

**MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX IV OF THE CONVENTION
 PREPARATORY TO THE THIRTEEN SESSION OF THE CRIC (CRIC 13)
 23-24 MARCH
 BONN, GERMANY**

A. PROCEEDINGS

The meeting of the Northern Mediterranean country Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Bonn, Germany, on 23-24 March 2015 prior to the Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC13).

1. The meeting was open and chaired by Mr. Marco Rebelo (Portugal) in his capacity as current Chair of Annex IV.
2. The participants listed in the attachments n. 3 attended the meeting.
3. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD addressed the meeting.
4. The meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in attachment Nr. 1;
5. Further attachments enclosed in this report, contain:

<i>Attachment 1</i>	<i>Agenda</i>
<i>Attachment 2</i>	<i>Annex IV Regional position, on the compilation of recommendations contained in the preliminary analysis documents submitted by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to the thirteenth session of the CRIC.</i>
<i>Attachment 3</i>	<i>List of participants</i>
<i>Attachment 4</i>	<i>Opening Statements made by Annex IV</i>
<i>Attachment 5</i>	<i>Closing remarks made by Annex IV</i>

B. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

ITEM 1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The tentative agenda was adopted as- circulated to NFP prior to CRIC. Participants were reminded that the agenda items will be addressed by all Regional Implementation Annexes in similar manner. At the same time, the Secretariat reminded participants of the purpose of CRP.1 and CRP.2 documents as ones which do not address any agenda item of the CRIC 13, but only set for preliminary discussion and advice to Parties, without it being reflected in the deliberations of today's CRIC.

7. The meeting took note that there were no representatives of CSOs from Annex IV countries attending the CRIC.

ITEM 2 FORMULATION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CRIC, INCLUDING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Rebelo gave information about the content and process of this CRIC session:

The draft of the analysis of CRIC conclusions and recommendations was circulated by the Secretariat on 25th of February. The meeting agreed to amend the recommendations in order to have a revised draft of recommendations, reflecting Annex IV common views, at the end of the meeting..

It was also agreed that Mr. Pires Do Rosario (Portugal) and Mr Oezevren (Turkey) would act as representatives for Annex IV on the extended CRIC Bureau to facilitate the compilation of the final report of the CRIC.

DELIBERATIONS

For a thorough display of Annex IV positions, please see attachment Nr 2. Below is a summary of their positions.

ITEM 3 Operational Objective 1- Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Operational Objective 1. The group received an overview on the level of achievement of the Global Target, the distance to the proposed target and situation in the NMED region.

The group adopted a common position on OO-1, and agreed that:

'... DLDD should be included in national educational programmes of affected country Parties in order to raise awareness on these phenomena...'

ITEM 4 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2 - POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Operational Objective 2. The group received an overview on the level of achievement of the Global Target, the distance to the proposed target and situation in the NMED region.

On policy framework Annex IV took up the following stance:

'...On Policy framework we believe that the alignment of NAPs with the Strategic Plan of the Convention is a crucial step if we want to combat DLDD. To understand the obstacles to this process we urge Parties to declare their priorities and to clarify the problems they are facing; with this information we are confident the Secretariat can provide us with options on how to overcome these difficulties...'

All countries expressed themselves on this item – as to why some had or had not made yet an alignment with the UNCCD Strategy. There was however a general feeling of commitment and the intention to understand the obstacles that other Annex IV were facing.

This Item was paid much close attention, and considered as a priority item for Annex IV to address in the coming years.

ITEM 5 Operational Objective 3 - Science, technology and knowledge

The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Operational Objective 3. The group again received an overview on the level of achievement of the Global Target, the distance to the proposed target and situation in the NMED region.

On science, technology and knowledge, Annex IV confirmed that:

'...With regard to analyze, organize and disseminate information on national, regional and global monitoring systems, we feel that there is room for Regional coordination mechanisms to work with the secretariat on the proposed in-depth analysis...'

This Item was also paid much close attention, and considered as another priority item for Annex IV to address in the coming years.

ITEM 6 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4 - CAPACITY-BUILDING

The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Operational Objective 4. The group again received an overview on the level of achievement of the Global Target, the distance to the proposed target and situation in the NMED region.

On Capacity Building, Annex IV said that:

'...On the disclosure of information regarding affected country Parties which need further capacity-building assistance it is our understanding that this is a good idea as long as it follows the express consent of interested country Parties...'

