



05 June 2025

Open Call for Expressions of Interest

Independent Scientists to join the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is a new call for expression of interest. The previous call launched last 19 May has been recalled. Applicants are advised to submit following the guidelines in this updated call.

Deadline June 13 2025 (midnight CEST)

In line with the Terms of Reference approved by the Bureau of the Conference of Parties (COP), the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is pleased to launch this open call to invite expressions of interest from qualified independent scientists to serve as technical experts in the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework ([IWG-FSF](#)).

Mandate of the [IWG-FSF](#)

Established pursuant to decisions 4 and 7/COP.16, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF) is tasked with supporting the development of a post-2030 strategic framework for the UNCCD. Its specific mandate includes the following tasks:

- Identify key elements, which could include goals and targets, for a post-2030 strategic framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, building on lessons learned, as contained, inter alia, in the report of the IWG to Oversee the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework Midterm Evaluation Process and its follow-up, the proceedings of the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on drought and relevant decisions taken by the COP during its sessions;
- Conduct a thorough analysis of current indicators for national reporting on the strategic objectives of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification with a view to making them more responsive for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention, while ensuring that future methodologies are feasible, simple to understand and within the capacities of Parties, and taking into consideration decision 8/COP.

Responsibilities

Three independent scientists will be selected to join the IWG FSF as technical experts being full members of the IWG FSF. These individuals will contribute scientific and technical insights, drawing on their expertise to support the IWG's deliberations and deliverables. Selected independent scientists will:

- Participate in IWG FSF meetings (in-person and virtual);
- Provide input on strategic planning and indicator analysis;
- Collaborate in preparing the interim and final reports;
- Engage with stakeholders and support transparent consultation processes.



Criteria for selection

Experts applying to become members of the IWG should have:

- An advanced university degree (Masters or PhD) and a strong academic and/or professional background in fields relevant to desertification, land degradation and drought, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, climate science, or environmental monitoring.
- At least 15 years of relevant professional experience in scientific research, science-policy analysis, or program implementation in areas related to:
 - Land degradation, desertification, or drought;
 - Sustainable land management or restoration;
 - Indicator development and monitoring, or reporting frameworks;
 - International environmental conventions, governance, or strategic planning.
- Substantive evidence of significant, peer-reviewed publications in international journals, technical assessments, or contributions to international processes is highly desirable.
- Demonstrate experience in strategic policy development, indicator design and data analysis, or related technical/scientific assessments at international or regional levels.
- Experience in providing scientific advice to decision makers and practitioners at global, regional, national and/or sub-national levels in thematic areas relevant to the UNCCD.
- Understanding of the UNCCD process, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and/or environment conventions.
- Full professional fluency in English - working language of the IWG is required (oral and written).
- Be willing to commit the time and effort necessary to contribute to the work of the IWG FSF.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following documents:

1. A letter of interest (max. 2 pages) outlining relevant expertise and motivation.
2. A curriculum vitae (max. 4 pages), including contact information and a list of relevant publications and projects.
3. A reference letter or contact details of one referee familiar with the candidate's work (optional).

Selection process

The selection process, using the above requirements as criteria and taking into consideration gender balance and regional diversity, will be conducted by the Bureau of the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP Bureau), based on a shortlist received from the CRIC and CST Bureaus 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 FSF as well as their agreement with the Terms of Reference of the



IWG FSF. The final composition of the IWG FSF will be posted on the UNCCD website ([IWG-FSF page](#)).

Terms of appointment

The terms of appointment of expert members of the IWG FSF is approximately one year. Thus, the term of appointment of those selected to serve in response to this call is from July 2025 up to the end of the seventeenth session of the COP, which is envisioned to take place in August 2026.

IWG FSF 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-fsf@unccd.int, with a subject line “**IWG FSF – experts Ref:FSFSCI002**”. The deadline for applications is **June 13 2025**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

