



Call for Experts:

Intergovernmental working group on drought 2022 - 2024

The Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session ([UNCCD COP 15](#)) decided to establish an **Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)** on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (UNCCD COP16).

The IWG will consist of three-Party representatives nominated by each respective regional group based on nominations by national governments (21 members), plus two representatives from civil society organizations (as observers), two representatives from international organizations working on drought and two independent experts.

This call applies **only** to the independent experts that will work together with the IWG members appointed by the Parties. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is herewith inviting experts to apply to become members of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG). The call is open to experts from all regions.

Mandate of the IWG

- Review and analyze all the reports which came out of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, as well as other relevant documents and Conference of the Parties decisions related to drought.
- Identify and evaluate all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management.
- Prepare justifications and outline possible elements, processes, institutional arrangements and mechanisms for establishment for each policy option.

Responsibilities

The IWG members will contribute directly to delivering the outputs as agreed by decision 23/COP 15 drawing from a range of resources including, but not limited to, inter alia, the IWG 2020-2022 reports as contained on the dedicated page of the IWG 2020-22¹ and

¹ <https://www.unccd.int/convention/governance/intergovernmental-working-group-drought>



presented at COP 15. The UNCCD background documents and the resource materials and work of other entities referenced within them, such as:

- (a) Drought in Numbers 2022²
- (b) Drought Resilience Adaptation and Management Policy Framework (DRAMP): Technical guidelines³
- (c) IPCC sixth assessment report: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability⁴
- (d) IPCC special report on climate change and land⁵
- (e) UNDRR GAR 2021 special report on Drought⁶
- (f) UNCCD Drought Toolbox⁷ and
- (g) Other peer-reviewed scientific and technical products and SPI products dealing with drought issues.

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

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

Criteria for selection

Experts applying to become members of the IWG should:

- Have an advanced university degree (Masters or PhD) in development economics, policy, international relations, environmental management, hydrology, development economics or other related/relevant discipline
- Have a minimum of fifteen years (ten in case of PhDs) wide-range working experience on drought, and an understanding of the various policy and/or technical aspects of drought management including monitoring and early warning systems, the assessment of vulnerabilities and impacts, drought risk mitigation policies and measures as well as water scarcity, desertification, land degradation and an in-depth knowledge of at least one of these topics
- Excellent writing skills and fluency in English is required (the working language of the IWG is English)

Additional desirable qualities:

- Understanding of the UNCCD process, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and/or environment-conventions

² <https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/drought-numbers>

³ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2019-09/190906%20UNCCD%20drought%20resilience%20technical%20guideline%20EN.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/11/SRCCL-Full-Report-Compiled-191128.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/gar-special-report-drought-2021>

⁷ <https://knowledge.unccd.int/drought-toolbox>



- Extensive experience on drought related policy making process including technical, financing and legal options, particularly in the international context
- Demonstrated significant, peer-reviewed publications in international journals in the last 5-10 years
- Experience in incorporating, promoting, communicating, and mainstreaming gender issues into relevant science and policy development processes

Selection process

The selection process, using the above requirements as criteria, will be conducted by the Bureau of the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP Bureau) with the support of the UNCCD secretariat. Selected experts will be contacted individually by the Secretariat to confirm their availability and interest in becoming a member of the IWG as well as their agreement with the Terms of Reference of the IWG. The final composition of the IWG will be posted on the UNCCD website.

Terms of appointment

The terms of appointment of expert members of the IWG is two years. Thus, the term of appointment of those selected to serve in response to this call is from September 2022 up to the end of the sixteenth session of the COP, which is envisioned to take place in 2024.

IWG members are **not financially remunerated** by the UNCCD secretariat. 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.

Applications, which include a cover letter and a CV specifying relevant experience and including reference, should be submitted by e-mail to iwg@unccd.int, with a subject line **“IWG - experts”**. **The deadline for applications is 05 August 2022**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.