

**MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX V OF THE CONVENTION
 AT UNCCD COP 12
 9-23 OCTOBER 2015
 ANKARA, TURKEY**

1. Regional positions

Item I. The post-2015 development framework: implication for the UNCCD

(i) Integrating the SDGs and targets into the UNCCD implementation and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (ICCD/COP(12)/4)

- Accept the definition of LDN without square brackets (definition should be applicable for all types of land)
- LDN targets process is a voluntary target, it is up to countries to apply it
- There is no need to develop a new Strategy. The current 10-year Strategy should be revised and extended
- Request GEF to include LDN in its strategy starting from GEF-7 replenishment

(ii) Request submitted by Annex V country Parties on the scope and mandate of the Convention (ICCD/COP(12)/16)

- Annex V is an integral part of the convention. Article 1 Annex V recognizes the affected country parties in the light of its particular conditions.
- We do not have intention to open the text of convention, but just to accommodate particular conditions of the Regional Implementation Annexes
- We are looking for a compromise language which could be applied to relevant decisions of the COP without touching text of convention and without creating any additional obligations neither legal nor financial to the countries.

(iii) Refinement of UNCCD monitoring and evaluation: SO 1,2,3 (LDN project)

ICCD/COP (12)/CST/3 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/7, ICCD/CRIC(14)/8

- Assign the secretariat and specialized institution (JRC) to improve resolution of global datasets, processed data in tabular format
- It is necessary to build technical expertise for work on GIS
- LDN target setting should be based both on the Earth remote sensing data and national statistical data
- Additional financial resources and capacity-building are needed in setting voluntary LDN targets

Item II. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels:

i) Leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions: land-based approach to Climate Change, including advice from the Science Policy Interface (ICCD/COP(12)/17)

- Support the use of common indicators between the Rio Conventions
- It is important to highlight the linkages between LDN indicators and indicators for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions.
- Better exchange of information between SPI and NFPs is needed
- The efforts of strengthening synergies between UNCCD and other Rio-conventions should be made by all stakeholders at all levels: global, regional, national and local.

ii) Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework (ICCD/CRIC(14)/4)

- Ukraine proposed that if the Strategy would be revised, there should be a special working group and guidance from the secretariat how this issue will be addressed till the COP 13
- Experience from Azerbaijan: the adoption of the NAP was hindered by the financial constraints for implementation
- Although we understand that LDN is an integral part of the NAP and the Strategy, the message should not be confusing to all stakeholders. The concept of LDN is not well known to broad public, government and local communities.
- We are now in a transition period from alignment of NAPs towards integration of LDN targets into NAPs.

ii) Effective implementation of the Convention at national, sub regional and regional levels (ICCD/COP(12)/12)

- We should take advantage of the Changwon and new Ankara initiatives
- We should strengthen some regional and sub-regional activities, prepare sub-regional projects, and seek for cooperation with Annex IV.

(iv) Global Environment Facility: report by the GEF (ICCD/CRIC(14)/5) and draft MoU with the GEF (ICCD/COP(12)/18)

- It is important to provide effective utilization of GEF -6 resources, including STAR allocations
- Measures to increase financing to LDFA under GEF-7 should be taken and closely interlinked with the future format of CRIC. LDN should be included into the GEF -7 replenishment.
- Land Degradation Neutrality issues should be mentioned in the MoU with GEF
- We invite the secretariats of UNCCD and GEF to explore the opportunity to organize meeting of the UNCCD NFPs back-to-back with the Expanded Constituency Workshops

Item III. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(14)/10)

- The UNCCD Strategy for the period after 2018 should be evolutionary continuation of the current 10-year Strategy, which should be based on national voluntary commitments and the LDN voluntary target
- The decision to revise the mandate of the CRIC would be more appropriate in relation to the decision on the next phase of the UNCCD Strategy beyond 2018
- At the same time, the change of the mandate and the institutional framework of the CRIC should not lead to the preservation of the existing problems (especially financial), or their postponement to a later date
- It is necessary to establish the format of a regular dialogue between country Parties. Regional meetings can become such an interactive platform, organization of which should be carried out with the financial support of the UNCCD secretariat

Item IV. Programme and budget for the biennium 2016/2017 (ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2; ICCD/COP(12)/5 and ICCD/COP (12)/7)

- In the next biennium it is necessary to ensure:
 - adequate funding of the UNCCD including participation of stakeholders, especially the research correspondents and civil society organizations
 - the functioning and development of SPI, as well as the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties (CST and CRIC)
- We commend the efforts of the UNCCD secretariat on budget savings in 2014-2015. However, there is a concern that these funds were made at the expense of areas of work such as capacity development, financing and technology transfer

- We urge to consider reallocation of these funds for the financing of the CRIC (if necessary) and the work of SPI, and further ensure the full expenditure of funds available to the key needs of the UNCCD including the regional meetings.

2. Designation of regional officers for new COP, CRIC and CST bureaus

Eastern European Group made the following nominations.

