

- The COP15 aims to drive progress in the future sustainable management of one of our most precious commodities: land.
- The UN members agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought for 2022-2024 to look into possible options to support a shift from reactive to proactive drought management.
- They will focus on improving data gathering and monitoring to track progress against the achievement of land restoration commitments.
- They are committed to establishing a new partnership model for large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes.
- The “Drought in Numbers, 2022” had called upon the world to prioritise drought preparedness and resilience.
- Another global consensus emerged on boosting drought resilience by identifying the expansion of drylands, improving national policies and early warning. So, mobilising drought finance will be critical.
- The leaders came on board and also committed to prioritise and ensure **women’s involvement** in land management for effective land restoration.
- According to the recent UN estimates, up to 40% of Earth’s land is degraded.
- This will directly affect half of humanity and is a threat to about 50% of global GDP or around \$44 trillion. But the world has is slow on restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- The UN members also agreed and committed to accelerate the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- Other significant outcomes of the COP 15 included three key declarations:
 1. **Abidjan Call** issued by the Heads of State and Government to boost long-term environmental sustainability,
 2. **Abidjan Declaration** on achieving gender equality for successful land restoration and
 3. The COP15 “**Land, Life and Legacy**” **Declaration**, which responds to the findings of the UNCCD’s report, Global Land Outlook 2.

3.4 India votes against U.N. draft resolution on climate change

Why in news?

India voted against a draft resolution at UNSC linking climate to security.

What was the debate about?

- UNSC organised a debate titled ‘Maintenance of international peace and security: security in the context of terrorism and climate change.’
- One of the objectives of the debate was to examine how terrorism and security risks could be linked to climate change.
- It seeks to transfer the decision making for climate issues under the ambit of UNSC.
- The resolution was sponsored by Ireland and Niger
- It did not pass as India and Russia voted against it and China abstained.
- Supporters of the resolution argue that climate is creating security risks in the world, which will exacerbate in the future with water shortage, migration and a destruction of livelihoods.

Why India voted against the resolution?

- India feels that it was an attempt to shift climate talks from UNFCCC to UNSC and a “step backward” for collective action on the issue.
- India’s position is that the UNSC’s primary responsibility is “maintenance of international peace and security” and climate change-related issues are outside its ambit.
- For India bringing climate talks under UNSC was an attempt to take decisions without consensus or the involvement of most developing countries.
- This will give more powers to the world’s industrialised countries, which hold a veto power, to decide on future action on climate-related security issues.