



3rd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)

MEETING SUMMARY

Dates: June 21-23, 2023

Venue: Madrid, Spain

Working language: English

Working hours: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 16:00–19:30 (CET)

Thursday, June 22, 2023, 09:00–13:00, 14:30–19:00 (CET)

Friday, June 23, 2023, 09:00–13:00, 14:30–18:00 (CET)

Item 1 Opening

- 1.1) **Opening remarks** were provided by Ms Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD, followed by Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, the Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Both Co-Chairs of the IWG, Mr. Michael Brüntrup and Hon. Mr. Alfred Prospere, proceeded with the meeting afterward.
- 1.2) A detailed **Summary of the 2nd IWG Meeting** was presented by Miriam Medel, Chief of Global Policy, Advocacy and Regional Cooperation of the UNCCD, which included a recap of the ToR, timelines, as well as outcomes and decisions taken. Daniel Tsegai, Drought Programme Officer, continued with a presentation of the submissions by the IWG members.
- 1.3) Next, all participants were asked to **share expectations and reflections** on the 3rd IWG Meeting, followed by a joint adoption of the agenda. The worsening effects as a consequence of drought, specifically drought spells (Honduras), wildfires (Chile), heat waves (Europe) and a prolonged absence of regular rainfalls (East Africa and Horn of Africa) were highlighted.
- 1.4) The need for short- to medium-term mitigation measures based on existing mechanisms



of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and finance was identified while the broader international framework is designed, negotiated, and ultimately activated. Further proposals to reduce the number of policy options, to fully outline the final CRIC report and to fine-tune the Drought Policy Evaluation Scheme (DPES) were made.

Item 2 Pilot Options and the evaluation framework

- 2.1) The Secretariat provided a brief overview on the submissions on the four pilot options as well as adjustments to the evaluation framework, all of which were initiated in the prior meeting. Consequently, the need for more coherent **terminology** and a more commonly understood language was raised, which would allow lay persons/civil society to follow. Furthermore, a clearer **differentiation** between elements and options was requested.

Item 3 Discussion on refining the Criteria.

- 3.1) The current Drought Policy Evaluation Scheme was presented by the Secretariat in greater detail, which was based on all submissions by members in the previous weeks, that were requested at the 2nd IWG meeting. Consequently, a more comprehensive scheme emerged, which would need to be simplified again in order to account for the current situation, where all options remain underdefined and not yet clearly determined.

Table 1: Overview of criteria, subcategories, and lead questions

Criteria	Subcategories	Lead Questions
1. Socio-Ecological Effectiveness To what degree does the option/instrument meet the policy objectives?	Degree of impact	<i>What is the capacity of the option to meet the policy objectives?</i>
	Speediness	<i>How quickly will the option achieve its maximum capacity?</i>
	Flexibility	<i>Is the option flexible?</i>
	Jurisdictional Comprehensiveness and Political Commitment	<i>Is the option comprehensive, ambitious, and able to activate political commitment?</i>



<p>2. Economic Efficiency</p> <p>In achieving the projected level of effectiveness, is use of the option likely to result in benefits outweighing costs, or vice versa?</p>	Costs	<i>What are the likely incremental cost outcomes? How affordable is this option?</i>
	Benefits	<i>What are the likely incremental benefits of the option?</i>
	Flexibility	<i>Does the option allow flexibility in decision making on the part of the targeted sector/area or stakeholder group?</i>
<p>3. Impact on Equality</p> <p>Would this option result in inequitable distribution of costs and benefits between social groups, sectors and regions?</p>	Distribution	<i>What are the outcomes by community or group, country/region or sector?</i>
	Gender and Age	<i>Is the option sensitive to gender equality and age considerations?</i>
	Social and employment	<i>Does the option result in a change in the benefits, costs, or employment of one social group more than of other groups?</i>
	Ecological	<i>Does the option result in a positive change in ecosystem functions and ecosystem restoration capacities?</i>
<p>4. Acceptability and Compatibility</p> <p>Would this option receive political and public support, and would it be compatible with existing or proposed measures in other jurisdictions?</p>	Acceptability to Stakeholders	<i>What is the expected buy-in from the public, community, stakeholders, and governments?</i>
	Jurisdictional Compatibility	<i>Is the option compatible with constitutional jurisdictions, established jurisdictional responsibilities, and global environmental goals/policies?</i>

- 3.2) This reduced version only includes the lead questions of the core evaluation scheme in combination with a ‘Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat’ (**SWOT**) analysis.