- COP Bureau: Armenia (Mr. Ashot Verdevanyan) and the FYR of Macedonia (Ms. Vesna Indova)
- CST Chair: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mr. Hamid Custovic)
- CRIC: Ukraine (Mr. Yuriy Kolmaz)

3. Location of RCU for Annex V

A letter to the NFP of Turkey has been sent by the regional chair to inform that

- There is no consensus between countries on location of RCU for Annex V in Turkey
- At the moment Annex V does not see the need for an urgent change of the regional coordination mechanism:
 - The work on the Regional Action Programme which lasted past 2 years is coming to an end. In this plan, a possible coordination mechanism taking into account the proposal of Turkey is not yet considered in the document and requires additional discussion.
 - A coordination mechanism established in the region is just beginning to yield positive results, despite the political, institutional, and geographic diversity of the region. The changes in the coordination mechanism can disrupt positive dynamics that will affect the effectiveness of joint work in the region.
- We welcome the establishment of the regional office for Annex IV in Turkey and looking forwards for cooperation.

4. Regional Action Programme for CEE

- At the regional consultations during COP 12 the participants have approved **selected main priorities** of the draft concept of the RAP :

1. Strengthening regional cooperation at policy level

- 8th Ministerial conference “Environment for Europe” in Georgia (June 2016): side-event on RAP
- Regional position on the GEF-7: consultations on GEF 7 are going on, we need to think about how to influence GEF -7 cycle through

2. Increase knowledge on DLDD processes in the CEE region

- Cooperation with Initiative “Economics of Land Degradation” as well as cooperation with Changwon initiative

3. Achievement of target LDN

- Capacity building for LDN
- Setting LDN targets (COP 12 decision)

- Synthesis of approaches and successful LDN practices: in the framework of the 2nd phase of the LDN project a regional seminar can be organized to share experience in LDN target setting (this approach is to be communicated with those responsible for the second phase of LDN project). Armenia and Belarus are also invited to share their experience on the participation in the 1st phase of LDN project.

4. Capacity building

- Developing negotiation capacity of NFPs
- Building capacities to mobilize resources of GEF and other financial institutions

5. Promoting organic agriculture (OA)

- Sharing experience and awareness raising on OA (also through regional workshops), promoting OA for SLM and achieving LDN
 - Dissemination of best practices. It is also important to share experience and raise awareness raising on OA development in CEE countries
- The document will be presented during side event at the upcoming 8th Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in Batumi, Georgia (June 2016).

➔ The NFPs who were not present at COP 12 are requested to provide comments on the selected priorities.

6. Dialogue with CSOs

- The representatives of two accredited NGO from CEE region, namely fea (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and CENN (Georgia) attended the regional consultation in order to present the outcomes of the work of the CSOs at COP 12. The NFPs made a proposal to organize regular dialogue with CSOs starting from the next UNCCD official sessions.

Agenda of the Regional Preparatory Meeting, 9-10 October 2015

Time	Agenda Item	Moderating
9 October 2015		
0900-0930	Registration	
0930-1000	Election of Officer Consideration and Adoption of the agenda	Chair
1000-1300	Item I. The post-2015 development framework: implication for the UNCCD: (i) Integrating the SDGs and targets into the UNCCD implementation and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (ICCD/COP(12)/4) (ii) Request submitted by Annex V country Parties on the scope and mandate of the Convention (ICCD/COP(12)/16) (iii) Refinement of UNCCD monitoring and evaluation: SO 1,2,3 (LDN project) (ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/7) and SO 4 (ICCD/CRIC(14)/8)	Secretariat/ Armenia/Georgia Secretariat/ Armenia/Lithuania Secretariat/ Armenia/Belarus
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1700	Item II. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels: i) Leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions: land-based approach to Climate Change, including advice from the Science Policy Interface (ICCD/COP(12)/17) ii) Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework (ICCD/CRIC(14)/4) iii) Effective implementation of the Convention at national, sub regional and regional levels (ICCD/COP(12)/12) (iv) Global Environment Facility: report by the GEF (ICCD/CRIC(14)/5) and draft MoU with the GEF (ICCD/COP(12)/18)	Secretariat/ Moldova Secretariat/Azerbaijan Secretariat /Bosnia and Herzegovina Secretariat/Ukraine
10 October 2015		
0900-1000	Item III. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(14)/10)	Secretariat/Ukraine/ Macedonia
1000-1030	Item IV. Programme and budget for the biennium 2016/2017 (ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2; ICCD/COP(12)/5 and ICCD/COP(12)/7)	Secretariat /Lithuania
1030-1300	Item V. Other issues: (i) Other pre-session documents as per request of the region (ii) Internal organization for the negotiations (if applicable) (iii) Designation of regional officers for new COP, CRIC and CST bureaus (iv) Designation of the new chair of the regional group	
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1700	Item VI. Other regional matters i) Location of RCU ii) Consideration of the Regional Action Programme iii) Functioning of the Regional Committee	
	Closure of the meeting	

List of the Participants:

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