



**- MINUTES OF THE SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE COP 16
BUREAU
(26 JUNE 2025) -**

The second intersessional meeting of the COP 16 Bureau was held on 26 June 2025, under the Presidency of H.E. Dr. Ossama Faqeeha, Deputy Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The President and the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw made welcoming remarks.

The UNCCD Executive Secretary at the conclusion of his remarks made a presentation entitled “*From New Delhi to Riyadh via Abidjan*”

The presentation highlighted transformative initiatives, global partnerships, and unprecedented investments in land restoration from 2019-2025.

The COP16 Presidency also took this opportunity to express on behalf of all the bureau membership deep appreciation and gratitude to the Executive Secretary for his distinguished leadership.

An overview of the matters discussed, and the decisions made by the Bureau are presented below.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

II. Status of Organisation of CRIC 23

a. Organizational process: Report by the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced the agenda item by recalling that CRIC 23 will be organized in Panama Convention Center from 1 to 5 December 2025 with 1-day regional consultation foreseen to take place one day before the opening of the session. Other meetings still to be confirmed are foreseen to take place back-to-back to the CRIC 23 as per past intersessional CRIC (possibility, amongst others, or a LAC regional meeting on reporting to take place before the CRIC).

Side events will be also organized during the CRIC 23 outside the official working hours of the session. The application form will be made available on the UNCCD CRIC 23 webpage and should be submitted before 1 October 2025.

During the 1st planning mission organized in March 2025 in Panama, the draft text of the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and related operational Annexes, I (conference, meeting rooms and other areas), IIB (IT equipment), III (local staff) and IV (direct incremental costs) were discussed with the Host Country.

Given the fact that the service provider may be recruited only in September which will delay the finalization of the pending operational Annexes, the host country requested to proceed with the signature of HCA text as soon as possible, with the understanding that relevant annexes may be adjusted, if necessary, later on. The date for the signature of the HCA will be confirmed with the HC during the 2nd planning mission with the HC.



Also, during the 1st planning mission, the secretariat identified the necessary conference and meeting rooms for the session, namely: one Plenary Hall and 15 meetings rooms. A first draft layout was drawn, which is to be further refined with a conference center designer during the 2nd planning mission.

The visa issue was raised during the secretariat exchanges with the Chief of Consular Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), as out of 87 Parties who need an entry visa, only seven have designated Panama Embassies/Consulates. It was also pointed out that most of the remaining 76 Parties that need visa are from Africa and Asia region. The MOFA representatives confirmed that measures will be taken to facilitate visa issuance to all Parties underlining that a minimum of 30 days would be needed for this. It was further confirmed that a focal point to deal with visa matters within the MOFA Consular Department would be designated as soon as possible.

In line with further exchanges on the visa issue, the Host Country confirmed that the visa fee will not be exempted and no visas on arrival will be issued for CRIC 23. Therefore, all participants requiring a visa must apply in advance through the electronic visa system to be specially set up for CRIC 23 and obtain approval prior to travelling to Panama.

the Minister of Environment informed of the intention of the host country to offer one day trip visit in Panama City and surroundings to the CRIC 23 participants. It was proposed that this information to be inserted in the information note for participants.

A 2nd planning mission will take place from 30 June to 4 July during which all pending matters would need to be solved with the host country.

b. Substantive process: Report by the CRIC Chair

The item was presented by the CRIC Chair. In line with decisions 2, 4, 13, 20, 24, 25, 27, and 28/COP.16, the following agenda items will be on the agenda of the twenty third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC):

- a) Inputs from regional meetings in preparation for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.
- b) Update on Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts.
- c) Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention.
- d) Procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
- e) Follow-up on policy frameworks identified by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session
- f) Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance to provide initiative to and feedback on the work of the Science–Policy Interface
- g) Interim report of the intergovernmental working group on the future strategic framework of the Convention.

The CRIC Bureau which met for the first time on 20 June 2025 discussed the draft agenda of the 23rd session together with a draft programme of work to enabling the secretariat to finalize the annotations and resubmit the agenda for final endorsement to the CRIC Bureau in time for it to be further processed by UNOG in a timely manner.



Nevertheless, a forecast for official documentation for the session had already been prepared and submitted to UNOG.

