

CRIC(2014)/2/6
4 August 2014
English Only

Meeting of the Bureau of the CRIC

Bonn, Germany, 23 June 2014

Report on the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 23 June 2014)

I. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CRIC Bureau meeting

1. The Chairperson of the CRIC, Mr. Philbert Brown, opened the meeting. Attendance to the Bureau meeting is recorded in Annex I.
2. The secretariat informed that the joint meeting with the Bureau of the CST will take place on 23 June 2014, from 17:30 to 18:30.
3. The provisional agenda was adopted as verbally amended (Annex II).
4. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Ms. Monique Barbut, welcomed the participants and gave a statement.

II. Status of the 2014 reporting and review process

Report by the Global Mechanism on the Global Support Programme

5. The meeting was given a brief report on the implementation of the project “Global Support Programme: increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation” (the Global Support Programme) and its preliminary outcomes.
6. The CRIC Bureau, while expressing appreciation for the work conducted by the Secretariat and the GM in providing adequate support in the process, made the following deliberations:
 - (a) Recommended that training on reporting become a regular practice, and to consider involving subregional and regional organizations in future capacity-building activities on this matter.
 - (b) Requested the CRIC Bureau members to invite their constituencies to familiarize themselves with the GSP (available on the GEF website at http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_detail?projID=5541) in order to explore and harness opportunities that make best use of available resources.

Report by the secretariat on the submission of reports by Parties and other reporting entities

7. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the timetable of activities and achievements of relevant milestones in the 2014 reporting exercise. The secretariat also presented some scenarios based on the possible dates for CRIC 13.

8. The Bureau:

- Decided to extend to 31 July 2014 the deadline for reporting by Parties and other reporting entities and requested the Chairperson of the CRIC to officially notify Parties of the new deadline.

9. Annex III to the present report contains the notification sent on 23 June 2014 to National Focal Points and Reporting Officers of affected and developed country Parties.

Report by the secretariat on the dates and venue of CRIC 13

10. The secretariat reported to the Bureau on consultations held with a number of Parties, with the view of identifying a possible host country for CRIC 13, which have not led to any formal commitment.

11. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the secretariat will not be in the position to convene the meeting of the CRIC in Bonn in November 2014, as no sufficient budget has been secured yet to organize the conference. The Executive Secretary also informed the Bureau that the capital reserve should not be used to fund a meeting of the governing bodies of the UNCCD.

12. The Executive Secretary invited the Bureau to consider ways and means to increase efficiency of the review of implementation of the convention as well as cost-effectiveness of the process. In this regard, the Executive Secretary invited the Bureau to explore ad-hoc mechanisms to review national reports prior to the sessional session of the CRIC, including regional meetings to be held back-to-back to COP 12 or meetings of the Bureau of the CRIC supported by a number of regional representatives.

13. The Bureau noted that if the CRIC 13 and regional meetings are organized back-to-back to COP 12, there will be no sufficient time to prepare necessary recommendations for consideration by the COP.

14. The Bureau made the following deliberations:

- (a) Requested the secretariat to pursue consultations with Parties with the view of identifying possible host countries and mobilizing the resources required for convening CRIC 13, and to keep the Bureau informed of any development on this matter;
- (b) Recommended that the Bureau of the COP consider postponing the November 2014 session of the CRIC to a later date and address issues mentioned in paragraph 14 (a) above;
- (c) Decided that any other ad-hoc mechanism to review national reports shall be discussed at a later stage, if and as required, bearing in mind that any substantial changes in the reporting and review process need to be considered and decided upon by the COP.

III. Consideration of provisional agenda of CRIC 13

15. The secretariat reported to the Bureau on the substantive preparation of the thirteenth session of the CRIC and introduced a draft provisional agenda of the session for consultation with the Bureau.

16. The Bureau made the following deliberations:

As it relates to Agenda item 3 "Review of input from the regional meetings..."

(a) Recommended that the Bureau of the COP consider ways and means to support the regional coordination mechanisms, including through convening meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes which are instrumental to the review of implementation of the Convention;

(b) Decided to attach the letter from the Chairperson of the Regional Implementation Annex V for Central and Eastern European countries, in relation to the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, to the present report (Annex IV);

As it relates to Agenda item 5 "Assessment of the alignment of action programmes..."

(c) Requested the secretariat to develop the plan for the alignment process based on the information provided by affected country Parties during the current reporting exercise;

As it relates to Agenda item 8 "Input by the CST on how best to measure..."

