



Second in-person meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF)

Wissenschaftszentrum
Bonn, Germany
24-26 March 2026 | 09:00 - 18:00 (CEST)
(Hybrid on-site and online meeting)

- Report -

1. The Second Physical Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF) was held 24-16 March 2026 at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Bonn, Germany. (See Annex 1 for the provisional agenda and Annex 2 for the list of participants).
2. The IWG Co-chairs officially opened the meeting and introduced the provisional agenda which was adopted by IWG members without amendment.
3. During the meeting, the UNCCD Executive Secretary, Yasmin Fouad joined and gave remarks, thanking the members for their contribution, emphasizing the importance of their work. She responded to a number of questions posed by a number of IWG members.
4. Also during the meeting, the Global Mechanism presented the working draft of a background paper that was requested at the first in-person meeting of the IWG. The current draft of that background paper, entitled “Future Financing for the Implementation of the UNCCD: Towards Renewed and Scalable Financing Approaches” was circulated to IWG members for their feedback prior to the meeting. Based on this and additional feedback received during the meeting, the IWG will refine the background paper so that it can be available in May 2026 to the IWG for further consideration.
5. The work of the IWG began with a summary by the Co-Chairs of progress thus far. Of particular note, the vision the IWG-FSF developed in their first physical meeting in December 2025 in Panama and the positive feedback received from regions was discussed.
6. Building on this vision, the majority of the work of the IWG during the second in-person meeting was focused on aim of the IWG as set out in its terms of reference in response to decision 4/COP.16, which is to identify elements for a post-2030 strategic framework for the UNCCD.
7. The IWG agreed among themselves on 15 draft elements and the language for brief descriptors of each (1-2 sentences) (see Annex III). These included substantive elements that cover all UNCCD priorities based on the Convention text and important decisions




since. They also cover the means of implementation (e.g., capacity building, finance, knowledge sharing)

8. The IWG began discussions on how these elements might be organized, and what recommendations might fall under each.
9. This will be the focus of the third in person meeting which is 12-14 May 2026 in Bonn.
10. The co-Chairs of the IWG-FSF closed the meeting.



Annex 1. Provisional agenda

	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	REFERENCE:	IWG FSF		
		CIRCULATION TO:	IWG FSF Members	COMPILED BY:	UNCCD Secretariat
DOCUMENT TYPE:	PROVISIONAL MEETING AGENDA				
TITLE:	Second in-person meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (IWG FSF)				

VENUE: Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn, Ahrstraße 45, Bonn, Germany

TIME: 0900hrs – 1730hrs local time

CHAIRPERSON: Thizwilondi Rambau and Jeff Herrick

SECRETARIAT: UNCCD Secretariat

NO.	TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	PURPOSE
DAY 1				
1.	09:00 - 09:30	Welcome of the participants, opening remarks, and adoption of the agenda	IWG FSF co-Chairs	Officially open the meeting, including remarks from UNCCD, and adoption of the agenda
2.	09:30 - 10:30	Theory of change progress	IWG FSF	Initial update and discussion from subgroup focused on developing a theory of change
<i>Coffee break 10:30h-10:45h</i>				
3.	10:45 - 12:00	Presentation on background document financing of the Convention	UNCCD GM	GM presents the background paper on financing of the UNCCD, then group provides feedback and discuss.
4.	12:00 - 13:00	Key elements discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> get consensus on an agreed framework/outline with 5-10 elements 	IWG FSF co-Chairs	Continue the discussion from the pre-meeting virtual session on the key elements, enhancing and/or expanding those already derived from the regions
<i>13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH</i>				
5.	14:00 - 15:30	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs	Continue discussion on Key elements
<i>15:30h - 15:45h Coffee Break</i>				
6.	15:45 - 17:30	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs	Continue discussion on Key elements



DAY 2						
7.	09:00	10:30	Discuss the structure of the final report	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Start discussion on the structure of the final report to guide on further discussions on the Key elements
<i>Coffee break 10:30h - 10:50h</i>						
8.	10:50	13:00	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements
<i>13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH</i>						
9.	14:00	15:30	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements
<i>15:30h - 15:45h Coffee Break</i>						
10.	15:45	17:30	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements
DAY 3						
11.	09:00	10:30	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements
<i>Coffee break 10:30h - 10:50h</i>						
13.	10:50	12:00	Key elements discussion	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements
<i>13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH</i>						
14.	14:00	15:30	Key elements discussion and revisit discussion on structure of final report, if needed	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Continue discussion on Key elements, including possibly putting all the discussions together and define milestones that need to be reached, including for the third in-person meeting
<i>15:30h - 15:45h Coffee Break</i>						
15.	15:45	17:20	Report on assessment of indicators	IWG FSF co-Chairs		Update on the progress on the assessment of current indicators
16	17:20	17:30	Closing	IWG FSF co-close		Close the meeting of the group



Annex 2. Meeting participants

IWG FSF Members:

