***Agenda Item* 6.3**

***Agenda Item (title):* UNCCD COP**
Background Brief
30th UN-Water Meeting, Rome, 31 Jan – 01 Feb 2019

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Main Issues of this Agenda Item:
- UNCCD 14th COP in New Delhi, India (October 2019, tbc)

Introduction / Background / Rationale (less than 200 words please):

In the face of climate change and population growth, droughts are of significant concern for sustainable development of affected countries. The recent droughts, the worst in decades, have crippled numerous countries compelling them to declare state of emergency. Drought is no longer associated only with the loss/reduction of agricultural production. The early closure of Bolivian schools, the violent drought protests in the Philippines and the cut-back of the work week and power cuts in Venezuela as well as the migration crisis in Europe are all linked to drought episodes. The potential for conflicts is also arising in the long term as droughts render land less productive.

Despite the devastating impacts, progress on preparedness for drought has been slow. The "business as usual" approach of responding to droughts with post impact emergency interventions is no longer a viable option. We need to emphasize on the path of "protection" rather than "recovery". A paradigm shift towards proactive approach is indispensable. A high-level round table will discuss the issue and identify measures and policy options.

The high-level round table is expected to discuss (i) the need for a policy framework and action on the ground for all affected countries; (ii) the transboundary nature of drought and water scarcity events and the need for international cooperation, north-south, complemented by south-south, to foster national drought policies and (iii) a risk management approach with the aim to improve the resilience of societies and enhance their coping capacity.

Progress Update *(less than 200 words please)**:***
UNCCD COP preparation is well underway.

Proposed Action by UN-Water, if any *(less than 100 words please)**:***
To organize a UN-Water side event during the COP and presence of Chair or vice chair at the high-level round table (tbc)

Proposed Draft Decision, if any *(less than 100 words please)**:***
The UN-Water decides to organize a side event and to attend -through the Chair or Vice Chair - the High-level round table due to be held in the framework of the 14th session of the UNCCD Conference of parties (October 2019)