

- MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COP 14 BUREAU (5 SEPTEMBER 2019)-

The second meeting of the COP 14 Bureau took place in Greater Noida, India, on 5th September 2019. The chair Mr. C. K. Mishra, 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.

II. Progress report at the level of the Committee of the Whole (COW)

The COW Chair reported that the plenary concluded deliberations on 4 additional topics: The policy frameworks on: Drought, Sand and Dust Storms, Gender and Migration. Tomorrow at 10AM the plenary will continue with Land Tenure. Immediately after the plenary a contact group will be held, until 13:00 on the thematic topics and policy frameworks. It is expected that the contact group will continue later that Friday 6th September, as well as on Saturday 7th. The next COW plenary is expected to be scheduled for Wednesday 11th September, for all additional agenda items. Furthermore, the facilitator for the contact group on budget will be Dr. Lal, from India.

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

The CST Chair reported that the CRIC met on the 5th September morning and considered agenda item 3: The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices. It further considered the Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021 as well as procedural matter of the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The joint contact group CRIC and CST, that is considering the Drought Indicators Framework would meet in the afternoon of 5th September. The CST will meet again on Friday 6th September afternoon

IV. Progress report at the level of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)

The Chair of the CRIC introduced the report on the CRIC sessions. The CRIC contact group met on Wednesday, 4th September and delivered decision on the ‘Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention’ The CRIC requested also conferences facilities for meeting of the contact group on Saturday 7th September.

The secretariat assured that the requested meeting facilities will be granted, and transportations will be secured for the contact group meeting on Saturday.

V. Provisional report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties on credentials of delegations

The secretariat presented the memorandum on parties' Credentials to COP 14. After verification the document was accepted, and an ensuing report and draft decision will be prepared by the secretariat for submission to the COP.

VI. Other Business

A Bureau member thanked the host country for having addressed the issue on the shuttle from the hotel to the venue and vis versa. A further request was tabled for transportation service to be offered from the Conference Centre to shopping areas, owing to the isolated location of the venue. The President committed to secure such additional shuttle service.

A bureau member raised the issues on the draft decision's particularly the ones submitted for the consideration of CRIC. The issues referred, on one hand, to the format pursued in reviewing such decisions in the contact group, which was considered time consuming and cumbersome, particularly due to the fact that the draft was being read paragraph by paragraph. The second concern was more substantive in nature and referred to the delayed submission of the document to the parties as well as the format of those draft, which seemed to list in extenso different parts of the intersessional CRIC report.

On the first point the secretariat took note of the concern and ensured that the issue would be addressed with concerned colleagues in the contact group and brought to the attention of the facilitator. The secretariat also acknowledged the delay experienced in the submission of the concerned document as well as the length and the complex nature of the same. While acknowledging that the initial efforts to streamline the draft did not seem to meet the concern of the Bureau Member, the secretariat endeavoured to further address the matter. The secretariat also explained that part of the challenges faced generated from the mandate entrusted by parties in the transmission of the intersessional CRIC report.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the COP 14 Bureau will take place on Friday 6th September 2017 at 6.30 pm in MET-14.