The main focus of the CRIC 23 session will be to highlight the upcoming national reporting cycle, including the reporting tools, templates, and provisions for relevant default data.

As requested by Parties at COP 16, a Gender Caucus will be held during the intersessional session of the CRIC to provide a platform to advance gender-responsive actions and programmes within the Convention.

The CRIC will consider all agenda items with a view to producing a final report of the session containing targeted recommendations. The final report will then be used to prepare draft decisions to be tabled at the session of the CRIC during its twenty-fourth meeting (CRIC 24) which will be held in conjunction with COP 17.

Further information on the substantive preparation of CRIC 23 will be made available to Parties once the preliminary agenda of the session has been considered and endorsed by the CRIC Bureau.

A bureau member enquired on the ‘Political Agenda’ (High-level segment, political declaration) of the CRIC23 session.

Another bureau member stressed the need to also include the Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs) in the discussion as there are a number of issues on the CRIC agenda that would also need guidance from the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The bureau member also requested to bring the issue of drought on the CRIC session agenda, particularly the *Drought Protocol* to allow enough time for discussion during the CRIC among Parties on their way to COP17.

The secretariat clarified that, at this stage there is no indication, regarding any intention by the host country, or any other interested Parties, to engage in the adoption of any declaration, that is not associated with the official agenda of CRIC 23.

On the *drought protocol* question, the CRIC Chair clarified that while recognizing drought as a very important topic, the intersessional session of the CRIC is a non-negotiating meeting. The issue can be discussed if Parties wished, but there will be no negotiation. Moreover, the actual CRIC official agenda is a mandate given by the COP and the bureau does not have a mandate to bring drought as a new agenda item to the CRIC 23 official agenda.

III. Report by the CST Chair

The CST Chair introduced the agenda item III informing that the Bureau of the CST convened three intersessional meetings in early 2025, prioritizing the CST work programme and recent renewal of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI). Furthermore, on 1 and 8 April 2025, two joint meetings of the Bureaux of the CST and the CRIC were convened online focusing on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF) of the Convention post-2030. During this period, the SPI met virtually for its 21st meeting on 13-15 May 2025 and the 22nd SPI meeting was held in person in Bonn from 18–20 June 2025.



The CST Bureau oversaw the staged renewal of the SPI membership, following decision 20/COP.16. Following its 20 January 2025 meeting, the CST Bureau extended invitations to current active and contributing SPI independent scientist members to consider extending their commitment of service through the 2025-2026 biennium to capitalize on their experience, preserve institutional memory and harness their proven capabilities to achieve what has been mandated of the SPI effectively. To address the remaining gaps in SPI membership, an open call for independent scientists yielded 106 high-quality applications from 49 countries. Nine independent scientists were selected, ensuring regional, gender, and disciplinary balance, and taking into consideration career stage, and this filled all remaining gaps in SPI membership. Dr. Nichole Barger, the outgoing co-Chair, was invited by the CST Bureau to serve as a Special Advisor to the SPI, to support the transition in SPI structure and function, as outlined in decision 20/COP.16.

At the 13-15 May 2025 meeting of the SPI, Dr. Emma Archer was unanimously elected by SPI independent scientists to serve as the SPI's independent scientist co-Chair for the 2025-2026 biennium, bringing continuity to SPI leadership.

The CST Bureau also initiated an open call for observer organizations to enhance collaboration with United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies working on topics relevant to the UNCCD. Four observer organizations were ultimately selected, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations University (UNU) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Following past practice, the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) panel also nominated a representative to serve as an observer to the SPI.

Following decision 21/COP.16, the SPI work programme for 2025-2026 was updated by the CST Bureau.¹ Specifically, the SPI is taking the scientific lead in the production of the third edition of the Global Land Outlook (SPI Objective 1), completing activities necessary to provide feedback on the development of procedures for fast-track assessments and information products (SPI Objective 2), and collaborating with six other intergovernmental science panels and bodies (SPI coordination activities).

The joint CRIC-CST Bureau meetings of 1 April 2025 and 8 April 2025 focused on the finalizing the ToRs and mandate of the IWG-FSF,² which following decisions 4 and 7/COP.16 will be tasked with identifying key elements, including potential goals and targets, for a post-2030 strategic framework of the UNCCD, drawing on past evaluations and relevant COP decisions. The IWG-FSF will also be responsible for analyzing current national reporting indicators to improve their relevance and usability for the post-2030 framework while ensuring simplicity and feasibility for all Parties.