The issue of joint implementation programmes for capacity building and building synergies across Rio Conventions was also given priority at this related stage.

ITEM 7 Operational Objective 5- Financing and technology transfer

The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the Operational Objective 5. The group again received an overview on the level of achievement of the Global Target, the distance to the proposed target and situation in the NMED region

On Financing and technology transfer, Annex IV statement was:

'...On financing and given the specificities of Annex IV we believe that developed affected country Parties should step up their efforts in financing DLDD projects and activities with internal sources.

With this in mind we would also like to stress that the 2016–2017 work programmes of the Convention's institutions, should be streamlined targeting with priority issues that have emerged as needing greater attention from the 2012-2013 reporting process and according to previous COP decisions.

Annex IV Parties believe that while preparing for COP 12 and in line with previous COP decisions any new proposals with budgetary implications should be identified from this moment onwards so that parties can make informed considerations of the proposals put forward and decide accordingly. ...'

ITEM 8 Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework

The Secretariat delivered the presentation on this agenda item. The plan of NAP implementation in the view of post 2015 was discussed by the group.

The group identified the following as its regional position:

'...It is not the role of the UNCCD to anticipate the results of the post-2015 development agenda negotiations, but we should be ready to swiftly adapt to the major changes which will unquestionably happen in the international environmental agenda.

A global plan for NAP alignment with the LDN goal needs further consideration before a possible adoption at a future COP.

Political commitment is extremely important for countries wishing to establish voluntary national target in their NAPs. ...'

Turkey proposed that regional meetings should be held 1 month in advance prior to COP still to make global decisions. Turkey could possibly host Regional Meetings before COP but this is to be consulted.



Attachment Nr. 1 –

Meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes In preparation for the thirteenth session of the Committee for the review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 13)

Bonn (Germany), 23 - 24 March 2015

Provisional agenda and schedule of work

Monday 23 March 2015, 2:30 - 6.00 p.m.

Opening by the representative of the UNCCD secretariat

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Formulation of the final report of the CRIC, including its recommendations**
3. **Operational Objective 2 - Policy framework: CONS-O-5:** by 2014, at least 80% of ACP, subregional and regional entities should have formulated/revised a NAP/SRAP/RAP aligned to the Strategy. **CONS-O-6:** by 2014, at least two UNCCD-related partnership agreements are active in each ACP. **CONS-O-7:** by 2014, each ACP has either one joint national plan or functional mechanism(s) in place to ensure synergies among the three Rio conventions.

Document: ICCD/CRIC (13)/3

4. **Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework**

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/8

Tuesday 24 March 2015, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

5. **Operational Objective 1- Advocacy, awareness-raising and education: CONS-O-1:** by 2018, 30% of the global population is informed on DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity. **CONS-O-3:** steady increase of participation of CSOs and STIs in the Convention process. **CONS-O-4:** steady growth in the number of DLDD-related education initiatives undertaken by CSOs and STIs.

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/2

6. **Operational Objective 4 - Capacity-building: CONS-O-13:** at least 90% of ACP, subregional and regional entities should have implemented DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects.

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/5

7. **Operational Objective 3 - Science, technology and knowledge:** *CONS-O-8:* by 2018, at least 60 % of ACP, subregional and regional entities should have monitoring systems for DLDD. *CONS-O-10:* by 2018, at least 70% of revised NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs have gone through quality self-assessment.

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/4

Tuesday 24 March 2015, 2:30 - 6.00 p.m.

8. **Operational Objective 5- Financing and technology transfer:** *CONS-O-14:* by 2014, at least 50% of ACP, subregional, and regional entities should have developed IIFs. *CONS-O-16:* degree of adequacy, timeliness and predictability of financial resources made available by DCPs to combat DLDD. *CONS-O-17:* steady growth in the number of DLDD-related successfully submitted project proposals. *CONS-O-18:* steady growth in the financial resources allocated to facilitate access to technology by ACP.

