



United Nations

ICCD/COP(15)/2



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
24 February 2022

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Fifteenth session

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9–20 May 2022

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 7/COP.13, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. In that session, the COP also launched the preparation of a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. At its fourteenth session, the COP provisionally adopted the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation and decided that the preparations for the midterm evaluation will be continued at the sixteenth session of the COP. Nevertheless, at the same session, the COP also requested that, for its fifteenth session, its Bureau should provide Parties with information that could offer further elements and support the identification of priorities for the midterm evaluation. That information is presented in this document.



Contents

| | <i>Paragraphs</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| I. Introduction | 1–4 | 3 |
| II. Potential further elements and priorities for the midterm evaluation | 5–6 | 3 |
| III. Conclusions and recommendations | 7–8 | 4 |

I. Introduction

1. By its decision 7/COP.13, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and encouraged Parties to apply this Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification/land degradation and drought.

2. By its decision 13/COP.13 concerning additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the COP further decided that its Bureau is to prepare appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework with a view to their adoption at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14).

3. In line with the decisions mentioned above, the Bureau of the COP presented its proposal on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation in document ICCD/COP(14)/3 for consideration at COP 14. That COP welcomed and provisionally adopted the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, as proposed by the Bureau, as contained in document ICCD/COP(14)/3.¹ At its fourteenth session, the COP requested the Bureau to review and, as needed, update the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for COP 16 in 2023, at which time the preparations for the midterm evaluation will be continued. At its fourteenth session, the COP further decided to include in these preparations at COP 16 the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to oversee the evaluation process, and requested the Bureau to outline the terms of reference for this intergovernmental working group, including its purpose, composition and main working modalities, for consideration at COP 16.

4. In addition to deciding on how to complete the preparations for the midterm evaluation at COP 16, the COP, at its fourteenth session, provided some elements for the Bureau to consider when conducting the review of the provisionally adopted modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation. The COP also requested the Bureau to inform Parties, at COP 15, about the ongoing discussions on preparing for the midterm evaluation with a view to gathering further elements and identifying priorities for its proposal on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference. Such information is presented in this document.

II. Potential further elements and priorities for the midterm evaluation

5. The elements provided by the COP at its fourteenth session on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation were about the evaluation criteria, the scope of the assessment of effectiveness, and specific aspects of the independent assessment that will form the first component of the midterm evaluation. Building on recent developments, further elements in the same areas may be considered to be included in the upcoming Bureau review of the provisionally adopted modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, as follows:

(a) At its fourteenth session, the COP requested the inclusion of impact and sustainability in the midterm evaluation criteria. To follow the standard evaluation criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee, coherence could also be added;

(b) At the same session, the COP also requested broadening the assessment of effectiveness concerning the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic

¹ <<https://www.unccd.int/official-documentscop-14-new-delhi-india-2019/iccdcop143>>.

Framework to also cover relevant stakeholders other than Convention institutions and bodies. To further specify such broadening, the Bureau, in its review of the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, could consider specifying the country-level effectiveness in promoting land degradation neutrality and planning for drought preparedness as areas to be covered through the evaluation;

(c) With regard to the independent assessment that will be the first component of the midterm evaluation process, at the same session, the COP requested that the external expertise to be used should observe geographical and gender balance; and that the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment should go through participatory consultations. The Bureau may also consider ensuring the representation of the Science-Policy Interface, civil society as well as key partner organizations in the midterm evaluation process, which could entail roles as input providers or reviewers for the independent assessment, for example.

6. In addition to paragraph 5 above, further elements and priorities for the midterm evaluation could include responsiveness of the UNCCD implementation to the COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts and contribution to intergovernmental processes that are closely related to the Convention, most notably the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030). These two elements could be assessed under the evaluation criteria on relevance and coherence.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

7. In line with decision 7/COP.14, the COP, at its sixteenth session, to be held in 2023, will complete the preparations for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Building on the content of this document, at its fifteenth session, the COP may wish to request the Bureau of the COP to review and, as needed, update the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, and also outline the terms of reference for an intergovernmental working group to oversee the evaluation process. The resulting document should be submitted for consideration at COP 16.

8. To ensure a timely and smooth midterm evaluation process, the COP at its fifteenth session may also request the secretariat to include the estimated resource needs for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in its proposed 2024–2025 programme and budget that will be submitted to the COP at its sixteenth session.
