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, and the second International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 September 2023, welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries, and taking note with appreciation of other ongoing initiatives to combat sand and dust storms, at the national, regional and global levels,

¹³ Resolution [77/289](#), annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁴
2. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms are increasing in intensity and frequency in several regions, affecting more than 150 countries, and that sand and dust storms and the unsustainable land management, soil, agricultural and livestock practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, including climate change, pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, sand and dust storms have inflicted substantial economic, social and environmental damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly take measures to address those challenges and the need for coordinated measures that address their multidimensional impacts on health, livelihoods, ecosystems and infrastructure;
3. *Recalls* the convening of a high-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms, held at Headquarters in New York on 16 July 2018, to discuss action-oriented recommendations and address the challenges faced by the affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to tackle those challenges in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, during which the continuing need to confront the challenges presented by sand and dust storms was highlighted,
4. *Also recalls* the convening of the high-level meeting on sand and dust storms, by the President of the General Assembly at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, in collaboration with the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, in the General Assembly Hall, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, held on 10 July 2025 in the context of the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, at which participants discussed the challenges faced by affected countries to further practical actions at the regional and global levels;
5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which is pursuing efforts, within its mandate and resources, to move to the implementation stage, and aims, *inter alia*, to promote and coordinate a collaborative United Nations system response to the growing issue of sand and dust storms on a local, national, regional and global scale, ensuring that unified and coherent action is taken, to facilitate the capacity-building of Member States, raise their awareness and enhance their preparedness and response to sand and dust storms in critical regions, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, data and best practices among Coalition members to promote effective and coherent action on sand and dust storms;
6. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Secretary-General to consider designating a relevant agency or entity with adequate capacity, by July 2026, to act as a focal point on sand and dust storms in the United Nations system to follow up the decisions in the relevant resolutions and the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, ensuring that the designation process is transparent, inclusive and consultative with Member States;
7. *Recognizes* the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating sand and dust storms, as well as their sharing and transfer on mutually agreed terms;
8. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to continue to share best practices, policies, experiences and technical expertise promoting local, national, regional and global strategies in combating and preventing sand and dust storms to address the root causes and mitigate the impacts

¹⁴ A/80/265.

of sand and dust storms, and find sustainable solutions, including through improved implementation of sustainable land management, soil, agricultural and livestock practices, as well as sustainable water management, and to promote regional cooperation in this matter to reduce the risks and impact of future sand and dust storms at all levels, including local, national, regional and global, and to provide affected countries with capacity-building and technical support from the relevant United Nations organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, to this end;

9. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant entities of the United Nations development system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet the objectives set out in the present resolution;

10. *Welcomes* the convening of the interregional forum organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Beirut on 7 and 8 October 2025, in collaboration with the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, and implemented within the framework of activities planned by the Coalition's Working Group on Regional Collaboration in support of the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2034), aimed at fostering regional and interregional dialogue on joint actions and cooperative responses to combat sand and dust storms;

11. *Takes note* of the establishment of a regional and global trust fund for the West Asia and African region to combat sand and dust storms, supported by voluntary contributions from interested countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors, the private sector, civil society and regional development banks, to undertake the implementation of regional and subregional programmes and action plans without prejudice to the possibility that this fund may include other regions in the future, while respecting international frameworks and any relevant documents on combating sand and dust storms to ensure coordinated action at a global scale;

12. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and, among other factors, is a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including those affected by sand and dust storms, and emphasizes that, among other factors, climate change is an important potential contributor to future wind erosion and the risk of sand and dust storms, especially the occurrence of more extreme wind events worsening drought conditions and the movement towards drier climates, although reverse effects are possible;

13. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms cause numerous human health problems in different regions around the world, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, and that there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human health, invites the World Health Organization, with the cooperation of other relevant United Nations system entities, as appropriate, to support affected countries in combating health problems caused by sand and dust storms, within their respective mandates, recognizes the formation of a working group on sand and dust storms to discuss emerging issues and share information under the technical advisory group on global air pollution and health of the World Health Organization, and also recognizes the publication of a dedicated section on the health effects of sand and dust storms as part of the World Health Organization global air quality guidelines released in September 2021, and the development of standard operating procedures to assess and address the short-term health effects of desert dust by the World Health Organization, in collaboration with experts from the World Meteorological Organization;

