**ENVIRONMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

**WHY IN NEWS**?

The 21st session of the Committee to Review Implementation Of Convention(UNCCD) convened for the first time in Central Asia: Samarqand, Uzbekistan

**BACKGROUND**

Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.

It is the only **internationally legally binding** framework set up to address the problem of desertification

Established in 1994 following the Rio Conference.

HQ: Bonn,Germany

MEMBERS

The UNCCD has been ratified by the European Union and 196 states: all 193 UN member states, the Cook Islands, Niue, and the State of Palestine.

 It has **197 parties**, making it near universal in reach.

**CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) oversees the implementation of the Convention. It is established by the Convention as the supreme decision-making body, and it comprises all ratifying governments. The first five sessions of the COP were held annually from 1997 to 2001.

**Starting 2001 sessions are held on a biennial basis** interchanging with the sessions of the **Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)**, whose first session was held in 2002.

2019 COP hosted by New Delhi

**FUNCTIONING**

It aims to mitigate desertification through National Action Programmes, Sub regional and regional Action programmes by countries

Follows a bottom up approach involving local communities.

Priority is given to Africa due to its vulnerability.

**FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES**

Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting

**Land For Life Award** (organized every 2 years, A Rajasthan based climate activist won this award for the concept of familial forestry in 2021)

**PUBLICATIONS**

Global Land Outlook

(Other Related initiative:

**Great Green Wall by African Union** for restoration of Sahel region)