

- MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COP 14 BUREAU (12 SEPTEMBER 2019)-

The fourth meeting of the COP 14 Bureau took place in Greater Noida, India, on 12th September 2019. The chair Mr. Jigmet Takpa, from India made welcoming remarks.

An overview of the matters discussed, and the decisions made by the Bureau is presented below.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

III. Progress report at the level of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST)

The CST met on Friday 6th September afternoon to finalize the contact group negotiations. The joint CRIC and CST contact group also completed its discussions on the ‘Monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought’.

All ensuing ‘L’ documents were adopted by the CST without amendment

CST14 Bureau held its last meeting on Wednesday 11th September 2019 to take stock of its activities during the biennium 2018-2019. The CST Bureau expressed its profound appreciation to the Secretariat for the great support and dedication of its staff.

II. Progress report on CST and CRIC contact group including joint contact group

a. Progress report at the level of the Committee of the Whole (COW) contact group

In the evening of the Wednesday 11th September, the contact group on ‘Other matters’ worked up to midnight, and as of this morning six draft decisions have been cleared to be further processed and transmitted to the COP.

In the afternoon on the 12th September, at the COW plenary, Parties adopted 3 decisions related to the policy frameworks (Migration, Gender, and Sand and Dust storms). Additionally, the plenary heard the statements by CSOs, Youth and the Business forum, and adopted a number of decisions on Procedural matters.

The contact group has reconvened to address the two main topics of Drought and Land Tenure.

b. Progress report at the level of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) contact group

The CRIC concluded its work this afternoon with the adoption of seven draft decisions that were forwarded and subsequently adopted by the Conference of Parties.

IV. High Level Segment

The Chair opened the floor for comments on the high-level segment.

A bureau member raised the issue on the format of the round tables, noting that many statements were made on that occasion, at the expense of the interactive nature of the same. The bureau member suggested to avoid such statement in the future and follow the format of the CSO dialogue session, which interactive format could serve as an example to the High-level round tables in the future.

The secretariat took note of this concern and the UNCCD Executive Secretary further called upon all COP bureau members to share their feedbacks on all aspect of the COP, in order to improve services rendered to Parties.

V. Other Business

As a follow up to the bureau meeting held on the 5th September, the secretariat presented the Executive Secretary memorandum on parties' Credentials, for adoption and further submission to the COP.

A bureau member informed that further to the report on the credentials dated on 5th September an amendment is not reflected in the present version.

The secretariat took note on the amendment which will be reflected in the final document submitted to the COP. Any further change brought to the attention of the secretariat would also be acknowledged verbally during the COP plenary and included in the proceedings of the session.

VII. Next Meeting

The next COP14 Bureau meeting is scheduled to take place in the half of next year, probably before the summer break. The secretariat will coordinate with the Presidency to organise the intersessional COP14 bureau meetings.

On the second hand, as some contact groups are still in discussion, The CST Chair requested the bureau to meet on the 13th September to report on the progress of the discussions of the contact groups before the COP Plenary.

The chair convened then a bureau meeting on Friday 13 September in MET 14 at a time that will be announced during the day.