



Second online meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Future Strategic Framework on the Convention (IWG FSF)

06 November 2025 12h00-15h00 CEST via Zoom

--REPORT--

I. Welcome Remarks

1. Co-chair Mrs. Rambau opened the meeting by greeting all participants and expressing appreciation for their attendance. She especially thanked those who joined the session early in the morning or late at night due to time zone differences, acknowledging their effort and commitment to the group's work.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

2. One member requested an additional agenda item, which pertains to the development of a roadmap of work for the IWG FSF. The members agreed with the importance of this addition, and it was decided that the secretariat would prepare the roadmap, following the meeting. With this inclusion, the agenda was formally adopted.

III. Discussion of the Draft Executive Summary / Addendum of the Indicator Assessment Preliminary Report

3. The secretariat outlined the steps taken since the first online meeting on 14 October 2025, noting that on 31 October the Indicator Assessment preliminary report had been shared with all IWG FSF members for comments by 11 November.

4. Co-chair Mr. Herrick emphasized that the report is intended primarily as a background analytical document to inform and assist the IWG FSF in developing its recommendations.

5. There was broad consensus that, given the limited time available to review the report and the ongoing nature of discussions, the current document should be treated as a technical or consultant product still under development, rather than as a final IWG FSF product. Several members also emphasized the importance of allowing sufficient time for in-depth review before producing any recommendations.

6. On that basis, the IWG FSF agreed to:

- a. Revise the title of "Executive Summary" to "Technical Summary".
- b. Integrate the "Technical Summary" in the Addendum to document ICCD/CRIC (23)/4.
- c. Publish the remainder of the Indicator Assessment preliminary report as an information document for CRIC 23.

7. It was further agreed that:

- a. Preliminary comments on the draft materials submitted by IWG FSF members by 11 November 2025 will be taken into consideration by the secretariat, in close collaboration with the Co-Chairs, for inclusion in the "Technical Summary", with the understanding that only minor revisions will be accommodated at this stage.
- b. The Addendum will comprise both the "Technical Summary" of the Indicator



Assessment and information relating to the Scoping Paper.

- c. A clear explanation of the time constraints faced by the group should be clearly noted both in the Addendum and in the information document and resulting from this, key findings and/or recommendations should be considered preliminary, pending further work by the IWG – FSF; and
- d. Recommendations will be developed by IWG FSF members in the coming months following further deliberations within the group and in consultation with Parties.

8. On the matter of translation, it was clarified that while document ICCD/CRIC (23)/4 will be translated, the Addendum will not, although non-official or voluntary translations may be possible.

9. Regarding participation in the CRIC process, it was confirmed that IWG FSF co-chairs supported by members attending CRIC23 will represent the wider IWG to ensure continuity and coordination in the group's work ahead of the first in-person meeting.

10. In closing the discussion on this agenda item, the Co-Chair encouraged IWG FSF members to continue reviewing relevant materials, including the midterm review and other reference documents, to strengthen the group's future work and ensure that the resulting framework effectively meets the needs of the UNCCD.

IV. Presentation on the framework of the scoping paper - benchmark analysis of the Rio Convention systems

11. After a brief introduction, the consultants presented the framework for the scoping paper. Members welcomed the framework as a good starting point and agreed that some initial key findings should be submitted by 28 November 2025. Several members noted that a review of the submission made by the consultant in late November could pose a challenge, given the upcoming travel to Panama, regional consultations, and preparations for the CRIC.

12. It was emphasized that the in-person meeting should be used effectively to ensure productive discussions. While the framework currently focuses mainly on institutional aspects, members suggested strengthening the policy dimension, particularly to clarify what the UNCCD covers in relation to the other Rio Conventions.

13. Further comments were made that the benchmark analysis of the Rio Conventions could be expanded to consider useful elements from additional frameworks such as the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further suggestions for inclusion in the benchmark analysis covered key drought- and water-related issues, as well as opportunities to explore linkages with other international agreements that tackle these domains. Additionally, insights from science-based organizations relevant to land and biodiversity, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) would ensure that the scoping paper reflects the broader scientific and policy landscape governing land, biodiversity, and ecosystem management.

14. One issue was raised related to whether in-kind contributions would also be reviewed as part of the scoping paper section on financial assessment, highlighting the importance of capturing both financial and non-financial resources in order to provide a comprehensive overview of available support and capacity.



15. The Co-Chairs highlighted the benefit of adding a Theory of Change (ToC) as an additional element for the work on the scoping paper or of this group. However, one of the members cautioned implementing this approach and need to stay aligned with the convention text and avoid taking on board new commitments. Instead focus could be on activities rather than creating new commitments. Additionally, some members noted that policy and monitoring should be developed in tandem, and that the two related documents under preparation should be aligned and mutually supportive.

V. Development of the addendum to the official document and suggested timelines

16. Members requested the secretariat to draft a timeline of events outlining a comprehensive roadmap for the IWG – FSF that includes meetings, deadlines for the finalization of background documents and IWG FSF recommendations, and consultations with Parties.