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/6

9. **Review of the financial support for the implementation of the Convention**

Document: ICCD/CRIC(13)/7

10. **Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention: accessibility of information on best practices; and**

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

Documents: ICCD/CRIC(13)/CRP.1 and CRP.2

11. Any other business

Attachment Nr 2 –

Compilation of recommendations contained in the preliminary analysis documents submitted by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to be held in Bonn from 25 to 27 March 2015

Contents

- I. Conclusions and recommendations
 - A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Advocacy, awareness-raising and education;
 - (b) Policy framework;
 - (c) Science, technology and knowledge;
 - (d) Capacity-building;
 - (e) Financing and technology transfer.
 - B. Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention.
 - C. Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework
- ii. Actions taken by the Committee on non-agenda items

I. Conclusions and recommendations¹

1. According to decision 11/COP.9, containing the Terms of Reference of the CRIC, the Committee is to produce a final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention. With regard to the nature of the review process, the same decision provides that the review of implementation shall be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise in an interactive format, which will identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention.

2. The conclusions and recommendations listed in this report are therefore a summary compilation of the ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by participants in CRIC 13 to further the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. This report lists potential action that could be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders, including the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention, after consideration and appropriate decisions by the COP, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention

(a) *Advocacy, awareness-raising and education*²

3. Those country Parties which reported a percentage of national awareness of DLDD and its synergies lower than their national targets are invited to step up their efforts in communication and education in order to meet their targets.

4. Parties are invited to assess and increase, where needed, the effectiveness of their means of communication on DLDD-related issues, with a view to reaching a wider audience.

5. Affected country Parties are invited to continue monitoring the implementation of their NAPs with regard to policy, measures and actions undertaken in the fields of advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

~~6. The Convention's institutions shall include, in their respective 2016-2017 work programmes, specific actions in support of enabling affected country Parties to raise awareness of DLDD, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked relevant capacities and instruments in this regard.~~

6.bis

¹ Paragraphs 1 and 2 above are contained in the report of the CRIC at its last intersessional session (document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19).

² Paragraphs 3 to 6 above are contained in chapter VI (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/2 entitled: Assessment of the implementation of the Convention: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

Affected country Parties are invited to place drought, desertification and land degradation in the formal national educational programmes of primary and secondary schools to raise awareness on DLDD

(b) Policy framework³

7. Affected country Parties are invited to continue their efforts to formulate or revise their NAPs in accordance with COP guidance so that the global target set by The Strategy is achieved by the end of 2015 at the latest.

7.bis Request the UNCCD Secretariat to invite affected country Parties which did not align their NAPs in accordance with the ten year Strategy, to identify the main reasons preventing them to do so and on the basis of information received, request the Secretariat to prepare a report which identifies the main difficulties faced by Parties and presents possible options to overcome problems identified.

8. Developed country Parties, other Governments and financial organizations, particularly the GEF, are invited to identify incentives for the implementation of action programmes and give priority to activities included in the aligned action programmes in their allocation and/or disbursement of resources.

9. Developed country Parties, other Governments and other development partners are invited to increase their support to the establishment of partnership agreements with affected country Parties according to their bilateral priorities while giving special attention to the implementation of revised NAPs, and to assist them in monitoring progress towards achieving national targets.

10. The Global Mechanism is requested to compile information on ~~CONS-O-68~~ from the unified financial annexes as contained in the reporting template for affected country Parties and developed country Parties, include the preliminary analysis of such information in the analysis of financial flows and advise on the relevance of such indicators and the utility to compile it in future reporting exercises.

11. The Global Mechanism is also requested to identify and facilitate access to new funding opportunities to support national programme implementation, including through access to global and regional funds for sustainable development, rural development and environmental issues, building on linkages between desertification/land degradation, climate change and biodiversity.

~~12. The Convention's institutions shall include specific actions on facilitating the policy framework and resource mobilization in their respective 2016-2017 work programmes, targeting with priority, those countries that have complied with the obligations set by the COP.~~

³ Paragraphs 7 to 12 above are contained in chapter VI (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/3 entitled: Assessment of the implementation of the Convention: policy framework.

(c) *Science, technology and knowledge*⁴

13. Affected country Parties are invited to increase their efforts to develop and maintain functional and regularly updated existing monitoring systems, recover those which have been discontinued and eventually expand those systems partially covering DLDD issues in order to provide the required specific information.

14. Regional coordination mechanisms with the support of ~~the~~ UNCCD secretariat is requested to undertake an in-depth analysis on national, regional and global monitoring systems, including on their scope, functionality and efficiency, with a view to making this information available, especially to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of such capacities, including the private sector.