(d) Decided that the document relating to agenda item 8 will be prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of and in close consultation with the CRIC and the CST bureaus;

As it relates to Agenda item 10 "Promotion and strengthening of relationships..." and item 11 "Information on progress in the implementation of decision 6/COP/10"

(e) Decided that the documents related to agenda items 10 and 11 will be transmitted to CRIC 13 for information, since no action is expected to be taken by the Committee on these matters;

17. Finally, the Bureau:

(f) Requested the secretariat to present an interim report on the work done and the preliminary outcomes of the Inter-governmental Working Group (IWG) on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, for information of the Committee;

(g) Requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the provisional agenda of CRIC 13, including the list of documents and the tentative schedule of work, and submit it to the Bureau for consideration.

IV. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention

Report by the secretariat on the implementation of decision 17/COP.11

18. The secretariat reported to the Bureau on progress made and results achieved in the implementation of the decision, with particular regard to the best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation (SLM).

19. The Bureau:

- Took note of the fact that WOCAT has been identified as primary recommended database for the best practices on SLM, and that an agreement has been recently concluded in this regard between the University of Bern/Center for Development and Environment and the secretariat.

Possible approach to facilitate accessibility of information for the remaining best practices topics under the mandate of the CRIC

Review of the schedule of review of best practices contained in the annex to decision 15/COP.10

20. The secretariat recalled the relevant COP decisions and reported on the current status of the review of best practices by the CRIC.
21. The Bureau made the following deliberations:
 - (a) Decided that the next thematic topic of best practices to be considered by the Committee will be “funding and resource mobilization”;
 - (b) Requested the Global Mechanism to revise and update the documentation previously submitted to the Committee on this thematic topic, in accordance with the relevant COP decisions and taking into account that the CRIC is now to review the accessibility to information on best practices;
 - (c) Decided that the schedule for the review of best practices will be updated in consultation with the Bureau of the CST, taking into account the different and shared tasks given to the two subsidiary bodies by COP 11.

V. Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

Possible mechanisms by which the CRIC and the CST cooperate in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategy

Possible means to better integrate scientific considerations based on the outcomes of the CST, into the exchanges at intersessional sessions of the CRIC

22. The secretariat provided reference to the relevant COP decisions.
23. The Bureau made the following deliberations:
 - (a) Decided that this matter shall be addressed jointly with the Bureau of the CST;
 - (b) Requested the secretariat to prepare the relevant documentation and submit it to the two bureaus for consideration;
 - (c) Decided to discuss a programme of work to address this matter at the informal meeting with the CST Bureau to be held on 23 June 2014.

VI. Other matters

24. The Bureau:
 - (a) Expressed concerns about the time allocated for the meeting, and requested the secretariat to propose a programme of work adequate for an in-depth discussion of the agenda at future meetings of the Bureau;
 - (b) Decided that consultations shall take place among its members on whether and when another meeting of the Bureau would be needed in 2014, taking also into account the deliberations to be made by the Bureau of the COP on date and venue of CRIC 13.

Annex I - List of participants

<p>1. Chairperson (Jamaica)</p>	<p>Mr. Philbert Brown Director Ministry of Local Government and Environment 16A Half Way Tree Road Kingston 10, Jamaica Tel: (1-876) 960 5632/3 Fax: (1-876) 920 7267 Email: pbrown@mlge.gov.jm</p>
<p>2. Vice-Chairperson (Thailand)</p>	<p>Mr. Worapong Waramit UNCCD Focal Point Office Land Development Department Phaholyotin Road, Jatujack Bangkok 10900, Thailand Tel: (662) 579 8530 Fax: (662) 579 8530 Email: wwaramit@hotmail.com</p>
<p>3. Vice-Chairperson cum rapporteur (Ukraine)</p>	<p>Mr. Yuriy Kolmaz Head of Land Resources Division Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine 35, Uritskogo Str. Kiev 03035, Ukraine Tel: (380-44) 206 3148 Fax: (380-44) 206 3148 Email: saveland@menr.gov.ua</p>
<p>4. Vice-Chairperson (European Union)</p>	<p>Mr. Patrick Wegerdt Policy Officer, Unit E.1 International Relations Directorate General on Environment European Commission Tel: (32-2) 295 6960 / 3249898-9912 Email: Patrick.WEGERDT@ec.europa.eu</p>

Annex II - Agenda of the CRIC Bureau meeting

- I. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CRIC Bureau meeting;
- II. Status of the 2014 reporting and review process:
 - (a) Report by the Global Mechanism on the Global Support Programme (GSP);
 - (b) Report by the secretariat on the submission of reports by Parties and other reporting entities;
 - (c) Report by the Secretariat on the dates and venue of CRIC 13.
- III. Consideration of the provisional agenda of CRIC 13;
- IV. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Report by the secretariat on the implementation of decision 17/COP.11;
 - (b) Possible approach to facilitate accessibility of information for the remaining best practices topics under the mandate of the CRIC;
 - (c) Review of the schedule of review of best practices contained in the annex to decision 15/COP.10.
- V. Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Possible mechanisms by which the CRIC and the CST cooperate in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategy (decisions 12/COP.9, 18/COP.11 and 21/COP.11);
 - (b) Possible means to better integrate scientific considerations based on the outcomes of the CST, into the exchanges at intersessional sessions of the CRIC (decision 18/COP.11).
- VI. Other matters.

