



Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

What is it?

Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought (IWG) is a working group set up to develop effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought impacts in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It was established by governments during the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 14) to the UNCCD. It will present its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Parties at the 15 session of the COP in Fall 2021.

What is its mandate?

- To take stock of and review the existing policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response
- To consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention
- To carry out the task in the context of a wider holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems

Who is part of it?

The IWG is composed of 30 members. They consist of a maximum of three (3) Party representatives nominated by each of their respective regional groups. There are 5 groups altogether. The regional representatives were identified from nominations submitted by national governments. An additional 15 participants are drawn from key stakeholders, and include United Nations organizations, the Science-Policy Interface, other scientific organizations, regional organizations and civil society organizations.

The list of members is here: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/30%20IWG%20members%20for%20drought_24-08.pdf

IWG members will serve for a period of two years. The term of appointment for members who were selected in response to this call starts in early 2020 until the end of the fifteenth session of the COP, which is envisioned to take place in late (autumn) 2021.

IWG members are not paid for this service. However, as required, travel costs and the daily subsistence allowances (DSAs) will be covered for all eligible members, in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.

How can organizations/countries contribute?



Parties, international organizations, civil society organization and other stakeholders in this issue have made submissions on: (a) Policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks and implementation measures for addressing drought under the Convention; and (b) Barriers, challenges, opportunities and implementation measures as well as preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought.

The preliminary assessment of the submissions will feed into the background documents of the first IWG meeting. Further contributions and the IWG outcome documents will be made available online for comments and additional inputs.

What are its responsibilities?

Members of the IWG have the responsibility to:

Contribute directly to delivering the outputs of the IWG as agreed by UNCCD COP 14 and described in the opening paragraph above, drawing from a range of resources including but not limited to, *inter alia*, UNCCD background documents and the resource materials and the work of other entities referenced within them, such as

- Drought Resilience Adaptation and Management Policy Framework (DRAMP): Technical guidelines
- Drought Impact and Vulnerability Assessment: A Review
- The Land-Drought Nexus
- The menu of options for addressing drought under the UNCCD
- UNCCD-led Drought Toolbox
- Other peer-reviewed scientific and technical products and SPI products dealing with drought issues

Maintain the highest standards of scientific and technical excellence, professionalism and collegiality; and

Draw in expertise from their network and all relevant domains in the context of the IWG.

Who can I contact for interviews?

A list of potential interviewees is available for *bona fide* journalists. To request an interview, email kjimenez@unccd.int with details of profile – such as region, language of communication and stakeholder group – of the interviewee you are searching for, and information about yourself, specifically, name, functional title and the publication you are working or publishing for.

Where can I find more information about this initiative?

At this page on the UNCCD Website: <https://www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-drought>