The CST Bureau discussed ways to strengthen the integration of scientific input into the implementation of the Convention, particularly in the context of the upcoming twenty-third session of the CRIC. It was noted that in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 20/COP.16, a standing agenda item will henceforth be included in CRIC sessions to consider priorities for science-policy guidance. This aims to enable Parties to initiate and provide feedback on the work of the SPI, with particular attention to shaping the content of each flagship report.

¹ See <https://www.unccd.int/resources/other/unccd-spi-work-programme-2025-2026>

² See <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-05/ToR%20IWG%20FSF%20amended%20after%20COP%20Buro.pdf>



The CST Bureau discussed persistent communication challenges with National Focal Points (NFPs) and Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs), which have significantly hindered effective regional engagement. The Bureau noted outdated contact information and systemic issues such as high turnover, delays in official notifications of designation changes, and limitations in the current databases and mailing systems maintained by the secretariat. These issues align with concerns previously identified by the Mid-Term Evaluation IWG (decision 7/COP.16). In response, the CST Bureau agreed to formally request that the secretariat prioritize the update and regular maintenance of accurate NFP and STC contact lists and urged that this effort be integrated into broader digitalization initiatives (decision 4/COP.16).

In preparation for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17), the CST Bureau and SPI focused on ensuring that the outcomes of ongoing science-policy work meaningfully inform the negotiations and strategic decisions to be taken by Parties. This includes advancing the third edition of the Global Land Outlook to a stage where key messages and findings can be shared during COP17, as well as refining modalities for fast-track assessments to support timely policy responses. The SPI is also coordinating closely with other scientific bodies to ensure coherence of inputs into COP17. Additionally, the CST Bureau emphasized the need for early engagement with regional groups and focal points to align expectations and maximize the impact of scientific contributions to COP17 deliberations.

The CST Chair concluded by emphasizing the need to continue to support the work of the SPI and how the CST Bureau intends to continue, with the support of the secretariat, to address all other outcomes of COP16 which require scientific input. The CST Bureau will focus its intersessional discussions on the key issues to contribute to the UNCCD science agenda, leading to the development of the provisional agenda for CST17.

The discussion which followed the presentation of the CST Chair was focused primarily on the importance of the Global Land Outlook to the UNCCD in raising awareness on the value of sustainable land management and building drought resilience to the environment, society and the global economy. Bureau members discussed ways to increase the visibility and impact of future editions of the Global Land Outlook.

IV. Status of Organisation of COP17

The representative of the host country introduced the agenda item by updating the bureau that The Host Country Agreement (HCA) was signed already on the 21 Feb. 2025. The first Planning Mission took place in May 2025.

The Official Dates confirmed for 17-28 August 2026, Ulaanbaatar. The National Garden Park is confirmed as the Venue. Preparations led by the National Committee, chaired by the Minister of Environment and supported by 12 subcommittees.

The COP17 venue: National Garden Park has capacity to hosting 8,000 – 10,000 Participants.

The venue will include Blue and Green Zones, with temporary Structures.

The international service provider selection process is ongoing: GL Events and Orientation Events shortlisted and the collaboration with UNOPS under consideration.



COP17 will feature Thematic Days, inspired by the model used at COP16 in Riyadh such as : Water Day, Land, Day, Resilience Day, People Day and Food and Agricultural day. Key themes like *Science*, *Investment*, and *Policy* won't have a specific day but will also be mainstreamed across all sessions. The list is a draft, and once finalized, partner agencies will be identified and approached to co-organize the days.

The host country representative also informed on the *Global Coalition on Rangelands and Pastoralists*, that is a global coalition aimed at taking a unified and coordinated response to protect livestock farming, particularly in arid and highly degraded rangelands, combat desertification, and promote sustainable development through strengthened multilateral cooperation. the coalition's objectives: Strengthening policies to achieve the goal of Land Degradation Neutrality, increasing investment in sustainable pasture management, and improving the necessary research, knowledge, and information

V.a. Intersessional process: Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework

The secretariat presented agenda item V.a.