Item 4 Discussion on reducing the number of options.

- 4.1) Starting out with the remaining **26 options**, further methods on how to reduce them were discussed. It was deemed necessary to prioritise and specify them, then assess which can be integrated into others while not losing crucial content and specific wordings. *Indigenous knowledge* and *addressing overconsumption* were two examples that were discussed at length. It was decided that financial options should be stand-alone options, given they are at the core of many decisions and members' needs for drought risk management.
- 4.2) Leading up to the forthcoming meeting of the 21st session of the Committee for the Review and Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 21), the group agreed to further consider the following options¹:

1. Finance

- 1.1. Explore **new financing mechanisms**² for drought resilience.
- 1.2. Strengthen **existing financial mechanisms**, e.g., GEF/GM.

2. Technical

- 2.1. Set a **global target** for drought resilience, and to implement monitoring and reporting on it at regular intervals.
- 2.2. Develop a **global work programme** on proactive drought management with the aim of strengthening and facilitating the implementation of measures for addressing drought in an effective manner at all levels, along with enhancing drought preparedness, community and ecosystem resilience, and the adoption of a holistic and integrated approach.

3. Legally binding options

- 3.1. Adopt a legally binding **Amendment** to the Convention under the auspices of the Convention.
- 3.2. Adopt a **Protocol or Agreement** under the auspices of the Convention.

¹ These options are not all identical with the initial 48 options collected, but sometimes constitute mergers or adaptations of those original ones.

² This option (1.1) will be potentially reconsidered in a next step / for details see page 5

4. Non-legally binding options

- 4.1. Adopt non-legally binding decisions, political declaration, or other kind of non-legally binding instruments **outside** the Convention.
- 4.2. Adopt **non-legally binding** decisions, political declaration, or other kind of non-legally binding instruments **under** the Convention.

Furthermore, the IWG-members formed task groups that will focus on **spelling out** each of the above listed options in a more detailed manner, including *policy elements*, necessary *ex-ante processes*, *institutional arrangements*, and *mechanisms*. While for seven options spontaneous **task groups** could be created, for option 1.1. (New financial mechanisms) this was not the case. IWG members could volunteer until 14/07 to form a corresponding task group, without what this would not be further considered as a standalone option.

The following figure (1) gives an overview on the **eight retained options** (grouped into four main categories) along with the names of annexes, institutions or individuals that take responsibility for enhancing the level of detail for each of them. All members of the IWG were invited to join any of the associated task groups. The options are to be developed further so they can be differentiated more explicitly along the group’s ToR (fig. 2).

