

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

**First Meeting of the IWG (IWG-1)
Brussels, Belgium - 10-11 February 2014**

Summary of the Co-Chairs

After the welcome by the host, the European Commission (EC), and opening remarks of the EC DG Environment Director General Karl Falkenberg and the UNCCD Executive Secretary Monique Barbut, the IWG members (IWG) selected Nicholas Hanley (EC) and Bongani Masuku (Swaziland) as their co-chairs. Members and observers of the IWG briefly introduced themselves and their expectations for the meeting. This was followed by a presentation of the UNCCD secretariat to provide background information on the concept of land degradation neutrality for the participants.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted. The terms of reference (ToR) and programme of work (PoW) were both discussed, revised and provisionally adopted. The meeting then moved to the substantive issues of the IWG, notably the first two of the three main tasks of the IWG as set out in paragraph 1 of decision 8/COP11. Russia made a presentation on its "soil initiative" for the G8.

Breakout groups were utilized to enrich the plenary discussion and initiate the development of internal documents which will serve to inform the work of the two task forces established by the co-chairs: task force 1 to address the definition of land degradation neutrality (LDN) will consist of Russia (coordinator), Mexico, Iran, Bosnia, Swaziland, and Lebanon; task force 2 to outline the options for achieving LDN will consist of China (coordinator), Cuba, Georgia, Samoa, Italy, Colombia and Iceland. A tentative schedule of their activities was agreed to and is outlined below.

The first IWG meeting concluded with the adoption of the final revised ToR and PoW which outlines the IWG's modalities of work. Based on the agenda of the next IWG meeting, the secretariat, in consultation with the co-chairs, will invite observers to such meeting taking into account the host country and regional requests. The UNCCD secretariat will continue to explore options for the funding and hosting of the next IWG meeting envisaged for July 2014.

Tentative Schedule of Activities for IWG Task Forces (TF)

	March 11	March 25	April 11	April 25	May 11	May 25	June 11	July 11
TF 1 Definition	1 st draft for IWG review	Deadline for IWG comment	2 nd draft for IWG review		Both documents sent to IWG for coherence assessment-adjustments	Deadline for IWG comment	Working document for the IWG-2	IWG-2
TF 2 Options			Draft list of options for IWG review	Deadline for IWG comment			Working document for the IWG-2	IWG-2