Following the approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the members of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG-FSF) at the last COP Bureau meeting held on 27 April 2025, the secretariat initiated the dissemination of information on how to become a member for the various stakeholders through appropriate official channels. A two-month timeline was established for the selection of all IWG-FSF members. The COP Bureau would need to endorse the members coming from accredited CSOs and those applications received from independent scientists. As regards the selection of final nominations for regional representatives, it is expected that the regional chairs of the UNCCD and/or COP Bureau members will send their nominations to the UNCCD secretariat no later than 27 June 2025.

To recall, the composition of the IWG-FSF is as follows:

- i. Three representatives from each of the five regions;
- ii. Three independent scientists.
- iii. One representative from an accredited civil society organization (CSO);
- iv. One representative from an intergovernmental organization (IGO).

Upon approval of the ToR, the secretariat promptly engaged with the respective stakeholder groups regarding the selection process. Information outlining the application and selection procedures was disseminated via email and published through official news items and notifications on the UNCCD website.

To facilitate nominations for the members from UN groups, notifications and emails were sent to National Focal Points (NFPs) and Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs) on 09 May 2025. For the selection of independent scientists, an open call was launched on 19 May 2025. However, this initial call was withdrawn to provide clearer guidance on the application process. Accordingly, a new call for expression of interest for independent scientists



was launched on 5 June 2025, with a deadline for submission set for 13 June 2025. Accredited CSOs were notified through an open call as well, that was launched on 15 May 2025. The secretariat followed past precedent for the nomination of one UN agency or IGO of the IWG, reaching out to the most relevant organizations to express their interest in participating in the IWG.

The process of collecting applications and nominations for the independent scientists and CSO members were completed by the time of the COP Bureau. While the timelines and deadlines for the two groups varied slightly, all the submissions were received at the latest by 16 June 2025 to allow time for further assessment of the applications and responses received.

From the notification sent to NFPs/STCs, interested Parties were encouraged to communicate their desire to participate as a regional representative to the chair of their group by Monday 16 June 2025. The respective chairs were then called upon to select the final three IWG FSF members of their group on the basis of the criteria listed in the TOR, i.e. adhering to the request to ensure gender balance and have the policy, scientific and technical aspects of the Convention reflected as part of the expertise provided to the IWG from each UN group. The deadline for their submission was set to be 16 June 2025.

For the selection of the IWG member from the CSO, the UNCCD CSO panel agreed to open a call for expression of interest with 16 May 2025 being the deadline. By that time, 22 candidates submitted their interest in consideration of the CSO panel. On 27th of May 2025, the CSO panel met to discuss the candidatures presented according to the criteria identified by the Terms of Reference and took into consideration aspects related to gender, experience and geographical balance. Following its deliberation, the CSO panel suggested five potential candidates for further consideration by the CST and CRIC Bureaux. In addition to the CSO member selected, the idea of an alternate member was proposed to cover for any eventuality, ensuring that a CSO representative will be able to contribute to the work of the IWG-FSF at all times. The CRIC/CST Bureaux considered the list of nominations and agreed to forward to the COP Bureau the CSO representative Mr. Emmanuel Seck (ENDA) and his alternate Ms. Rachel McMonagle (Landesa). The COP Bureau considered the nomination and decided that Mr. Emmanuel Seck (ENDA) be the approved IWG FSF member from the CSO community while Ms. Rachel McMonagle (Landesa) will be his alternate in case Mr. Seck is unavailable. The call for three independent scientists was scheduled to close by 13 June 2025. As of midday 12 June, a total of 21 applications had been received by the secretariat. All applications received by the deadline were compiled for further consideration of the CST and CRIC Bureaux, and as with the CSO member further information will be provided to the COP Bureau prior to its meeting for further consideration and endorsement. The CST/CRIC Bureau meeting decided to put three names forward for consideration by the COP Bureau with a list of candidates that had been retained on the short list, in case the COP Bureau would not agree. The COP Bureau considered the nominations received from the CRIC/CST Bureaux and subsequently endorsed it.