17. One member highlighted the need to identify the key elements of the future strategy and inquired whether a study on possible future indicators would be supported through additional financing. IWG members provided examples of existing gaps within the current framework, including measures for monitoring land degradation in hyper-arid areas, complementary metrics to soil organic carbon, aspects related to climate change adaptation, and gender-responsive indicators. The secretariat clarified that some additional funding for indicator work would be available and the group needs to further discuss this issue in the forthcoming meeting.

18. The Secretariat was also requested to review the COP mandate to identify which additional documents the IWG should take into account, including previous IWG reports, and the group move forward with its work.

19. A proposal was made to reschedule the next meeting, with an online poll to be circulated to determine the date with highest availability among the members.

20. The co-chair thanked all participants and formally closed the meeting.



Annex I: Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
- III. Discussion of the Draft Executive Summary / Addendum of the Indicator Assessment Preliminary Report
- IV. Presentation on the framework of the scoping paper - benchmark analysis of the Rio Convention systems
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Closing



Annex II. Meeting participants

IWG FSF Members:

	Name	Contact details
1.	Joanna Akrofi	Programme Management Officer Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD) United Nations Environment Programme Nairobi, Kenya email: joana.akrofi@un.org
2.	Mariam Aktar-Schuster	Senior Scientist Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit Berlin, Germany email: mariam.akhtar-schuster@dlr.de
3.	Chay Asdak	Researcher at the Institute of Ecology Lecturer and researcher Faculty of Agricultural Technology UNPAD Padjadjaran University, 40293 Bandung, Indonesia email: casdak@unpad.ac.id; c_asdak@yahoo.com
4.	Marcelo Böhlke	Minister-Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of Brazil, Moscow, Russia email: marbohlke@gmail.com
5.	Fleur Downard	Director Department of Climate Change Energy, the Environment and Water International Environment and United Nations Section Canberra, Australia email: fleur.downard@dcceew.gov.au
6.	Gaius Eudoxie	Deputy Dean Faculty of Food and Agriculture Agency University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus Saint Lucia email: gaius.eudoxie@sta.uwi.edu
7.	James Gambiza	Department of Environmental Science Rhodes University Makhanda 6140, South Africa email: j.gambiza@ru.ac.za
8.	Jeffrey Herrick	Independent Scientist United States of America email: jhlandhealth@gmail.com
9.	Xiaoxia Jia	Deputy Director General Department of Combating Desertification National Forestry and Grassland Administration Beijing, China email: xiaoxia_jia@outlook.com; jia_xiaoxia@forestry.gov.cn;
10.	Juliane Muellner	International Relations Officer European Commission - DG Environment, Unit ENV F.3 Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism Brussels, Belgium email: Juliane.MUELLNER@ec.europa.eu



11.	Thizwilondi Rambau	Director: Land Degradation and Desertification UNCCD National Focal Point Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Pretoria, South Africa email: tsrambau@environment.gov.za; thizwirambau@gmail.com
12.	Emmanuel Seck	Directeur Exécutif GNDR Global Board Chair Dakar, Senegal email: emmanuel.seck@endaenergie.org; emmanuel.seck@gmail.com
13.	Ingrid Teich	Senior Research Scientist Centre for Development and Environment University of Bern Switzerland Email: ingrid.teich@unibe.ch
14.	Teshome Temirat	Director General of Forest Resources Inventory and Management Plan Addis Ababa Ethiopia email: teshome49@yahoo.com; Tesh4040@gmail.com
15.	Tashi Wangdi	Programme Director Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, National Soil Services Centre of the Department of Agriculture Thimphu, Bhutan email: twangdi@moaf.gov.bt

UNCCD secretariat:

1	Johns Muleso Kharika	Chief, STI Unit
2	Birguy Lamizana	Chief, GPARC Unit
3	Anja Thust	Programme Officer STI Unit, CRIC secretary
4	Louise Baker	Managing Director, GM
5	Carmen Alina-Margina	Conference Affairs Officer, GBLA
6	Sara Minelli	Programme Officer, STI Unit
7	Brian O'Connor	Geospatial Information Officer, STI Unit
8	Olga Andreeva	Programme Officer Scientific Affairs, STI Unit, CST secretary
9	Coleen Carranza	Associate Programme Officer, STI Unit
10	Lesley Otieno	Programme Assistant, STI Unit
11	Cheikh Toure	Regional Liaison Officer Africa, GPARC
12	Louisa Karika	Regional Liaison Officer Asia, GPARC
13	Nadia Dementieva	Programme Officer, GPARC
14	Pablo Muñoz	Programme Management Officer, GM
15	Milcah Ndegwa	Associate Programme Officer, GPARC
16	Aurelie Boutrou	Associate Programme Officer, CERP
17	Enedy Njoroge	Consultant, STI Unit
18	Edgar Fernandez	Consultant
19	Stephanie Hodge	Consultant
20	Felipe De Leon	Consultant



Annex III: Presentation on the framework of the scoping paper - benchmark analysis of the Rio Convention systems

**MS PowerPoint slides shared as a separate file