Annex III - Notification to country Parties



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E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int Web-site: www.unccd.int

Date: 23 June 2014
Ref.: CRIC-
cc: CRIC Bureau Members

Dear National Focal Point, dear Reporting Officer,

Subject: Preliminary outcomes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 23 June 2014)

Following on the recently concluded meeting of the CRIC Bureau, I would like to inform you of the main conclusions regarding the current reporting and review process:

- (a) After having reviewed the report on the progress of the 2014 reporting exercise, the Bureau decided to extend to 31 July 2014 the deadline for reporting by Parties and other reporting entities. It is expected that this extension would increase the number of reports received and ensure a better quality of reports;
- (b) After having reviewed the report on the organization of the thirteenth session of the CRIC, the Bureau recommended that COP Bureau consider postponing the November 2014 session of the CRIC to a later date.

While recognizing the efforts being made - particularly by affected country Parties - to prepare and submit their report, the Bureau also highlighted that the reporting exercise is critical to an effective review of implementation by the CRIC and urged all Parties to meet the new deadline.

A full report on the meeting of the Bureau of the CRIC will be made available as soon as possible, with the assistance of the Secretariat. Nonetheless, the CRIC Bureau decided to notify Parties of the deliberations made with regard to the current reporting exercise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and confidence in the deliberations of the CRIC Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

Philbert Brown
Chair of the CRIC



**To National Focal Points and Reporting Officers
Country Parties to the UNCCD**



Annex IV - Summary of the exchanges with the CST Bureau

A joint meeting between the bureaus of the CRIC and the CST took place on 23 June 2014.

The bureaus agreed to continue exchanging on pending matters through electronic means. In this regard, they requested the secretariat to prepare an annotated agenda and a programme of work of the consultations between the two bureaus.

Annex V - Letter from the Chairperson of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern European countries

Ministry of Nature Protection
1/3, P.Buzand Str., Yerevan
0010, Armenia



Ashot Vardevanyan

National Coordinator of the
United Nations Convention to
Combat Desertification in the
Republic of Armenia

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To: Chairperson of the CRIC Mr. Brown Philbert

Date: 19 Jun 2014

Subject: Outcomes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 3 - 5 February 2014)

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your letter of 6th February regarding the improvement of interlinkages between the work of CRIC Bureau and that of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM).

My late reply to you is caused by the fact that only recently Annex V had a chance to conduct unofficial regional consultation which included the steps to be taken to strengthen the regional coordination mechanism. In this regard, I would like to inform you that as of today Annex V has not set up the regional committee. Nevertheless, following the decision 3/COP.11 and the actual need of having the steering and decision-making mechanism in the Annex, we are taking steps in establishing the regional committee which we strive to establish till end of 2014. The Terms of Reference for future Regional Committee is under elaboration in the consultation with the Secretariat. We believe, that the Regional Committee once established will facilitate the interlinkages and interactions between two CRIC and regional processes.

As long as the Regional Committee is under elaboration, the Regional chair along with the Bureau members from the region supported by the Programme Officer of the Secretariat form the decision-making body of the regional group.

Once again, appreciating the initiative of inviting the regional chairs to express their views and recommendations on improvement of the interlinkages between the CRIC Bureau and the action programmes as well as capacity development needs, I would like to draw your attention to the mechanism of communication between the CRIC Bureau member and the regional committees, where exists, or the regional group.

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In my view point, this is the most important chain of communication which needs to be enhanced through the regular reciprocal exchange between the CRIC Bureau member and the regional group. The role of the Secretariat is to facilitate both-way information flow as well as through the organization of the regular regional meeting.

In this regard, I express the opinion of the region that the regional meetings should remain one of the key instruments for strengthening the interlinkages between the CRIC and the RCM. The results of the review and reporting and its reflection in future decision should be discussed comprehensively at the regional meeting regardless if the CRIC session is taking place or not. The outcomes of such regional meetings should be fed through the regional officers to their respective Bureaux and form the basis for future decisions.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of the region for the given possibility to share our views and recommendation, I remain convinced that we will jointly enhance the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and eventually the global dynamics of the convention.

Sincerely,



Ashot Vardevanyan
NFP for Armenia
COP Bureau member
