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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** 14-15 March 2023

**Venue:** Yerevan, Armenia

**Working language:** English

**Working hours:** Tuesday, 14 March 2023, 09:00-13:00, 14:00–17:30 (CET)  
Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 09:30-13:00, 14:00–18:30 (CET)

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### Item 1 Opening

- 1.1) **Opening Remarks** were provided by the IWG Co-Chairs, Hon. Mr. Alfred Prospere and Mr. Michael Brüntrup, followed by a speech by Mr. Hakob Simidyan, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Armenia. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, addressed the group via video message from Bonn.
- 1.2) A detailed **Summary of the first IWG Meeting** was presented to the IWG group by the Secretariat, which included a recap of the ToR, timelines, as well as outcomes and decisions taken.
- 1.3) All participants were asked to share **expectations** and reflections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> IWG Meeting, followed by a joint adoption of the agenda along with the agreement to discuss all matters in the plenary with everyone's participation, and not dividing into breakout or task groups.



## Item 2 Presentation of Options Paper

### 2.1) Presentation of the Options Paper

During the first IWG Meeting in Nov 2022, the Secretariat was tasked to collect submissions of *options* by all members and from other official documents (especially prior ones by IWG, UNCCD and UNEP). A total of 48 *options* were composed and shared with the entire group ahead of the meeting. They were presented by Daniel Tsegai, according to three scales (global, regional and national) as well as four overarching thematic blocks (Monitoring & Early Warning System, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment, Resources and Incentives, Policy and Governance). The decision was taken to reduce the number of *options* and to sort out those which don't fit the criteria of options and/or are fully included in more comprehensive ones. By doing so, a total of 26 *options* remained, which were divided into four new groupings, namely:

1. **Non-regret, technical:** This included *elements* like monitoring, risk assessments, technology transfer or capacity building, forming the content of yet to be formulated *options*.
2. **Finance:** providing guidance to the GEF and the GM, and/or taking other steps towards the tapping of or establishment of (a) drought-fund(ing)(s); some but not all being specific content/objective to fully formulated options.
3. **Legally-binding options** under the Convention, including the adoption of a Protocol or an Amendment to the Convention.
4. **Non-legally binding options** initiated under the convention (or other entities) and/or adopted under UNEA or UNGA.

Furthermore, a tailor-made evaluation scheme was presented and discussed. Based on the Qualitative Screening of Management Tools (QSMT), a drought-context specific design was developed by the Secretariat for the IWG group, which was intensively discussed. The overall impression was that the categories in general are useful but need further fine-tuning and submission of sub-questions/categories (see discussion below and *Item 5 Wrap up*). An overview of eligible source documents for evaluations was given while emphasizing that the applied traffic-light-system is not a peer-reviewed science standard but rather a way to be sensitive towards a multiple policy dimension and its potential implications.

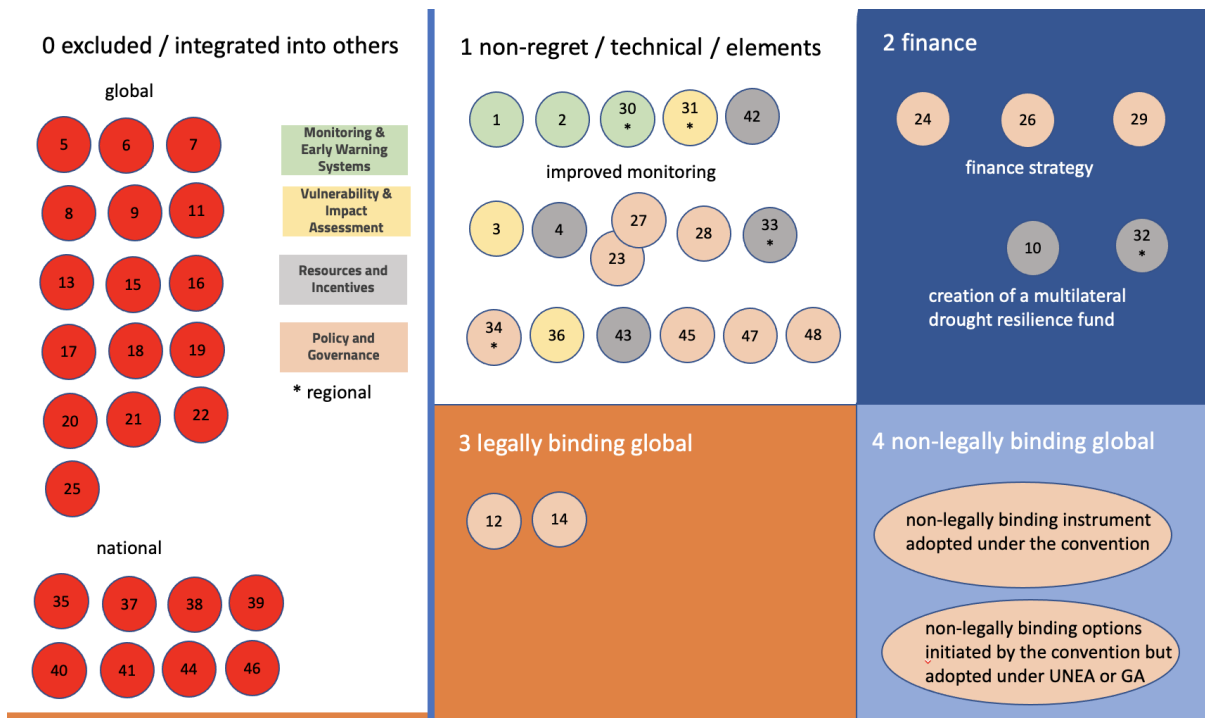


fig. 1: Overview of triage of *options* and renewed grouping

## 2.2) Main Discussion Points

It was highlighted that not all *options* can be evaluated according to scientific rigor, that some simply lack empirical data while others are political in nature and objectivity can't be found.

