



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

11 November 2025

12h00-15h00 CET via Zoom

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I. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

1. Co-Chair Mr. Herrick opened the meeting and welcomed participants. The agenda was presented for consideration. Hearing no objections or requests for additions, the agenda was formally adopted.

II. Initial findings on the scoping paper

2. The secretariat's supporting consultants presented updates to the scoping paper framework and initial findings on the comparative analysis among the Rio Conventions for a few of the sections, as agreed by the group. The updates covered a range of overarching themes, including the nature and scope of the conventions, approaches to strengthening implementation, and the use of targets and strategic frameworks. They underscored the broad participation and objectives across the environmental conventions, while noting differences in geographic or thematic focus. The consultants further noted that, following the group's second online meeting, the framework for the scoping paper was expanded to include elements such as theories of change, where available, and considerations on the role of science in informing policy and decision-making.
3. In the discussion following the presentation of updates to the scoping paper, members of the IWG FSF emphasized the importance of systematically considering relevant COP decisions and existing evaluation work when developing the paper's key findings. In particular, the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework was identified as a critical input.
4. The group agreed on a refined approach to the theory of change, emphasizing that it should remain a descriptive tool the discussion of without implying new commitments or policy directions. The discussion also highlighted the value of linking the scoping paper to relevant external processes and knowledge streams, while keeping references focused and allowing adequate time for document circulation and internal consultations.

III. Roadmap/timeline of the IWG FSF members' meetings and activities

5. The secretariat presented a draft roadmap and timeline for the IWG FSF members' meetings and activities leading up to CRIC 23, including deadlines for the addendum, information document, and scoping paper. The IWG FSF members were encouraged to summarize key points in writing to ensure they are captured, and the Secretariat offered to provide a template for PowerPoint presentations for regional consultations.



6. In regard to COP 17 timeline and meeting coordination, the IWG FSF members recognized the ambitious but limited timeline for their work. One member requested early notification of in-person meeting dates to allow for regional coordination. It was also suggested to keep the indicator assessment open for revision based on the scoping paper's output. The IWG FSF members agreed to this approach. The secretariat committed to providing dates for March and May meetings, as well as exploring hybrid meeting options to accommodate members unable to attend in person. Concerns were raised about visa issues for the Panama meeting, which could impact attendance.

IV. First in-person meeting agenda

7. The secretariat presented the draft agenda for the 1st in-person IWG FSF meeting (6–8 December in Panama), which will include reviewing the interim report, discussing indicator assessments, and potentially integrating a theory of change into the group's work. Members suggested adding presentations on the midterm evaluation and the drought IWG, while the secretariat noted that comments on the indicator assessment report are being compiled and minor revisions to the technical summary will follow. The group also discussed how to prioritize meeting time, with Co-Chair Mr. Herrick emphasizing regional perspectives and encouraging advance document review, and proposing an informal, possibly small-group discussion on a theory of change to help frame how the Convention could influence land degradation, desertification, and drought over the next decade.

V. CRIC23 Meeting Agenda Planning and Engagement with Parties during CRIC23

8. The IWG FSF members also considered options for informal consultations during the CRIC 23. In this regard, the secretariat provided information on the CRIC23 schedule, including plenary and contact IWG FSF members meetings, as well as the availability of meeting rooms for side events. It was proposed holding daily lunchtime discussions (1-3 PM) where regional IWG FSF members could exchange perspectives. The co-chairs agreed to attend these sessions and potentially visit regional consultation meetings.

VI. Opportunity expand the activities on the future indicator framework

9. A potential new activity related to the assessment of indicators was discussed. Initially conceived as part of national reporting activities and focused on producing a report, the proposal falls under the COP Presidency's initiative to support the work of the IWG FSF on indicators and monitoring. The secretariat was tasked with providing a more detailed outline and plan to enable the group to further assess the activity's relevance to its work.



Annex I: Meeting Agenda

NO.	TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	PURPOSE
1.	12:00 – 12:10	Setup and admission of attendees	Secretariat	Admit participants to the meeting
2.	12:00 – 12:10	Opening and Adoption of the Agenda	IWG FSF co-Chairs	To provide official opening and adoption of the agenda
3.	12:10 – 12:50	Initial findings on the scoping paper	UNCCD secretariat	Senior consultants will present the follow-up to the approved scoping paper framework and provide initial findings on some selected sub-topics of their work.
4.	12:50 – 13:40	Roadmap/timeline of the IWG FSF members's meetings and activities	UNCCD secretariat	Secretariat will briefly present the table with timeline/roadmap, including the dates for submission of the addendum.
5.	13:40 – 14:05	First in-person meeting agenda	UNCCD secretariat	Secretariat will present the tentative agenda for the first-in-person meeting.
6.	14:05– 14:30	Engagement with Parties during CRIC	IWG FSF co-Chairs	Co-Chairs will propose the idea of informal and regional consultations with Parties during CRIC 23, and beyond, and their relevance to the work of the IWG FSF members
7.	14:30 – 14:55	Opportunity to request input from an expert panel and/or consultant on future indicator framework	UNCCD Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item and present an opportunity to work further on the indicator framework, through a project with the NCVG, within the framework of KSA's COP presidency.</p> <p>The IWG FSF members will discuss and provide feedback on (a) what the IWG FSF members would like to request? And (b) what the IWG FSF members's envisioned outputs from this work are?</p>
8.	14:55– 15:00	Closing and next steps for the addendum	IWG FSF co-Chairs	The co-chairs will provide next steps and officially close the meeting



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
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4.	Marcelo Böhlke	Minister-Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of Brazil, Moscow, Russia email: marbohlke@gmail.com
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8.	Jeffrey Herrick	Independent Scientist United States of America email: jhlandhealth@gmail.com
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15.	Tashi Wangdi	Programme Director



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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
18	Edgar Fernandez	Consultant
19	Stephanie Hodge	Consultant
20	Felipe De Leon	Consultant