15. Developed country Parties, other Governments, relevant technical and financial organizations, including from the private sector, are invited to provide additional support to affected country Parties for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems.

16. Recalling decision 22/COP.11, affected country Parties are invited to establish baselines and concrete targets within their NAPs, making use of scientific-knowledge based diagnostic at the national level.

~~17. — The Convention's institutions shall include, in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, specific actions in support of enabling affected country Parties to assess and monitor DLDD, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked relevant capacities and instruments in this regard.~~

(d) *Capacity-building*⁵

18. DCPs and international organizations, including those of the United Nations system and the GEF, shall consider reviewing their capacity-building plans with a view to increasing such support on matters relating to DLDD.

19. The secretariat is requested to make available information on any affected country Parties which need further capacity-building assistance according to the 2014 reporting, if the interested affected country Party does not oppose to the disclosure of this information with a view to ~~its their being~~ considerationed by bilateral donors and multilateral agencies within the framework of possible projects and programmes.

~~20. — The Convention's institutions shall include specific actions on DLDD capacity-building in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, targeting those countries,~~

⁴ Paragraphs 13 to 17 above are contained in chapter VI (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/4 entitled: Assessment of implementation of the Convention: Science, technology and knowledge.

⁵ Paragraphs 18 to 20 above are contained in chapter IV (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/5 entitled: Assessment of the implementation of the Convention: capacity-building.

~~subregions and regions which reported that they lacked the capacities required for effective implementation of the Convention.~~

(e) *Financing and technology transfer*⁶

21. ~~When appropriate, a~~Affected country Parties are urged to increase their efforts in establishing IIFs, ~~with the aim of achieving the 50 per cent target set out by The Strategy taking into account a wider spectrum of funding resources. by 2014.~~

22. Developed country Parties, ~~other Governments,~~ the GEF and other multilateral financial institutions are invited to intensify their efforts in supporting all regions in the establishment of IIFs, and specifically those that have expressed plans to establish IIFs for the forthcoming ~~bienniums.~~biennia

23. The GM is requested to continue assisting affected country Parties and subregions in developing their IIFs as outlined above and in identifying innovative sources of funding, including new financial opportunities, instruments and mechanisms for this purpose.

24. Developed country Parties, ~~other G~~Governments and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, are invited to continue to facilitate a sustained increase in the adequacy, timeliness and predictability of the resources provided to affected country Parties and subregions in response to the considerations expressed by these Parties.

25. As stated in decision 14/COP.11, affected country Parties are invited to continue their ongoing efforts to facilitate access to technology transfer as is reflected in this reporting.

26. Affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts in submitting project proposals to multilateral financial institutions, facilities and funds, and to take advantage of support provided for this purpose, particularly (but not limited to) the resources allocated under the GEF and its System for Transparent Allocation of Resources.

26 bis. Developed affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts in financing projects and activities with internal sources. The use of external sources, should be properly taken into account within the economics framework of their NAPs, for example those related with the Rural Development and other pProgrammes of the EU.

27. The GEF is requested to consider national needs assessments in allocating resources for the next replenishment of the GEF.

28. Subsidiary bodies and institutions working on the UNCCD process are invited to include the consideration of these recommendations in their respective work programmes and plans that are to be put forward for discussion at COP 12 with a view to providing the required assistance to affected country Parties in relation to operational objective 5 of The Strategy.

⁶ Paragraphs 21 to 28 above are contained in chapter X (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/6/Rev.1 entitled: Assessment of the implementation of the Convention: financing and technology transfer.

28bis. The Convention's institutions, secretariat and the GM shall include, in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, specific actions , according to the decisions taken by the COP , and targeting with priority issues that have emerged from the 2012-2013 reporting process, such as NAP alignment and implementation framework, monitoring systems specifically targeted to DLDD, partnership agreements, synergies between plans, programmes and actions at all levels for the three Rio Conventions.

B. Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention⁷

29. To ensure better data of financial flows coverage and ~~its~~ more accurate analysis ~~of financial flows~~, further efforts are required to strengthen synergies with other reporting initiatives, and equip the PRAIS platform with data mining functionalities that enable current and historical data sets to be interrogated.

30. The trend showing a steady level of nominal commitments and decreasing weighted commitments at global level requires urgent attention. Specific actions may be required to address this negative trend, particularly.

