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## **CRIC 17 Second Interactive Session<sup>1</sup>**

**Monday, 28 January 2019**

***"Assessment of Implementation - Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations: The UNCCD Gender Action Plan as a tool to improve the living conditions of affected populations. First experiences and the way forward"***

**Time:** 16:30 to 18:00 PM

**Venue:** CRIC 17 Plenary Hall- Arthur Chung Conference Center (ACCC), Georgetown, Guyana.

**Organizer:** UNCCD Secretariat

### Objective of the interactive session

*In September 2017, the first-ever Gender Action Plan (GAP) to the UNCCD was adopted at COP13 in Ordos, China. Its overall goal is to support and enhance the implementation of the gender-related decisions and mandates adopted in the UNCCD process. The impact of land degradation desertification and drought are jeopardizing agricultural production and land dependent livelihoods. Addressing these complex challenges requires integrated and context-related solutions in a broad, transformative process centered on the efforts of both women and men. In this respect the GAP can be an important accelerator in advancing gender equality to improve the living conditions of affected populations.*

*Yet, the reporting process revealed that more systematic reporting on gender issues vis- a-vis the GAP is needed to be able to document the progress made in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The Interactive dialogue provides an opportune moment to provide feedback and/or share first experiences in GAP implementation and to utilize the expertise of partners and Parties in order to refine approaches going forward. Delegates will also have the opportunity to consult on how to effectively and meaningfully implement the GAP at national and project level; to identify factors that are bottlenecks to success; to refine the approach on reporting and documenting results achieved and to make suggestions about how the gender equality agenda can be further enhanced.*

### Organization of the session

**a) Panellists:** *The panel will be composed of three (3) country Parties, an IGO and a CSO representative, presenting different experiences on the importance of gender equality and the UNCCD GAP.*

**b) Interventions:** *The session will be opened by the CRIC Chair who will then request the representative of the UNCCD Secretariat to introduce document ICCD/CRIC (17)/CRP.3 highlighting some key issues and points to start the discussion. Then the floor will be given to the different panellists for their interventions. After all the presentations are given, the floor will be opened for interventions by country Parties and other CRIC participants. Please note that following past practice, priority will be given to Parties, followed by UN agencies and IGOs and CSOs. At the end the panellists will have the opportunity to respond to questions.*

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<sup>1</sup> There are 3 interactive sessions organized during CRIC 17:

- 1 – Progress made in setting land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and advancing towards LDN implementation
2. The Gender Action Plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as a tool to improve the living conditions of affected populations. First experiences and the way forward
3. Identifying emerging innovative financing opportunities to combat land degradation



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***c) Interventions from the floor:*** *In order to contribute to a fruitful discussion during this interactive session, delegates from country Parties are encouraged to share their experiences on how they have advanced in the articulation of gender equality and associated measures, and in advancing towards the implementation of the GAP through the development of relevant projects/programmes. Delegates from IGOs, NGOs, and other UN agencies are encouraged to also share their views and experiences on how they are contributing or can contribute in the future to support translating the priority actions outlined in the GAP into concrete activities at country level.*

#### **4- Outcome of the session**

*Conclusions and recommendations contained in document ICCD/CRIC (17)/4 and key issues emerging from this interactive session will be integrated in the conclusion and recommendation section of the final report of CRIC 17. They will form the basis of particular draft text for decisions relating to this topic that will be presented to CRIC 18.* Following past practice, draft text for decisions will be discussed during the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) during the last quarter of 2019.

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