In addition, we need to remain skeptical of the validity of simplistic evaluation results, where possible, given many of the options under examination are not yet fully spelled out and only weakly defined. Under such circumstances, it is usually not possible to rate options or when there are complex interrelations between (sub)categories. E.g., highly ambitious options increase the acceptability with some stakeholders but reduce it with others, or a lower ambitious option which receives broader support from stakeholders is in the end more effective than a highly ambitious option with less broad support; and during the discussions it also became increasingly clear that the level of ambition of an option usually depends on the shaping of the elements it embodies.

At the same time, the list of options should be further reduced, helping to bring clarity to the policy-design process.

However, the process remains open to bringing in new *options* that would be added to the new reduced table of 26.

### Item 3 Discussion of options

After the triage and reorganization of *options*, four specific ones were identified by the group – based on importance, potential range and representativeness – to be plotted out in a “piloting matrix” that includes the following categories: justification, elements, process, institutional arrangement and evaluation. This selection process, however, does not discard any of the remaining 26 options, but is rather a preparatory exercise to gain experience in building up the CRIC report. (See *item 5 wrap-up*.) The four identified options are as follows, whereas the circles behind them refer to their origin/conglomeration.

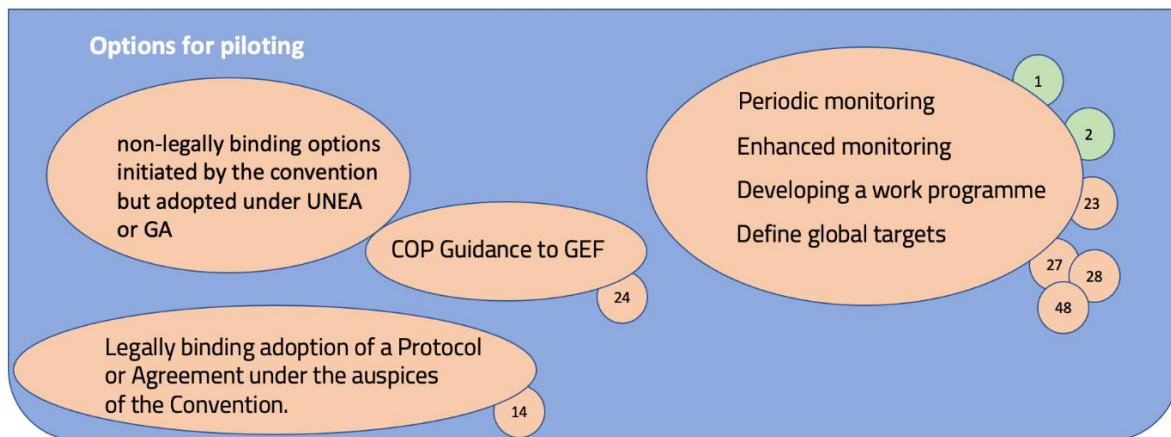


fig. 2.: Options for piloting graphic, incl. numbering of original *option*

The pilots will include a *justification* for the *option* to be considered. The individual content blocks are called *elements*, and the steps for their creation and implementation are reflected in under *process*. The required or potential *institutional arrangements*, as well as an *evaluation* of their pros and cons, are also considered, based on criteria jointly developed by the IWG and the Secretariat.



	COP Guidance to GEF	Non-legally binding options initiated by the convention but adopted under UNEA or GA	Periodic monitoring Enhanced monitoring Developing a work progr. Define global targets	Legally binding adoption of a Protocol or Agreement under the auspices of the Convention.
Justification				
Elements				
Process				
Institutional Arrangement				
Mechanism				
Evaluation				

fig. 3.: Piloting matrix in preparation for CRIC report

## Item 4 Wrap-up

More was achieved than originally anticipated for this two-day meeting. Great progress was made on all critical aspects moving towards the final meeting this summer before the publication of the CRIC report and the actual CRIC.

### 4.1) Agreement on the Next Steps

- Preparation of an updated criteria list that will be applied to the piloting *options* and part of the developed matrix
- Draft version of a 10-15-page CRIC document
- Decision on where to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> in-person meeting (Chile as well as Spain could be an option as well as Bonn)



2023		
19 April <sup>1</sup>	<i>Revised Criteria</i>	<i>Distribution of revised criteria to the group for comments</i>
30 April <sup>2</sup>	<i>Deadline Submissions</i>	<i>Final input deadline for matrix elements and QSMT evaluation scheme adjustments</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> week of June	<i>CRIC Draft Report</i>	<i>A draft to be circulated to all members, including an updated QSMT</i>
28-30 June (Spain, tbc)	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> in-person meeting</i>	<i>Finalize report for CRIC and prepare for regional consultations in the front-end and back-end of CRIC</i>
9-13 October	<i>4<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting</i>	<i>Immediately after CRIC in Samarkand, Uzbekistan</i>
2024:		
TBA	<i>5<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Mid-August (June)	<i>IWG report ready with COP documents</i>	
December	<i>Final report at COP 16 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i>	

fig. 4: Detailed timeline

#### 4.2) Closure of the Meeting

- Ending remarks by Mrs. Miriam Medel García, Chief Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation
- Ending remarks by IWG Co-Chairs, Alfred Prospere and Michael Brüntrup

<sup>1</sup> Originally planned for 1<sup>st</sup> April, delayed because of the Easter holidays. Apologies.

<sup>2</sup> Originally planned for 15<sup>th</sup> April. Postponed to 30<sup>th</sup> April considering the delayed dissemination of the evaluation criteria.