Mariam Aktar-Schuster	Senior Scientist, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit Berlin, Germany email: mariam.akhtar-schuster@dlr.de
Marcelo Böhlke	Minister-Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of Brazil, Moscow, Russia email: marbohlke@gmail.com
Fleur Downard	Director, Department of Climate Change Energy, the Environment and Water, International Environment and UN Section, Canberra, Australia email: fleur.downard@dcceew.gov.au
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
James Gambiza	Independent Scientist affiliated with Department of Environmental Science, Rhodes University, South Africa email: j.gambiza@ru.ac.za
Jeffrey Herrick	Independent Scientist affiliated with the University of Colorado and New Mexico State University email: jhlandhealth@gmail.com
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;
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Thizwilondi Rambau	Director, Land Degradation and Desertification, UNCCD NFP, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Pretoria, South Africa email: tsrambau@environment.gov.za; thizwirambau@gmail.com
Emmanuel Seck	CSOs Representative, Directeur Exécutif, GNDR Global Board Chair Dakar, Senegal email: emmanuel.seck@endaenergie.org; mmanuel.seck@gmail.com
Ingrid Teich	Independent Scientist affiliated with the Centre for Development and Environment University of Bern, Switzerland email: ingrid.teich@unibe.ch
Ahmed Abdelati	Professor of Agronomy Desert Research Center (DRC), Cairo, Egypt email: unccd.egypt@gmail.com; dr.abdelati@gmail.com
Sepali De Silva	Sri Lanka email: sepalisilva@yahoo.com
Chay Asdak	Indonesia email: casdak@unpad.ac.id; c_asdak@yahoo.com
Andrea Fión Góngora	Desarrollo Socio-económico y Ambiente, Guatemala email: andrea.fion.12@gmail.com
Tamirat Teshome	Head for Bamboo Development and Technology, Ethiopian Forestry Development, Ethiopia email: tesh4040@gmail.com



UNCCD secretariat support:

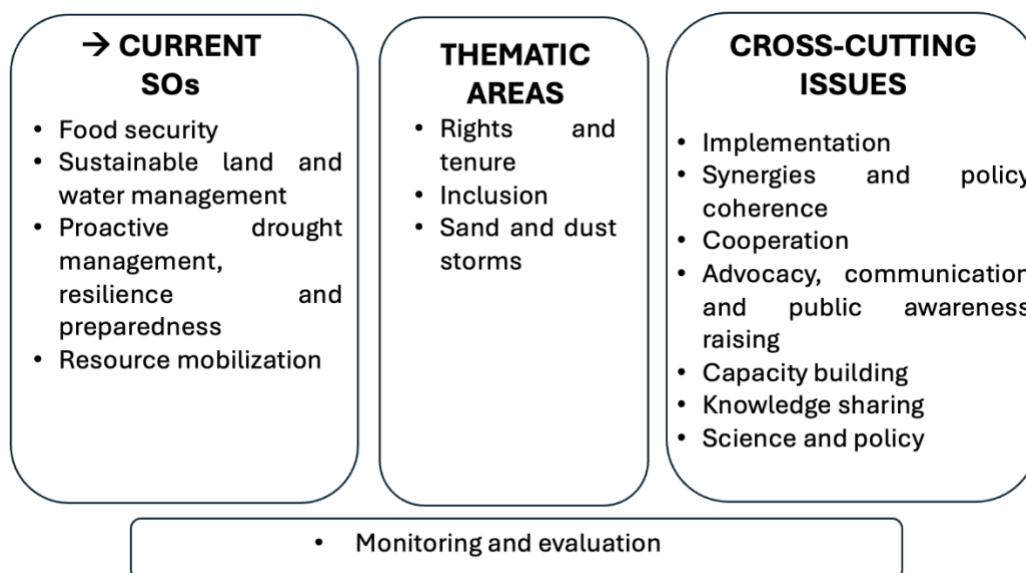
	Barron Joseph Orr	Chief Scientist and Science, Technology and Innovation Unit OIC
	Coleen Carranza	Associate Programme Officer, STI Unit
	Olga Andreeva	Programme Officer, Scientific Affairs, STI Unit
	Lesley Otieno	Programme Assistant, STI Unit

UNCCD Invited speakers:

	Yasmin Fouad	Executive Secretary
	Pablo Muñoz	Programme Management Officer, GM

Annex 3: Draft key elements organized in a preliminary structure

Key Elements Necessary to Address the Vision: Guiding the Future Implementation of the Convention in Line with the Convention Text



Key elements detail:

1. **Advocacy, communication and public awareness raising:** increase awareness and understanding of the importance of combating desertification, land degradation, and mitigating the effects of drought.
2. **Capacity building:** strengthen and institutionalize capacities at all levels for informed decision-making and action
3. **Resource mobilization:** increase financial resources, and other forms of support, for the implementation of the Convention
4. **Cooperation:** improve the effectiveness and coordination of cooperation at all levels to facilitate the implementation of national priorities [including with other Conventions]
5. **Knowledge sharing:** strengthen exchange of technologies, information, knowledge and experiences on mutually agreed terms



6. **Monitoring and evaluation:** ensure a responsive, relevant and inclusive monitoring system that is within the capacities of Parties in order to track implementation, determine progress, evaluate impacts and support action.
7. **Proactive drought management, resilience and preparedness:** increase the focus on drought, as well as on holistic and integrated drought management, taking into account biodiversity and climate
8. **Food security:** strengthen human well-being, food security and livelihoods by improving the health and productivity of agricultural land and rangelands while reducing pressure on natural ecosystems
9. **Sustainable land and water management:** avoid, reduce and reverse degradation of all lands, including but not limited to agricultural and rangelands to enhance the integrity, connectivity and resilience of ecosystems in particular through sustainable land and water management.
10. **Rights and tenure:** promote human well-being through integrating rights and safeguarding land and water tenure for all, with particular attention to people in vulnerable situations.
11. **Inclusion:** For all aspects of implementation, ensure inclusion, in particular of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and other people in vulnerable situations.
12. **Sand and dust storms:** strengthen work on addressing sand and dust storms.
13. **Science and policy:** strengthen the overall and synergistic interface of science, research, education and policy to support evidence-based decision-making and implementation, including by reinforcing and supporting the role of the SPI, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of responses on the ground.
14. **Implementation:** guided by the principles of the Convention, strengthen and mainstream tools and policies for effective implementation of national priorities with support from all relevant stakeholders..
15. **Synergies and policy coherence:** strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the Rio Conventions at all appropriate levels in order to leverage synergies, relevant organizations and international instruments in the