United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification

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Report of the CRIC Bureau meeting
Online meeting
23 February 2026

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) took place online on Monday, 23 February 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Philippine Dutailly, the Chair of the CRIC Bureau.

2. Four Bureau members attended the meeting (see Annex I).

I. Opening remarks by the CRIC Chair

3. The meeting was opened by the CRIC Chair, who welcomed all participants.

4. The CRIC Chair presented a brief overview of the matters to be discussed during the meeting in preparation for the upcoming twenty-fourth session of the Committee (CRIC 24) which will be held from 17 to 27 August 2026 in conjunction with the 17th session of the Conference of Parties in Ulaanbattor, Mongolia.

5. The Bureau adopted the agenda as contained in annex II without amendments.

II. Brief update of CRIC Chair on the agenda items blocked during CRIC 23

6. The CRIC Chair recalled that at its ninth meeting, on 5 December 2025, the Committee, during its twenty-third session, decided, in line with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the COP, to defer item 4 “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework” and item 5 “Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance” of the CRIC 23 provisional agenda to COP 17 for further consideration and action by Parties.

7. In this context, the CRIC Chair expressed serious concern regarding the blockage of these two agenda items at CRIC 23, noting that this situation could undermine the future effectiveness of the Convention. The Chair underscored that both the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG FSF) and science–policy guidance are fundamental to shaping the future direction and credibility of the Convention.

8. Bureau members echoed the concerns expressed by the CRIC Chair and further emphasized the importance of ensuring inclusive input from all regions to inform and strengthen the work of the IWG FSF.

9. The secretariat clarified that the two deferred agenda items are included in the provisional agenda of COP 17. In this regard, the COP will be invited to consider allocating:

(a) the deferred CRIC 23 agenda item 4, “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework”, together with the corresponding CRIC 23 documentation, to the Committee of the Whole (CoW); and

(b) the deferred CRIC 23 agenda item 5, “Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance”, together with the corresponding CRIC 23 documentation, to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 17).

10. The Bureau took note that this matter would be further discussed at the COP Bureau meeting scheduled for 24 February 2026.

III. CRIC 24 Provisional Agenda

11. The secretariat then presented the provisional agenda and the tentative organization of work for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (CRIC 24), scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 27 August 2026.

12. In this context, the CRIC Chair recalled that the election of officers would take place at the final meeting of CRIC 24 and encouraged Bureau members to give early consideration to the identification of potential candidates for future CRIC Bureau membership.

13. The Bureau took note of the intention to organize interactive dialogues under several agenda items, including agenda item 2(d) "Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention" and agenda item 4(b): "Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms: Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, SDG 15.3 matters and facilitation of involvement of the private sector".

14. In this regard, the Bureau emphasized the importance of clearly differentiating these dialogues from those held during CRIC 23, notably by shifting the focus from Parties to institutions.

15. The Bureau welcomed the proposal to organize an interactive dialogue on capacity-building with a strong emphasis on regional and scientific cooperation. This approach was considered to be fully aligned with decision 2/COP.16, which requested the secretariat to strengthen collaboration with regional institutions to support countries in reporting, as well as with decision 20/COP.16, paragraph 9, which requested the secretariat to support interaction between regional scientific networks and institutions and the Science-Policy Interface for the provision of scientific advice.

16. In this context, the Bureau recommended highlighting the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity as a possible model for engaging regional institutions; and drawing on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) model as an example of how the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface could contribute to capacity-building activities linked to scientific publications.

17. The Bureau endorsed the provisional agenda and the tentative organization of work for CRIC 24 without amendments.

IV. Any other matters

18. Under any other matters, the Bureau agreed that its next meeting could tentatively be held at the beginning of June 2026 ahead of Desertification and Drought Day on 17 June, once the CRIC 24 documentation is available. It was further agreed that the meeting could include updates on preparations for CRIC 24, as well as on reporting-related matters. The Bureau also agreed that the meeting would not be scheduled for 4 June.

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Annex I – List of participants

CRIC BUREAU MEMBERS attending the meeting:

REGION	COUNTRY/ REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT DETAILS
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	**France** **Chair**	**Ms. Philippine Dutailly** Desertification and land degradation officer UNCCD, G20 Global Land Initiative, Great Green Wall Accelerator Environment and Climate Department Global Affairs Directorate Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs 27, rue de la Convention CS 91533 - 75015 Paris Cedex 15 France Tel.: +33 (0)1 43 17 73 80 Mobile: +33 (0)7 62 09 83 70 Email: philippine.dutailly@diplomatie.gouv.fr;
Annex I: **Africa**	**Kenya** **Vice-Chair**	**Mr. Charles Lange** Deputy Director, Environmental Research and Planning Coordination, National Environment Management Authority Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 722 841 927 Email: clange@nema.go.ke; nzavi2001@yahoo.com;
Annex II: **Asia**	**China** **Vice-Chair**	**Ms. Jia Xiaoxia** Deputy Director General Department of Combating Desertification National Forestry and Grassland Administration Beijing, China Tel: +86 8423 8306 Mobile: +86 1391 1624 203 Email: cciccd@126.com; xiaoxia_jia@outlook.com; jia_xiaoxia@forestry.gov.cn
Annex III: **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**	**Argentina** **Vice-Chair**	**Mr. Pablo Hernan Viegas Aurelio** Punto Focal Técnico Subsecretaría de Ambiente San Martin 451 (1004) Buenos Aires, Argentina Tel: +5411 5457 2295 Email: pviegas@ambiente.gob.ar; phviegas@yahoo.com.ar;

Annex II- Agenda of the meeting

I. Opening remarks by the CRIC Chair
II. Brief update of CRIC Chair on the agenda items blocked during CRIC 23
III. CRIC 24 Provisional Agenda
IV. Any other matters