

Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on the follow up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”)

Terms of Reference

I. Background

By Decision 8/COP.11, Parties decided to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) to:

- (1) establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;
- (2) develop options relating to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas that Parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality; and
- (3) advise the Convention on the implications for its current and future strategy, programmes and the resource requirements.

In the same decision, Parties took note of the following, *inter alia*:

- (a) The ongoing process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, including, *inter alia*, the discussions in the Open Working Group on SDGs called for at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
- (b) Relevant economic studies and work undertaken by the Science-Policy Interface, as appropriate; and
- (c) The importance of identifying synergies to increase effectiveness and avoid duplication among the Rio Conventions, other international bodies, and agencies addressing environment and development issues.

Parties also resolved that the IWG should prepare a report to be submitted to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties no later than 60 days before the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties and that this report should be sent for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention prior to the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties.

II. Modalities of Work

- The IWG will consist of a maximum of five representatives from each regional annex of the UNCCD, nominated by the respective regional groups on the basis of nominations by national governments.
- The IWG will hold up to five meetings subject to the availability of funding and offers of Parties to host individual meetings and cover all the related financial costs.
- The IWG will hold its final meeting no later than 90 days prior to COP.12.
- The work of IWG will be facilitated by two co-chairs to be appointed at the first meeting and supported by the secretariat throughout the intersessional period.
- The IWG meetings will be closed so as to provide for an open and collaborative exchange of information among the members.

- The IWG members, with assistance from the secretariat, can arrange for opportunities for country Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide feedback on the documentation that is generated through the IWG, including: consultations for the formulation of regional views, through the regional coordination mechanisms / regional executive committees.
- The secretariat should facilitate the work of the IWG by making available the necessary documents to the IWG members at least 2 weeks before each meeting.
- In the case that an IWG member is unable to attend a specific IWG meeting, he or she will be replaced by an alternate identified in agreement with the regional group.
- Based on the agenda of the next IWG meeting, the secretariat will invite observers, at no additional cost, to such meeting taking into account the host country and regional requests.
- The secretariat, in consultation with the co-chairs, can invite resource persons, facilitators and special guests to provide inputs on issues relevant to such meeting.
- Each meeting of the IWG will produce an outcome document and summary proceedings to be made available online for consultation to the UNCCD Parties and all stakeholders immediately following each IWG meeting.
- All IWG outputs, including the final report, will be attributable to the IWG as an entity of the UNCCD and not to individual members or their respective countries.

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Programme of Work

In undertaking its work and preparing the final report, the IWG, with the assistance of the secretariat, will invite relevant partners, as and where necessary, to provide inputs towards developing options that Parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and, at their discretion, other affected areas.

The IWG will report periodically to the COP Bureau on its activities and on progress made with the view of seeking the guidance of the Bureau for the next steps, and as appropriate, interim documents will be shared with the regional groups.

The following table is an illustrative list of IWG activities/outputs.

Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Selection of Co-Chairs, Adopt Terms of Reference and Programme of Work ➤ Develop a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas ➤ Key messages for mainstreaming DLDD issues taking into account the ongoing SDG process ➤ Guest inputs: TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop options that Parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, including consideration of a target-setting approach and an integrated target/indicator framework that are consistent with the ongoing SDG process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outline implications for UNCCD strategy, programmes and resource mobilization, including the possible integration of the SDGs into the UNCCD strategic plan 2018-2028 ➤ Develop preliminary final report for consideration at CRIC.13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approve final definition, options, and implications