

- MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COP 14 BUREAU (6 SEPTEMBER 2019)-

The third meeting of the COP 14 Bureau took place in Greater Noida, India, on 6th September 2019. The chair Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, 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 Committee of the Whole reconvened the plenary session in the morning of 6th September, where Parties appointed Dr. Lal as facilitator for the contact group on budget. Both contact groups are fully operational. the plenary also reviewed the topic of Land Tenure, and hence concluded the agenda item related to the policy frameworks.

Immediately after the plenary the contact groups on other matters held its first meeting. In this meeting they discussed and agreed on a few organizational matters and finished a first reading of the draft text for Gender.

The contact group met on the 6th September afternoon and are expected to meet again on Saturday 7th September. Next Wednesday 7th September, the COW plenary will reconvene, with the adoption of a number of decisions, and introducing a number of new documents of a more procedural nature.

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

The CST contact group finished its work in the evening of the 5th September. On the same day the joint CRIC and CST contact group considered the Drought Indicators Framework. The CST met 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 CRIC contact group met on the 5th September evening jointly with the CST contact group to address the monitoring framework for strategic objective 3 on drought.

On Friday 6th September the decision on Collaboration with the GEF was discussed.

As already communicated in the meeting held on the 5th September, the contact group has decided to meet on Saturday to continue with its work starting at 10 a.m. It is expected that this meeting will last up until 2 p.m.

The CRIC contact group will finish by Wednesday 11th next week, in time for the CRIC plenary scheduled for Thursday.

V. Other Business

Following consultations with the host country, the secretariat introduced an information note on the High-level segment. The same addresses in detail the additional security and protocol measures put in place for the opening ceremony, which will be marked by the visit of His Excellency the Prime Minister of India. The note will be shared with parties at the COP plenary schedule after the CST session of 6th September. This note will also be made available on UNCCD website and COP14 App.

The opening ceremony, scheduled to take place on the 9th September from 10:30am to 11:30am will be marked by interventions from His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, His Excellency Mr. Prakash Javadekar, President of COP 14 and Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Republic of India, Her Excellency Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The opening ceremony will be followed by the formal session of the COP plenary and will address the remaining agenda

Several bureau members raised the issue of transportation, which would still require improvement. On the other hand, several Bureau members explained that their delegation/contact group are quite satisfied with the transport arrangements.

The President took note of the concerns expressed and called for a better coordination of requirements through the secretariat and the concerned contact groups. The President also called upon members to make all efforts to finalize their consultation by midnight, so to allow for a smooth running of the transportation cycle, which needs to start again at 07:00 am next morning. However, for specific meetings requiring later working hours, services will be secured provided there is adequate advance notice.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the COP 14 Bureau will take place on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 6.30 pm in MET-14 (to be reconfirmed by email and board posting.).