Slot for one (1) member from a civil society organization as endorsed by the COP Bureau

Organization	Accreditation	Name	Country of Operation	Gender
<i>Enda Tiers Monde</i>	COP1	Emmanuel S. Seck	Senegal	Male
<i>Landesa</i>	COP14	Rachel McMonagle	USA	Female

as alternate

Slot for three (3) members from independent scientists as endorsed by the COP Bureau

Proposed experts (alphabetical order)

Candidate	Academic Qualifications	Experience in UNCCD-relevant Thematic Areas	Experience in Indicator Design, Monitoring, Reporting, Strategic Policy	Science Advice to Policymakers and Practitioners (Global/Regional/National)	Knowledge of UNCCD and Related MEAs	Scientific Recognition (Publications, Tools, Technical Reports, Awards)	Global/Regional Implementation Experience	Independence from Party Delegations
James Gambiza (M)	PhD in Biological Sciences; extensive African research and training contributions	30+ years: SLM, rangelands, community resilience, agroecology	Supported South Africa's LDN targets, developed Great Green Wall plan	Advisor to South African government; worked directly with rural communities	National Committee member; supports MEA integration at national level	Recognized nationally; several awards for applied research and teaching	Southern Africa (SA & Zimbabwe), some experience in Ghana, Lesotho	Not affiliated with national delegation
Jeff Herrick (M)	PhD in Agronomy; H-index 69; extensive peer-reviewed output	30+ years: soil health, land degradation, SLM, monitoring systems	Co-developed global monitoring tools (e.g. LandPKS, soil tools, UNEP reports)	Advisor to US government, UNEP, GEF, BLM, etc.; taught globally	Vice CST Chair, LDN IWG member, US science lead (2009–2022), CST chair 2025	Extensive publication record; UNEP reports; many international awards	US, Africa, Asia, Latin America; trained thousands globally	Fully independent; retired from USDA
Ingrid Teich (F)	PhD in Environmental Science	Land degradation, LDN, SLM; GEO-LDN WG lead	Developed LDN indicators; contributed to UNCCD reporting	Advised 20+ countries on LDN; GEF TAG member	Expert in UNCCD, CBD	25+ publications; authored UNCCD/WOCAT reports	Projects in Latin America, Africa, Europe	Independent scientist (University of Bern)

A bureau member raised a concern regarding the procedure for nominating regional representation and stated that while a member from a region had been selected member to the IWG, other countries from the same regions were not in agreement with this selection and have since then requested further advice from the bureau. The same bureau member noted that there might have been some misinterpretation of the letter circulated by the UNCCD secretariat on how the candidates to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (IWG FSF) per region should be nominated. A Country Party recalled in that respect that the terms of reference for the IWG FSF do not authorize the regional chairs to select candidates at their discretion. What the terms of reference envisage is that there should be three representatives per region.

It has been an established practice that the regional chair consults the region on his/her proposal and only after the region supports the proposal, the chair communicates the result to the UNCCD secretariat. As this practice has not been followed in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region in this case, the Country Party disassociates itself from the submission made by the regional chair that includes the nomination of a candidate from another Country Party, as this is not a consensual nomination on behalf of the CEE region. Therefore, this nomination is not made on behalf of the CEE region and cannot be considered as part of the nominations submitted per region as required by the respective terms of reference.



Another bureau member raised concerns on the deadline for submission of representatives from regional groups and requested an extension of the deadline by 3 days to one week, due to many candidatures received in the group.

With reference to the first concern of nominating regional representatives, the secretariat explained that the selection process was based on nominations submitted by regional chairs, which in turn had to be based on the criteria that were identified in the Term of Reference.

The secretariat further clarified that the bureau, as a process management body will take note of the communication that has been made regarding the dissociation of one particular member of one particular regional group regarding the nomination made.

From a procedural point of view, both the communication of the Secretariat and the approach followed by other regional groups have been procedurally sound on the basis of the objective criteria considered. Unfortunately, there seems to be a disagreement within one specific regional group with the procedure followed. This is a matter for which the Secretariat has no mandate to pronounce itself.

The secretariat has taken note of the transmission of the 3 candidatures from the regional group. These will be taken into consideration. Unless the Chair changes his position on the matter.

On the question related to the extension of the deadline for submitting nominations for regional chairs, the secretariat recalled that the deadline was delineated in the TORs so as to complete the selection process and timely establishment of the IWG without any detrimental impact on the establishment of the IWG.

Since the COP Bureau endorsed the TOR, a decision was made to extend the deadline for submissions from regional chairs/COP Bureau members for one-week based on the request tabled by three representatives of regions.