31. The multi-purpose nature of an increasing share of UNCCD-related activities that simultaneously target climate change (mitigation and adaptation) and biodiversity objectives is encouraging. Efforts should be made at all levels at further recognizing and harnessing synergies among the Rio Conventions, particularly at budgeting and project-level implementation.

32. Financial flows involving innovative funding sources are still underrepresented compared with traditional funding sources. More emphasis should be given on supporting resource mobilization and partnership building efforts aiming at engaging the private sector in financing UNCCD implementation, in line with decision 14/COP.11.

C. Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework⁸

33. The UNCCD and GEF secretariats are requested to continue consultations on objectives and options for GEF-6 enabling activities, with a view to including technical and financial support for the 2016 reporting exercise, particularly in the area of progress reporting_ and national target-setting_ ~~–towards the LDN goal–relevant Sustainable Development Goals and its indicators framework~~LDN goal.

34. Affected country Parties are invited to continue consultations on ~~the a~~ global plan for NAP alignment with the ~~SDGs–LDN goal~~LDN goal, with a view to its further consideration and possible adoption ~~ng such a plan~~ at future COPs~~–12~~.

⁷ Paragraphs 29 to 32 above are contained in chapter V (recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/7/Rev.1 entitled: Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention.

⁸ Paragraphs 33 to 36 above are contained in chapter V (conclusion and recommendations) of document ICCD/CRIC(13)/8 entitled: Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework.

35. The secretariat and the GM are requested to facilitate such consultations, including by organizing specific meetings to hold in the margins or back-to-back to COP 12.

36. The GM is requested to continue to (i) provide support to affected country Parties in establishing national-level IIFs for UNCCD implementation that can make full use of existing and emerging funding opportunities; (ii) explore the engagement of the broadest possible spectrum of investors for scaling up SLM across all land-use sectors; and (iii) incentivise land restoration and rehabilitation in degraded lands as well as landscape approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.

II. Actions taken by the Committee on non-agenda items

37. The Committee takes note of the in-session documentation prepared by the secretariat with regard to the best practices on sustainable land management (document ICCD/CRIC(13)/CRP.1) and the procedure and institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention (document ICCD/CRIC(13)/CRP.2), and recommends that the secretariat includes these items on the agenda of CRIC 14 and prepares relevant documentation for consideration by the Committee at its fourteenth session.

Attachment Nr. 3 - List of Participants

COUNTRY	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT / Reporting Officers	EMAIL
1. Albania	Elvana Ramaj (RO)	elvana.ramaj@moe.gov.al
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Attachment Nr. 4 -

Opening statement made by the representative of Portugal, Chair of the Annex IV at CRIC 13 (on behalf of the Annex IV for Northern Mediterranean Countries)

Distinguished Chair,
Distinguished delegates of CRIC 13,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to add the voice of Annex IV Parties to those who expressed condolences to the ones in grief after yesterday's disgraceful accident.

I also thank the German government and the city of Bonn for the hospitality in hosting this session and also a word of appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing this meeting and all the hard work for providing the necessary documentation.

Mediterranean basin is, as well known, hotspot for climate change and its impacts on soils, as underlined for instance in the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Together with an unsustainable land management, climate change drives countries in this area to experience serious Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) phenomena, with the associated security implications, i.e. migration.

Chair, 2015 is a crucial year for the international environmental agenda. Annex IV countries believe that it is our responsibility to maintain DLDD present and relevant in the post-2015 negotiations.

While being fully committed to the establishment of a Sustainable Development Goal addressing DLDD and a specific target on Land Degradation Neutrality, we should also take up the associated responsibilities at the global, regional and national levels.

Assessing the implementation of the convention is essential. The results of this assessment and the way forward should be framed simultaneously not only by the need to find common solutions to the obstacles we face, but also by the need to recognize the diversity of national circumstances. Annex IV is paradigmatic in this regard. While all Annex IV parties are affected by DLDD, this is a group which includes Parties at different stages of development and with different capacities to implement the Convention, its Strategy and the respective National Action Programmes.

Annex IV Parties recognise and appreciate the efforts put by all parties and other relevant entities in this reporting exercise. We believe that applying the indicators of operational objectives is an important exercise to understand both how all of us as Parties to this Convention are performing and how together we can improve to reach our common goals.