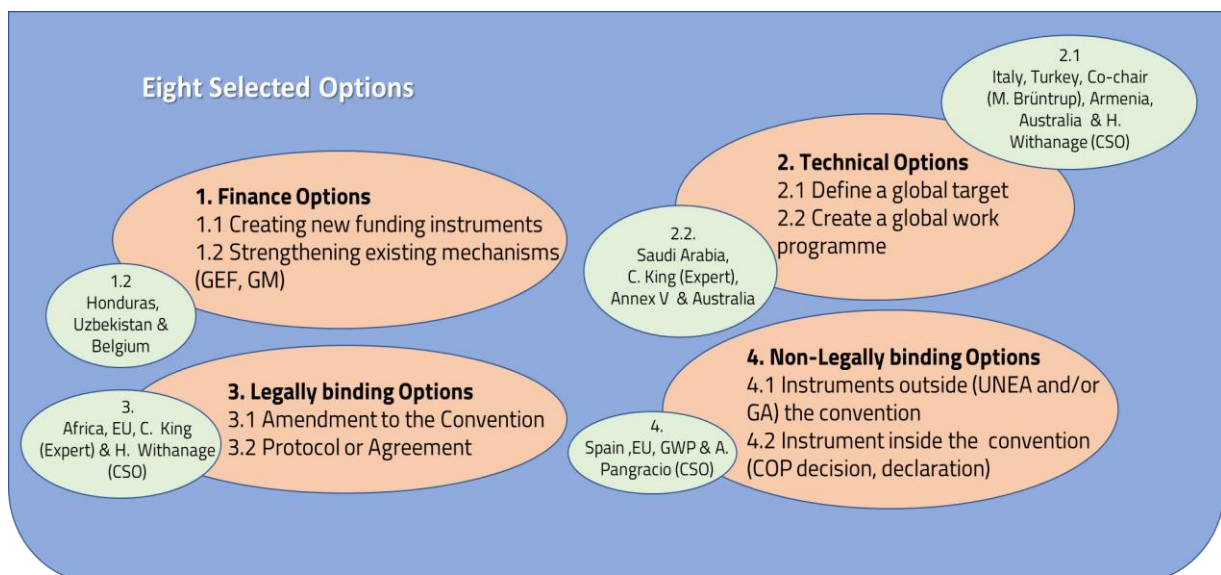


Figure 1: *Eight selected Options*



	1. Finance Options 1.1 Creating new funding instruments 1.2 Strengthening existing mechanisms (GEF, GM)		2. Technical Options 2.1 Define a global target 2.2 Create a global work programme		3. Legally binding Options 3.1 Amendment to the Convention 3.2 Protocol or Agreement		4. Non-Legally binding Options 4.1 Instruments outside (UNEA/GA) the convention 4.2 Instrument inside the convention	
Definition								
Elements								
Process								
Institutional Arrangement								
Mechanism								
Evaluation / Justification								

Figure 2: Options development matrix

Item 5 Moderated Discussion on the Draft CRIC Report

- 5.1) A draft CRIC report that was circulated to all IWG-members ahead of the meeting was discussed. The question about the need for a disclaimer, indicating that this is work in progress, was brought up. The intro section should reference current drought conditions and events. Furthermore, it was suggested that the report could open with a set of questions that are instrumental to the work of the IWG and policies surrounding proactive drought management in general. It was asked to reference a task group report on finance from the 1st IWG on drought (2019-2022). In addition, each core option should be described in an adjacent paragraph. Finally, an invitation to provide feedback and views on the report shall be expressed.
- 5.2) The overall **length** of the report including an annex (which is meant to hold the original 48 options) should aim to be about 10-15 pages, which increases its readability and potential for more detailed feedback by the CRIC (and others).



Item 6 Wrap Up

- 6.1) Great progress was achieved during the three-day meeting, which exceeded what was anticipated, and helped to move the IWG agenda forward for the upcoming CRIC meeting. At the end, it was highlighted that **cross-cutting issues** with other conventions and established initiatives should be understood better by clearly assessing what their experiences with similar processes are, and what their drought-related goals-setting are. Special focus was put on Rio 'Sister' Conventions, especially the discussions under the UNFCCC, and on drought management in the framework of GEF programming. The idea to holistically screen the field to identify synergies with relevant institutions (such as FAO, WMO, UNDRR, WFP) was raised. As for the question of bringing in external expertise, the group did not see the need for doing so at this stage but remained open to doing so in the future.
- 6.3) Agreement on the next steps:
- Prepare an updated Progress CRIC Report
 - Task Groups work on fleshing out retained options, including a differentiated development matrix.
 - Identify where to host the 5th in-person meeting after the 4th one, which will be held back-to-back in Samarkand (Chile submitted an official request to host the meeting to the Secretariat)
- 6.4) Closure of the meeting:
- Ending remarks by Ms. Miriam Medel García, Chief Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation (UNCCD)
 - Ending remarks by IWG Co-Chair, Mr. Michael Brüntrup
 - Ending remarks by Ms. Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary (UNCCD)



Table 2: Detailed timeline

2023		
30 th June	<i>CRIC Draft Report</i>	<i>Distribution of updated CRIC Report to IWG members and Meeting summary</i>
5 th July	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Deadline for feedback by IWG members</i>
9 th July	<i>Pre-Final CRIC Draft</i>	<i>Distribution of pre-final CRIC report to IWG members</i>
12 th July	<i>Final Factual Feedback</i>	<i>Final factual feedback is provided</i>
15 th July	<i>CRIC Report Submission to UNOG</i>	
13-17 November	<i>Samarkand, Uzbekistan</i>	<i>CRIC Meeting</i>
18-20 November	<i>Samarkand, Uzbekistan</i>	<i>4th IWG Meeting</i>
2024		
TBA	<i>5th in-person meeting</i>	<i>Santiago, Chile</i>
Mid-June	<i>IWG report ready with COP documents</i>	
December	<i>Final report at COP 16 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i>	