

Report on the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 4 April 2016)

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

1. The Chairperson of the CRIC, Dr. Bukar Hassan had informed the meeting that due to unexpected circumstances, he was arriving late. The Bureau members decided that in his absence, Mr. Raymond Baptist would chair the meeting. Mr. Baptist opened the meeting and recognized that the representative from the Asia group was not present. The Bureau requested the secretariat to follow up with the Indian Vice Chair in order to ascertain whether any action from the Bureau is required in order to ensure geographical balance within the Bureau for future meetings. The attendance to the CRIC Bureau meeting is recorded in annex I.
2. The provisional agenda was adopted as contained in annex II

II. Brief report by the secretariat on the outcome of CRIC13 and 14 and the way forward

III. Work plan of the CRIC for the biennium 2016-2017

3. As a way of introduction, the secretariat shared with the Bureau members a presentation on the proposed lifespan of the forthcoming Strategy that was part of the discussions of the IWG meeting (6-8 April). Bureau members discussed the linkages between the work currently undertaken by the IWG and the impact this work may have on the duties and responsibilities of the CRIC and its Bureau in the biennium 2016-2017.
4. The meeting was also given a brief summary on the outcomes of CRIC13 and 14 and the work plan of the CRIC for 2016-2017.
5. The Bureau identified three important tasks to be undertaken by the CRIC and its Bureau during the biennium 2016 – 2017. They are as follows :
 - a) Optional reporting 2016
 - b) Assisting the work of the IWG on the future strategic framework of the Convention
 - c) Future reporting in light of COP13 decisions.

6. The Bureau also advised on the following:

- a) Regarding reporting tools, including templates it was agreed that the secretariat and the Global Mechanism would work in parallel to the IWG in order to produce a set of reporting tools for feedback during CRIC 15 with a view to finalizing them by COP 13. On the assumption that COP 13 will adopt a new Strategy, those reporting tools would need to be made available to Parties right after the COP in order to ensure that the review undertaken by CRIC 17 could take place in 2018.
- b) Regarding the final report of the intersessional session, the Bureau agreed that the final report should in the future be concise, forward looking and enabling the Bureau to draw language from it for clear and concise draft decisions to be discussed and negotiated at sessional sessions of the CRIC.

IV. The optional reporting process 2016

7. The secretariat introduced the item and informed the Bureau that up until now around 25 country Parties have indicated their interest to submit optional reports to the secretariat.
8. Since discussions on optional reports are included in the CRIC 15 work programme, the Bureau decided to send a letter by the CRIC Chair to all Parties in order to receive further information on how many country Parties will submit their report. The CRIC 15 work programme foresees an interactive dialogue on the optional reports and in order to prepare for this session, it is necessary to know which countries could be contacted prior to the report submission in order to prepare for presentations, panel discussion etc..
9. It was also decided that the letter by the CRIC Chair will be sent by the secretariat on his behalf.

V. Preliminary exchange on the convening of CRIC 15

10. As a way of introduction, the chief of the Administration and Finance (AFS) unit of the secretariat briefed the Bureau on the date and the venue of CRIC15. The Bureau was informed that the session is tentatively scheduled to be held in Nairobi 16 - 20 October 2016, pending confirmation from the host government. Regional consultations of implementation annexes will precede the session and will tentatively take place 16 to 17 October.
11. AFS also informed the Bureau members that the CRIC15 will be a paperless conference, and that there will be neither side events nor exhibitions organized. Following past practice, one representative from each eligible country will be funded as long as they request for it.

12. The secretariat shared with the Bureau the CRIC 15 agenda and its annotations and the list of documents to be circulated before the session.
13. After discussions the Bureau decided :
 - a) To rearrange the items so as to emphasize the interactive session on optional reporting. It was agreed that the secretariat will include all amendments agreed upon during the meeting and send the agenda to the Bureau within a month time for final endorsement. The duration of the session was agreed upon. The Bureau decided after assessing the workload that the CRIC 15 session should last for 3 working days.
 - b) All efforts should be made to ensure that Parties will be able to use CRIC 15 as a platform for exchanging views and opinions.
 - c) To engage CSOs in the sessions and to discuss further ways and means that would guarantee their participation, including through their participation as panelists during interactive sessions. The Bureau enquired whether some funding could be secured for CSOs participation at CRIC 15. The chief of administration took note of this request and will inform the Executive Secretary accordingly.
 - d) That a concept note would be prepared by the secretariat that proposes a structure and key outcomes for each interactive sessions.

VI. Identification of possible recommendations to the COP Bureau meeting schedules for the 5th April.

1. The Bureau decided on a number of recommendations to bring forward to the COP Bureau meeting as listed in annex III.

VII. Any other matter

2. The Bureau members agreed to propose to Parties that Mr. Raymond Baptiste (LAC) would be the rapporteur of the Committee for the biennium.
3. The Bureau members also received the panel members of the CSOs who briefed the Bureau on their work and interest vis-à-vis the implementation and review of implementation of the Convention. The Bureau agreed to take note of the suggestions made by the CSO panel and briefed them on their plans of how to engage them in the CRIC 15 process.

Annex I- List of participants

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Annex II - Agenda of the CRIC Bureau meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Brief report by the secretariat on the outcome of CRIC 13 and 14 and the way forward;
3. Work plan of the CRIC for the biennium 2016-2017;
4. The optional reporting process (2016);
5. Preliminary exchange on the convening of CRIC 15;
6. Identification of possible recommendations to the COP Bureau meeting scheduled for the 5th April;
7. Any other matter.

Annex III-Recommendations to the COP Bureau

- The CRIC bureau highlighted the need to send a letter to all Parties following the letter sent by the ES, in relation to optional reporting, requesting them to inform the secretariat whether they are willing to engage in this exercise or not, in order for the secretariat to better prepare for the fifteenth session of the CRIC.
- The CRIC bureau agreed to convene CRIC 15 during the last quarter of the year, preferably in October 2016. In addition, the Bureau suggested having a three-day session of the CRIC considering the Agenda items .
- CRIC bureau expressed their interest in continuously updating Parties, through the Convention institutions, on LDN target-setting and LDN -related matters as it is an important issue.
- The CRIC bureau stressed the importance of involving CSOs throughout the sessions of the CRIC. For that, the CRIC bureau requests to look into allocating some resources to ensure the representation of CSOs during CRIC 15.
- The CRIC bureau wishes to inform the COP bureau on how Parties should be featured strongly during the CRIC session, stressing the need of having interactive sessions rather than one –way discussion.
- The CRIC bureau endorsed the CRIC15 agenda, pending a number of amendments that will be communicated to the Bureau members within a month time .