Let me present some examples of how Annex IV Parties see the way forward for our Convention. I'll give a few examples which illustrate the proposals our group will provide in writing.

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

Regarding Operational objective 1, we are convinced that DLDD should be included in national educational programmes of affected country Parties in order to raise awareness on these phenomena.

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

On Policy framework we believe that the alignment of NAPs with the Strategic Plan of the Convention is a crucial step if we want to combat DLDD. To understand the obstacles to this process we urge Parties to declare their priorities and to clarify the problems they are facing; with this information we are confident the Secretariat can provide us with options on how to overcome these difficulties

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

With regard to analyze, organize and disseminate information on national, regional and global monitoring systems, we feel that there is room for Regional coordination mechanisms to work with the secretariat on the proposed in-depth analysis.

Operational objective 4: Building capacities

On the disclosure of information regarding affected country Parties which need further capacity-building assistance it is our understanding that this is a good idea as long as it follows the express consent of interested country parties.

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

On financing and given the specificities of Annex IV we believe that developed affected country Parties should step up their efforts in financing DLDD projects and activities with internal sources.

With this in mind we would also like to stress that the 2016–2017 work programmes of the Convention's institutions, should be streamlined targeting with priority issues that have emerged as needing greater attention from the 2012-2013 reporting process and according to previous COP decisions.

Annex IV Parties believe that while preparing for COP 12 and in line with previous COP decisions any new proposals with budgetary implications should be identified from this moment onwards so that parties can make informed considerations of the proposals put forward and decide accordingly.

Chair, to conclude, let me express the willingness and full commitment of Annex IV Parties to work with you and all the Parties in the best interest of the UNCCD.



Whenever you so wish, Annex IV Parties are ready to provide concrete text proposals reflecting the main ideas of our statement.

Many thanks for your attention.

Attachment Nr 5 – Closing Remarks from Annex IV

Mr Chair, Madam Executive Secretary, honourable delegates

I am taking the floor on behalf of Annex IV affected country Parties.

Chair, minerals and organic material have mixed together over millennia, to provide the bed upon which our food is grown. Land is not only the basis for food and fiber but also contributes to supply clean water and to store CO₂. As such, land is the key for life and livelihoods. It is our job as the UNCCD community to make sure land is respected and its degradation no more possible.

As the global population increases and as climate change affects the land ecosystems, including water resource availability, with consequences for water and food security, land protection will become even more important, as recognised in many international fora. Moreover, land hold a significant proportion of the world's soil carbon stock, and land degradation negatively affects this functions, contributing to an increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Our common objectives should be based on these synergies, at all level, at field level as well as on indicators framework or strategies. From our side, our main responsibility is to ensure an efficient protection of drylands taking into account all these interrelations and taking advantage from them.

Annex IV gathers developing and developed countries, all affected by the particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean region which are well known and also recognized by the Convention - among others, poor and highly erodible soils and extensive forest loss due to frequent wildfires, as well as heavy human pressure. The rich exchange of views favoured by the regional meetings organized by the secretariat let us confirm that the diversity within Annex IV constitutes an added value to find solutions where previously we could only see problems.

While we welcome the successful outcome of CRIC 13 we must also recognize the great challenges and opportunities that lay ahead of us in the run up to COP 12 in Ankara.

We trust that in the future we will make the most out of the short time we have together to discuss what really matters – combat to desertification. Whenever relevant issues arise, we must anticipate and avoid procedural problems by taking better advantage of the bureau and of the experienced staff in the secretariat.

The post-2015 development agenda currently is being negotiated and it is not our role to anticipate its results. However many of us are involved, providing inputs and trying to make DLDD relevant in the framework where we will be acting in the years to come. We should not prejudge any outcomes, but we should be ready to swiftly adapt to the major changes which will unquestionably happen in the international environmental agenda.

Chair, We would like to thank you for your able guidance, the secretariat for all the hard work and availability, and Mr. Iulius Smith our facilitator during the meetings of the enlarged bureau who made all our lives easier the past two days and to all Parties for the good spirit throughout CRIC 13. Today as the UNCCD community heads back home, we wish all delegates a safe travel back home.

To conclude, the next time we gather, it will be in Ankara, which is a great pleasure and an honour to each and every one of us in Annex IV region. So, we look forward to meeting all of you and Turkey.

Thank you very much for your attention Chair.