14. *Emphasizes* that sand and dust storm issues will continue to constitute important components of the global coalition on health, environment and climate change launched in May 2018 by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to improve coordination and reduce deaths that are attributed to environmental risks, such as air pollution;

15. *Commends* the United Nations Environment Assembly on its commitment to addressing sand and dust storms, and in this regard notes Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms, adopted during its second session, resolution 4/10 on innovation on biodiversity and land degradation, adopted during its fourth session, and resolution 6/7 on combating sand and dust storms, adopted during its sixth session;

16. *Takes note* of the convening of the regional ministerial meeting on environmental cooperation for a better future held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 12 July 2022 to find solutions for regional environmental challenges, especially the issue of sand and dust storms;

17. *Recalls* the convening of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, under the theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”, and looks forward to the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, to be held in Nairobi from 8 to 12 December 2025;

18. Commends the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on its efforts to develop both a global base map of sand and dust storm sources, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, and the *Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks*, in collaboration with the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention and other relevant United Nations system entities, as a comprehensive collation of material designed to provide information and guidance on how to assess and address the risks posed by sand and dust storms and plan actions to combat their recurrence and impacts;

19. *Also commends* the World Meteorological Organization for achieving several improvements to the observation and modelling systems that are part of its Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System, which provides sand and dust storm forecasts for early warning systems in various countries, and encourages the strengthening of early warning systems and the exchange of weather information for predicting sand and dust storms, to better prepare vulnerable countries, and encourages the World Meteorological Organization and all relevant stakeholders to broaden the regional domains of this system to cover the highly affected regions and to continue to make technical improvements to it;

20. *Welcomes* the convening of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, held in Riyadh from 2 to 13 December 2024, under the theme “Our land. Our future”, and the adoption of its decisions, and calls for their full implementation, and looks forward to the convening of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 28 August 2026;

21. *Encourages* the relevant entities of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, within their respective mandates and resources, and donors to continue to provide capacity-building and technical assistance for combating and preventing sand and dust storms, and to continue to support the implementation of the national, regional and global action plans of the affected countries;

22. *Recalls* its resolution [77/294](#) of 8 June 2023, in which 12 July of each year was proclaimed as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to further raise international awareness of sand and dust storms, and stresses the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate their effects;

23. *Also recalls* its resolution [78/314](#) of 10 July 2024, in which it proclaimed 2025–2034 the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, within existing structures and available resources, with the aim of enhancing international and regional cooperation and supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms, especially on the affected countries;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms at its eighty-fourth session, as a means to assess progress made and identify challenges encountered, with a view to enhancing international cooperation and support for affected countries and providing timely opportunities to advance discussion on the matter, including through the convening of a high-level ministerial meeting on the mid-term review of the Decade, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, through voluntary contributions and without duplication of effort, to advance international cooperation and support for affected countries and to discuss their challenges, needs and priorities, including ways to enhance regional and global policy coordination, in coordination with the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and other relevant United Nations entities, which will result in a summary of the proceedings to be prepared by the President of the General Assembly as its outcome document;

25. *Acknowledges* the global assessment of sand and dust storms prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations system entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which sets out proposals for consolidated and coordinated technical and policy options for responding to sand and dust storms;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further encourage the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms to conduct its priority activities as identified by the Coalition's five working groups, which are knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, training, awareness-raising and support for the formulation of national, regional and interregional plans, to mitigate and prevent sand and dust storm hazards, to encourage the Coalition to enhance resource mobilization efforts so as to increase voluntary contributions to the Coalition and its member agencies, and invites the Coalition to consider the possibility of broadening the scope of the concept note to include other sectors affected by sand and dust storms, in order to align with the workplan and the action plan of the Coalition;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, while including best practices aimed at adapting, mitigating, controlling and combating sand and dust storms in collaboration with the affected nations and other countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Combating sand and dust storms".