VI. Budgetary matters: Status of contributions and follow-up to the COP 16 budget decision

The secretariat introduced the agenda item, highlighting mainly 3 points :

a. Status of assessed contributions :

Financial rules of the COP: contributions to the UNCCD core budget are expected on 1 January of each year. As of 31 May: 44.1% of the total approved budget for 2025 is received. Urgent action at this level is needed from countries with outstanding contributions

Prior years: 95.3% of contributions for 2022-2024 have been received. 24 December 2024: UNGA RES on the UN scale of assessments for the triennium 2025–2027. The UNCCD scale was revised accordingly; notifications were sent in May 2025. Reminders will follow.



b. Follow-up to the COP 16 budget decision

Decision 10/COP.16: The secretariat to prepare an integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2027–2028; to carry out a review of the financial rules of the COP ... and to present a draft update of the financial rules at COP 17. On this one; Gap analysis between the current financial rules and the UNCCD operating model underway and identification of necessary modifications

The Next steps, will be the Drafting the updated financial rules, organization of online briefing to all Parties ; the Development of a clear approach on budget formulation, approval, and execution under the integrated budget approach and the new approach to be applied to the COP 17 budget documents

c. Consideration of the UN reform in the UNCCD context

The “UN80” launched by UN SG in March 2025, aiming at “Reinforcing the UN’s capacity to respond to today’s global challenges”- to result in better focus, effectiveness and cost-efficiency. Many proposals were presented, no decisions yet and there is no clarity how UNCCD would be affected

The secretariat “Proactive” response: Healthy land is the precondition for all life on Earth and a key basis of the economy. The UNCCD as a treaty, owned by its 197 Parties, is a prime tool for global cooperation on protecting fragile, and restoring degraded land. This Convention also provides the main platform for building resilience to the impacts of drought, which pose an increasing threat to ecosystems and livelihoods all over the world.

The UNCCD is actively exploring innovative approaches and tools for improved effectiveness at a low cost (AI tools, partnerships...) and finally the secretariat and the GM exercise strict budget control

A bureau member requested a presentation on this new UN concept on the UN80 during the CRIC23 session, as this concept may have implications on the way the secretariat functions .

The same bureau member s request as well updates on the review of the financial rules, as this was a mandate from COP16 to the secretariat to carry out this financial review.

The secretariat informed that, according to the CRIC23 preparations and the development of the UN80 concept and documents, a presentation could be foreseen at CRIC23. This will off course be in sideline of the CRIC23 agenda

On the financial review, the secretariat is also considering having thorough consultations with regions on these different aspects well before COP17

VIII. Focal Point on Land Tenure

The secretariat introduced the agenda item with reference made to decision 28/COP.16 which invites Parties to consider nominating a focal point for land tenure to coordinate the integration of land tenure into their plans and activities, where applicable, subject to national legislation and the availability of financial resources of the secretariat, and



without prejudice to existing focal point frameworks within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The secretariat requested COP Bureau approval to issue a notification for the submission of official letters from Parties wishing to nominate their focal point for land tenure.

The nomination letter must be on the letterhead of the designated line ministry and signed by the duly recognized UNCCD National Focal Point. Land tenure focal point details will be posted on the UNCCD website and added to the internal database of official contacts with Parties used for communication purposes.

A bureau member recalled that Land Tenure is a very sensitive issue at national level for each Party and stated that there is, in the member's view, no need to get additional nominations. The same bureau member concluded by underlining that there was no need for a focal point on Land tenure.

The Bureau decided to leave to each country Party the initiative, according to their needs and concerns, to nominate its own focal point on Land Tenure and communicate it to the secretariat

IX. Other business

A Bureau member has raised concerns on the logistics, particularly on travel to COP Bureau Meetings. The bureau member suggested having one more day of rest as travel conditions are nowadays challenging, particularly for one-day meetings.

The secretariat thanked the bureau members for all their efforts to travel to Bonn and apologized for any inconvenience. The secretariats also reminded bureau members that there are travel rules that must be strictly followed. To avoid travel challenges for one day meetings, online sessions and virtual facilities could be considered for upcoming meetings

X. Next meeting

The next COP16 Bureau meeting is scheduled to take place in person in sideline of the CRIC23 session in Panama City, Panama .